

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Third Week of July (18th July – 24th July 2022)

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding ‘SPRINT Challenges’.

1. It is aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.
2. It Stands for Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO, and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled ‘SPRINT Challenges’, aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy, during the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar ‘Swavlamban’ in New Delhi on July 18, 2022.
- In a bid to achieve ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in defense and as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, NIIO, in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.

- This collaborative project is named SPRINT {Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO, and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)}.

SPRINT Challenges



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday unveiled *SPRINT Challenges*, an initiative aimed at boosting the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy. Modi unveiled the initiative at a naval seminar organised to engage Indian industry and academia

towards achieving self-reliance in the defence sector. “Innovation is critical and it has to be indigenous. Imported goods can’t be a source of innovation,” Modi said, stressing the need for a change in the mindset of attraction for imported goods.

2. Recently as per government data a total of _____ Indians relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2021 and received citizenship from other countries, a trend noted highest since 2019.

- A. 1,43,370
- B. 1,63,370**
- C. 1,53,370
- D. 1,73,370
- E. None of these

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- **A total of 1,63,370 Indians relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2021 and received citizenship from other countries, a trend noted highest since 2019.**
- **The number of Indians who relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2019 and 2020 are 1,44,017; 85,256 respectively. A maximum of 78,284 Indians relinquished Indian Citizenship and received citizenship in the USA followed by 23,533 who took citizenship in Australia; 21,597 in Canada; and 14,637 in the UK in 2021.**
- **Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Tuesday shared the data with the Lok Sabha that mentions "the number of Indians who relinquished Indian Citizenship in 2019, 2020, 2021 are 1,44,017; 85,256; and 1,63,370 respectively".**
- **Asked about the reasons given by these persons for renouncing Indian citizenship, Rai said "individuals renounced Indian citizenship for reasons personal to them".**
- **The data provided by the Minister mentions that there are 103 countries where Indians relinquished Indian citizen**

3. Which of the following union ministry has launched 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address the problem of Drug Abuse among the youth of India?

- A. Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment**
- B. Ministry of Home Affairs**
- C. Ministry of Finance**
- D. Ministry of education**
- E. None of these**

- **The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched 'Nasha Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan' in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address the problem of Drug Abuse among the youth of India.**

Over 1.6 lakh Indians gave up citizenship last year

Number highest in last five years: MHA

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI**

Over 1.6 lakh Indians renounced their citizenship in 2021, highest in the past five years, according to information provided by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Over 78,000 Indians acquired the U.S. citizenship, the highest among all other countries. India does not allow dual citizenship. As many as 362 Indians living in China also acquired Chinese citizenship.

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai, responding to a question by Fazlur Rehman, said in a written reply that "individuals renounced Indian citizenship for reasons personal to them." In 2018, MHA revised Form XXII under Citizenship Rules and included a column on "circumstances/reasons due to which applicant intends to



MoS for Home Nityanand Rai

acquire foreign citizenship and renounce Indian citizenship."

The reply stated that the number of Indians in Australia who relinquished their citizenship stood at 23,533, Canada- 21,597, the U.K.-14,637, Italy-5,986, Netherlands-2187, New Zealand-2643, Singapore- 2516, the U.S.-78284, Pakistan-41 and Nepal-10.

A reply said furnished by the Ministry in 2021 said the number of Indians who gave up citizenship in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 stood at 1,33,049, 1,34,561, 1,44,017 and 85,248 respectively.

392,000 Indians gave up citizenship in last 3 years

More than 392,000 Indians gave up their citizenship in the past three years and 170,000 of them, the highest, took up American citizenship, Lok Sabha was informed on Tuesday. Union Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that according to details provided by the Ministry

of External Affairs, individuals renounced Indian citizenship for reasons personal to them and took citizenship in over 120 countries. A total of 3,92,643 Indians gave up their citizenship in 2019, 2020 and 2021, he said in a written reply to a question.



PTI

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- **The Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment said, there has been a change in the pattern of substance abuse as reflected in the National Survey of Extent, Pattern, and Trends of Substance Use done in 2004 and the Comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted in 2018.**

Jul 19, 2022, 2:02PM

Govt launched 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address problem of Drug Abuse

The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has launched 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan' in 272 most vulnerable districts since August 2020 to address the problem of Drug Abuse among youth of India.

In a written reply in Lok Sabha today, the Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment A. Narayanaswamy said, there has been a change in the pattern of substance abuse as reflected in the National survey of Extent, Pattern and Trends of Substance Use done in 2004 and in the Comprehensive National Survey on Extent and Pattern of Substance Use in India conducted in 2018. He said, under 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan', special emphasis is laid on the participation of stakeholders such as women, children, educational institutions and civil society organizations.



- **Under 'Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan', special emphasis is laid on the participation of stakeholders such as women, children, educational institutions, and civil society organizations.**

4. Recently _____ has become the first 100 percent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on the PPP model.
- Mangalore Port
 - Jawaharlal Nehru Port**
 - Mormugao Port
 - Mundra Port
 - None of these

- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become India's first 100 % Landlord Major Port having all berths being operated on the PPP model.**

Jul 19, 2022, 2:14PM

Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model

Jawaharlal Nehru Port has become the first 100 per cent Landlord Major Port of India having all berths being operated on PPP model.

Expressing his views on the achievement, Ports, Shipping and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said, this project will improve the utilization in crane and berth productivity of the terminal. He said, the total handling of JNPT will increase to 1.8 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from the present handling capacity of 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21.

The Minister said terminal will also be handling Ro-Ro vessels which will not only lower the logistics cost and reduce transit time but will also contribute in reducing congestion on roads and promoting towards clean environment.



- **Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Minister Sarbananda Sonowal said that the total handling of JNPT will increase to 1.8 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) from 1.5 million TEUs in 2020-21.**

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- *Jawaharlal Nehru Port is ranked 26th place among the top 100 global ports according to Lloyds List Top 100 Ports 2021 Report.*
 - *A landlord port is a port where terminals are leased to private companies while the port authority only retains ownership of the land.*
 - *In February 2021, Parliament passed Major Port Authorities Act 2021. It is aimed at reorienting the governance model in central ports to the landlord port model.*
 - *Jawaharlal Nehru Port (also called Nhava Sheva Port) is the second largest container port in India after Mundra Port. It is located in Navi Mumbai. It was developed to decongest Mumbai Port.*
5. *Recently Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 seeks to amend which act?*
- A. *Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2009.*
 - B. ***Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.***
 - C. *Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2008.*
 - D. *Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2012.*
 - E. *None of these*
-
- *The Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Amendment Bill, 2022 was moved today in the Rajya Sabha amid the din.*
 - *The bill seeks to amend the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.*
 - *The 2005 Act prohibits unlawful activities such as manufacturing, transport, or transfer related to weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.*
 - *Weapons of mass destruction are biological, chemical, or nuclear weapons. The bill bars persons from financing any prohibited activity related to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.*
 - *The house could not take up discussion on the bill due to the opposition's protest over the inflation and GST hike.*
6. *Recently seen in the news Kakrapar Atomic Power Project is located in which of the following state?*
- A. ***Gujarat***
 - B. *Tamil Nadu*
 - C. *Punjab*
 - D. *West Bengal*
 - E. *None of these*

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- **The Government of India informed that Unit 3 of the Kakrapar atomic plant is expected to commence commercial operation by December 2022, after obtaining stage-wise regulatory clearances.**

Government says, Unit 3 of Kakrapar atomic plant is expected to commence commercial operation by December 2022

Posted On: 20 JUL 2022 4:39PM by PIB Delhi

The Government to informed that Unit 3 of Kakrapar atomic plant is expected to commence commercial operation by December 2022, after obtaining stage-wise regulatory clearances.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said, in Unit-3, modifications/improvements required based on commissioning feedback have been carried out and their validation is also completed by hot run. He said, the unit is now being readied for startup and progressive power raise to full power in line with the regulatory clearances. During the unit commissioning, following synchronization with the grid, elevated temperatures were observed in certain areas of the reactor building. These have since been addressed by carrying out requisite modifications and improvements.

Dr Jitendra Singh also informed that Unit-4 of Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) has achieved a physical progress of 93.65% as of June-2022.

Among the other 700 MW PHWRs under construction, RAPP 7&8 at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan have achieved physical progress of 95% and 80.8% respectively. In respect of GHAVP 1&2 at Gorakhpur, Haryana, various buildings and structures are under construction. In the ten PHWRs viz., Kaiga 5&6 at Kaiga in Karnataka, GHAVP 3&4 at Gorakhpur in Haryana, Mahi Banswara 1 to 4 at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan and Chutka 1&2 at Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, pre-project activities at sites and procurement of long delivery equipment have been undertaken. Excavation has also commenced at Kaiga-5&6.

- **Unit-4 of the Kakrapar Atomic Power Project (KAPP-4) has achieved physical progress of 93.65% as of June 2022. Kakrapar Atomic Power Station is a nuclear power station in India, which lies in the proximity of the Surat and Tapi river in the state of Gujarat.**
 - **Among the other 700 MW PHWRs under construction, RAPP 7&8 at Rawatbhata, Rajasthan has achieved physical progress of 95% and 80.8% respectively. In respect of GHAVP 1&2 at Gorakhpur, Haryana, various buildings and structures are under construction.**
 - **In the ten PHWRs viz., Kaiga 5&6 at Kaiga in Karnataka, GHAVP 3&4 at Gorakhpur in Haryana, Mahi Banswara 1 to 4 at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan, and Chutka 1&2 at Chutka in Madhya Pradesh, pre-project activities at sites and procurement of long delivery equipment have been undertaken. Excavation has also commenced at Kaiga-5&6.**
7. Consider the following statement regarding the reintroduction of **cheetahs into the historical range in India**.
1. **India and Namibia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the reintroduction of cheetahs into the historical range in India.**
 2. **the first batch of eight cheetahs comprising four male and as many female cheetahs are expected to arrive in India before Independence Day in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**

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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- **India and Namibia signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for the reintroduction of cheetahs into the historical range in India.**
- **eight cheetahs comprising four male and as many female cheetahs are expected to arrive in India before Independence Day.**
- **The cheetahs will be released in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.**
- **India plans to introduce 8-10 cheetahs every year with a total of 50 from Namibia, South Africa, and other African countries over the next five years.**
- **Under the MoU, both the countries will also collaborate in areas of climate change, environmental governance, environmental impact assessments, pollution, and waste management.**

Cheetahs likely to arrive in Kuno before August 15

India and Namibia sign agreement; officials trying to complete the first transfer to the national park in Madhya Pradesh

SHASINI HAIDAR
JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India came one step closer to bringing back the world's fastest animal to the country with an agreement signed in Delhi on Wednesday between the Union government and the visiting Namibian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations, Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah.

The cheetah was declared extinct in the country in 1952, and the agreement, which has been negotiated for some years, will prepare the ground for the relocation of the first batch from southern Africa to the Kuno National Park in Madhya Pradesh, with officials trying to complete the transfer before August 15.

"The [agreement] seeks to promote conservation and restoration of cheetah in their former range from which the species went extinct," Environment and Forests Minister Bhupender Yadav said in a tweet after the signing ceremony for what



New home: The agreement signed by India and Namibia on Wednesday will prepare the ground for the relocation of the first batch of cheetahs from southern Africa to Madhya Pradesh.

he called an "historic" MoU (memorandum of understanding), which took place in the presence of External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar.

"Completing 75 glorious years of Independence with restoring the fastest terrestrial flagship species, the cheetah, in India, will rekindle the ecological dynamics of the landscape," he said.

The MoU focused on biodiversity conservation, and the sharing of expertise between the two countries, technological applications, collaborations on climate change, pollution and waste management, and the ex-

change of personnel for training and education in wildlife management. However, the government is yet to reveal whether it has already procured the cheetahs, how many will be transferred in the first trial, and when they are likely to be brought to India.

According to officials, plans for the cheetah translocations to Kuno are in compliance with the IUCN's guidelines, with particular focus on the forest site quality, prey density and the current carrying capacity for a large mammal like the cheetah. "While the current carrying capacity for the Kuno National Park is a maximum of 21 cheetahs, once restored, the larger landscape can hold about 36 cheetahs," said a note issued by the government on Wednesday, adding that the carrying capacity could be further enhanced by expanding the area to other parts of the Kuno wildlife division. Kuno had earlier been identified for the translocation of Gujarat's Gir lions, but the State government has refused to allow them to be transferred out, despite a Supreme Court order rejecting its pleas.

One-year trial

The cheetahs will arrive in India for a one-year trial. The project for the cheetah – the

only wild cat to go extinct in Independent India – was put back on track in 2020 when the Supreme Court lifted a stay on the original proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis. In May 2012, the court had stalled the plan to initiate the foreign cheetahs into the Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh fearing they would come into conflict with the plan for bringing lions into the same sanctuary. The court had also expressed concern about whether the African cheetahs would find a favourable climate in the sanctuary.

The government said special programmes were being conducted to educate local villagers in Kuno including outreaches to "sarpanches [village head men], local leaders, teachers, social workers, religious figures and NGOs", with a local mascot named "Chintu Cheetah" to sensitise populations to the importance of the project and guidelines for the cheetah-human interface.

- 8. Which state government has appointed Deloitte India as a consultant to suggest plans for making the state's economy a \$1 trillion economy?**
- A. Karnataka government**
 - B. Gujarat government**
 - C. Uttar Pradesh government**

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- D. Madhya Pradesh government
- E. None of these

- Uttar Pradesh government has appointed Deloitte India as a consultant to suggest plans for making the state's economy a \$1 trillion economy.
- UP government is preparing a sector-wise plan to achieve the goal of bringing the economy of Uttar Pradesh to 1 trillion US dollars.
- The decision to appoint Deloitte India as a consultant was taken on the recommendation of a high-power committee at a cabinet meeting chaired by the Chief Minister.
- The role of Uttar Pradesh is very important to fulfil the Prime Minister's resolve to make India a \$5 trillion economy.

9. Recently US Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) approved Gujarat Agro Radiation Processing Facility (GARPF). GARPF is located at _____.
- A. Jamnagar
 - B. Rajkot
 - C. Vadodara
 - D. Ahmedabad**
 - E. None of these

- US Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) has approved Gujarat Agro Radiation Processing Facility (GARPF).
- GARPF was set up by Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd (GAIC) at Bavla in Ahmedabad.
- GARPF is first in Gujarat and fourth in India to get USDA-APHIS approval for the export of mangoes and pomegranates.

US inspection agency clears Gujarat govt's irradiation facility

Plant gets USDA-APHIS nod for mangoes, pomegranates

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, July 21

The United States Department of Agriculture-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA-APHIS) has approved an irradiation facility – Gujarat Agro Radiation Processing Facility (GARPF) set up by Gujarat Agro Industries Corporation Ltd (GAIC) near Ahmedabad. This will enable radiation for horticulture crops and encourage exports.

USDA-APHIS team, facilitated by the National Plant Protection Organization (NPPO) conducted an audit of GARPF, post which the USDA-APHIS

granted its approval to the plant at Bavla in Ahmedabad on July 2, 2022. The total area of the facility is 6,750 sq m with a capacity to irradiate six tonnes of mangoes an hour. The unit became the first plant in Gujarat to get USDA-APHIS approval for the export of mangoes and pomegranates.

Irradiation process

As per the norms, irradiation of mangoes is mandatory before exporting them to the US. The irradiation process is conducted under the supervision of quarantine inspectors from the US. "Mangoes will be exported directly from Gujarat after this approval," a statement said. GAIC had set up a 1,000-kilocurie (kCi) mul-

tipurpose split type, palletised radiation processing facility for agricultural and processed food products at Bavla under Rashtriya Krushi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) at an approximate cost of ₹20 crore in 2014. The facility – implemented under the guidance and technical support of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), and the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT) – is the only facility in India that can irradiate products like onion, potato, cereals, pulses, Psyllium husk, pet food, meat, spices, dehydrated onions/dry vegetables, meat products including poultry, eggs, and medical products at a low, medium and high dose as per the requirement.

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- *The facility is implemented under the guidance and technical support of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), and the Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology (BRIT).*

- 10. Consider the following statement regarding *Swavlamban*.
 1. *PM Modi addressed Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) Seminar –Swavlamban in New Delhi.*
 2. *Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) in association with the Defence Innovation Organisation will induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products into the Indian Navy.*
 3. *The name of this collaborative project is SPRINT (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO, and TDAC).*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *PM Modi addressed Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) Seminar –Swavlamban in New Delhi.*
- *Prime Minister also launched ‘SPRINT Challenges’ for promoting the usage of indigenous technology in the Indian Navy.*
- *This two-day (18-19 July) seminar aims to bring Indian industry and academia to one platform for achieving self-reliance in the Defence sector.*
- *Representatives from Industry, Academia, Services, and Government will ideate and come up with recommendations for achieving self-reliance in the Defence sector.*
- *As a part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav, NIIO in association with the Defence Innovation Organisation will induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products into the Indian Navy.*

PM warns of new challenges to India’s self-reliance

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 18

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday warned of a new danger which he said was “challenging India’s self-confidence, self-reliance” through “misinformation, disinformation and false publicity” to thwart the country’s march to establish itself on the global stage.

Modi said, during his address at the Indian Navy’s ‘Swavlamban’ seminar, the goal of self-reliance in the defence forces is very important for India of the 21st century.

“We also have to intensify our war against forces challenging India’s self-confidence, our self-reliance. As India is establishing itself on the global stage, there are constant attacks through misinformation, disinformation and false publicity, etc. Keeping faith, the forces that are harming India’s interests, whether in the country or abroad, have to be thwarted in their every effort,” he told the gathering at the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation Seminar.

According to him, the concept of national defence has become much broader, and not confined to country’s border alone. The methods of warfare are also changing, he stressed. “Therefore it is equally necessary to make every citizen aware about it,” he remarked.

‘Warfare evolving’

“Earlier we used to imagine our defence only till land, sea and sky. Now the circle is moving towards space, moving towards cyberspace, moving towards economic, social space,” the PM stated.

“In such a scenario, we have to move anticipating the future challenges and change ourselves accordingly,” he said.

The PM unveiled project ‘SPRINT’ (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in Research and Development through iDEX, NIIO and TDAC), a collaborative project of NIIO and Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO) that aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies and products into the Indian Navy.

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- The name of this collaborative project is **SPRINT** (Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through iDEX, NIIO, and TDAC).
- On the second day of the seminar, outreach in the Indian Ocean region will be discussed in line with the Government's **SAGAR** (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision.
- **Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation:**
- It is a three-level organization launched by Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** in 2020.
- It has been established by the Indian Navy to fulfill the requirements relating to technology.

11. Consider the following statement regarding the **vice presidential election**.

1. **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has been nominated by the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** as the **National Democratic Alliance's** candidate for the **Vice Presidential election**.
2. **Margaret Alva** will run for **Vice President** as the **opposition's** candidate.
3. **Under Article 63 of the Constitution**, there shall be a **Vice President of India**.

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 West Bengal governor **Jagdeep Dhankhar** has been nominated by the **Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)** as the **National Democratic Alliance's** candidate for the **Vice Presidential election**.
- The election will take place on **August 6 and July 19** is the last date for filing the nominations.
- There are currently **780 MPs** in Parliament, out of which the **BJP** has **394**, which is more than the majority of **390**.
- **Margaret Alva** will run for **Vice President** as the **opposition's** candidate.

Jagdeep Dhankhar is NDA's V-P candidate

'Kisan putra' overcame many hurdles to reach here: Nadda

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) president J.P. Nadda on Saturday evening declared that West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar would be the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate for the post of Vice-President.

The announcement was made at a press conference after a meeting of the BJP's Parliamentary Board, the party's highest decision-making authority, which includes Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Home Minister Amit Shah, Roads and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari, and Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

"BJP's Parliamentary Board has come to the decision that we nominate 'kisan putra' (son of a farmer) Jagdeep Dhankhar as the NDA's candidate for Vice-President," Mr. Nadda said after the meeting.

Long public life

"We all know that Jagdeep Dhankhar is currently West Bengal Governor and has been in public life for over three decades. He belongs to a family of farmers and he overcame socioeconomic

Rise to the top



<p>1951: Jagdeep Dhankhar was born on May 18 in an agrarian household in Rajasthan's Jhunjhunu district</p> <p>1989: Elected MP from Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan on Janata Dal ticket</p>	<p>1990: Served as Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs</p> <p>1993: Elected MLA from Kishangarh, Alwar district, Rajasthan</p> <p>2007-08: Joined BJP</p> <p>2019: Appointed Governor of West Bengal on July 30</p>
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hurdles in his life to go on to achieve big in public life," Mr. Nadda said.

"He grew up in a village in Jhunjhunu district, and he studied in a village school and later went to a Sainik School in Chittorgarh district on a full merit scholarship. He later got a degree in physics from Rajasthan University and a degree in law. He is a first-generation professional as a lawyer, and in a very short time, he established himself as a meritorious lawyer in the Rajasthan High Court and later the Supreme Court as well. He fought the Lok Sabha election in 1989, and was Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs in 1990. He also became an MLA for Kishangarh in Alwar district of Rajasthan," Mr. Nadda said.

"We know that his image as a Governor has been that of a people's Governor. All these things were kept in mind as the BJP nominated him to be the NDA nominee for the post of Vice-President," Mr. Nadda added.

Stint as Bengal Governor
Mr. Nadda did not provide any further details on the nomination date. July 19 is the last date to file nominations.

As West Bengal Governor, Mr. Dhankhar has had differences of opinion and run-ins with the Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress government and has been steadfast in his views over his constitutional space as Governor.

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- *Mrs. Alva has served as a Lok Sabha member once and a member of the Rajya Sabha four times.*
- *Vice President: In India, the Vice President is the next highest position after the President.*
- *Under Article 63 of the Constitution, there shall be a Vice President of India.*
- *According to Article 64, the Vice President serves as Rajya Sabha's ex-officio chairman.*
- *M Venkaiah Naidu serves as India's 13th Vice President since August 11, 2017, and his term will end on August 10.*
- *The first Vice President of India was Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan.*

12. Recently in July 2022, *Supreme Court expanded the scope of the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) Act to include which of the following?*

- A. *Unmarried women*
- B. *Mentally ill women*
- C. *Women with physical disabilities*
- D. *Women survivors of sexual assault*
- E. *None of these*

- *Supreme Court permitted an unmarried woman to abort her 24-week pregnancy that resulted from a consensual relationship.*
- *The Supreme Court bench directed the AIIMS director to form a medical board of two doctors to examine the woman under the*

Women have right to safe abortion: SC

It is part of personal liberty, says Bench while hearing unmarried woman's plea

KRISHNADAS RAJAGOPAL
NEW DELHI

Denying an unmarried woman the right to a safe abortion violates her personal autonomy and freedom, the Supreme Court held in an order on Thursday.

A Bench led by Justice D.Y. Chandrachud was hearing the appeal of a woman who wanted to abort her 24-week pregnancy after her relationship failed and her partner left her.

The lower court had taken an "unduly restrictive view"

that her plea for a safe abortion was not covered under the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act as the pregnancy arose from a consensual relationship outside wedlock.

Chastising the lower court, the Bench said live-in relationships had already been recognised by the Supreme Court. There were a significant number of people in social mainstream who see no wrong in engaging in pre-marital sex. The law could not be used to quench

"notions of social morality" and unduly interfere in their personal autonomy and bodily integrity.

Key amendment

The court noted that an amendment to the Act in 2021 had substituted the term 'husband' with 'partner', a clear signal that the law covered unmarried women within its ambit.

"A woman's right to reproductive choice is an inseparable part of her personal liberty under Article 21 of the

Constitution. She has a sacrosanct right to bodily integrity," the court quoted from precedents. The court said forcing a woman to continue with her pregnancy would not only be a violation of her bodily integrity but also aggravate her mental trauma.

The court ordered a medical board to be formed by the AIIMS to check whether it was safe to conduct an abortion on the woman and submit a report in a week.

The Bench posted the case for August 2.

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provisions of the MTP Act.

- Supreme Court ruled that the petitioner cannot be denied the benefit of abortion merely on the ground that she is an unmarried woman.
- Supreme Court order states that the abortion will be subject to the final decision of a medical board constituted by the AIIMS, Delhi whether the foetus can be aborted without any risk to the life of the woman or not.
- Supreme Court permitted an unmarried woman whose relationship status changed during the pregnancy to abort her 24-week foetus.
- Rule 3B of the MTP Act specifies seven categories of women who are eligible for termination of pregnancy between 20-24 weeks.
- Seven categories of women who are eligible for termination of pregnancy between 20-24 weeks
- 1. Survivors of sexual assault or rape or incest
- 2. Women carrying a malformed foetus that has a substantial risk of being incompatible with life
- 3. Minors
- 4. Mentally ill women
- 5. Those who have a change of marital status during the ongoing pregnancy (widowhood and divorce)
- 6. Women with pregnancy in humanitarian settings or disasters or emergencies as may be declared by the government
- 7. Women with physical disabilities.

13. Recently whom among the following has launched the *Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Promotion and development Scheme (PMDPS)* and *Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industries for Common Facilities Scheme*?

- A. Parshottam Rupala
- B. **Mansukh Mandaviya**
- C. Narendra Singh Tomar
- D. Mahendra Nath Pandey
- E. None of these

- Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya launched schemes for Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry in New Delhi.
- The government will launch some initiatives under the Schemes for ‘Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry’ (SPI).

Govt launches three schemes for pharma sector MSMEs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 21
 The government on Thursday launched three schemes to strengthen MSMEs in the pharmaceutical sector.

Addressing the launch event here, Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya noted that the schemes envisage technology upgradation, setting up of common research centres and effluent treatment plants in clusters for the pharma MSMEs. Small companies should be able to upgrade their facilities to global manufacturing standards, he said.

The Chemicals and Fertilisers Ministry rolled out the schemes under the banner of

‘Strengthening Pharmaceuticals Industry’. “The new schemes have many benefits that will go a long way in making the Indian pharmaceutical industry Atma Nirbhar, more resilient and future-ready,” Mandaviya, who heads both health as well as chemical and fertilisers ministries, said.

Financial assistance

The Pharmaceutical Technology Upgradation Assistance Scheme provides for a capital subsidy of 10 per cent on loans up to a maximum limit of ₹10 crore with a minimum repayment period of three years or interest subvention of up to 5 per cent (6 per cent in case of units owned by SC/

ST) on reducing balance basis. Similarly, Assistance to Pharma Industries for Common Facilities Scheme (API-CF) provides for an assistance of up to 70 per cent of the approved project cost or ₹20 crore, whichever is less. In case of Himalayan and north-east region, the grant-in-aid would be ₹20 crore per cluster or 90 per cent of the project cost, whichever is less.

Pharmaceutical and Medical Devices Promotion and Development Scheme (PM-PDS) will involve preparation of study reports on topics of importance for the Indian pharma and medical device industry and creating a database for the sector.

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- *Schemes have been launched with a focus on Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Clusters.*
- *The schemes are – the Pharmaceutical and Medical Device Promotion and development Scheme (PMDPS) and Assistance to Pharmaceutical Industries for Common Facilities Scheme.*
- *These schemes will help in resolving the problems of technology up-gradation at both unit level and cluster level.*
- *These schemes will enhance the quality of technology and infrastructure in the Pharmaceutical Industries.*
- *The scheme will increase investment, and encourage research and innovation in the Pharmaceutical sector.*

14. Which state launched the *e-FIR facility* in July 2022?

- A. Karnataka
- B. Haryana
- C. Odisha
- D. Uttarakhand**
- E. None of these

- *Uttarakhand CM launched the Uttarakhand police app and e-FIR facility in Dehradun.*
- *The e-FIR facility will help people file an online FIR in cases related to the theft of vehicles and other objects.*
- *The e-FIRs will be reviewed regularly by the higher authorities.*
- *After the e-FIR will be lodged, it will go to the virtual police station.*
- *The e-FIR portal will also be linked with the Devbhoomi mobile app.*
- *Police App will provide five services of state police online*

15. Consider the following statement *regarding Indian Antarctic Bill.*

1. The bill *aims to bring Indian research stations to the Antarctic region under the domestic laws of the country.*
2. India has *two active research stations in the Antarctic region-Bharti and Maitri.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2

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C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

Lok Sabha passes Indian Antarctic Bill

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The Lok Sabha today passed the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022, a key legislation extending the application of domestic laws to research stations set up by India in the Antarctic region.

The Bill proposes to prohibit Indian expedition to Antarctica without a permit or written authorisation of another party to the Antarctic Treaty, provide for inspection by an officer appointed by the government and for penalty for contravention of certain provisions of the legislation.

When the legislation was introduced by Earth Sciences Minister Jitendra Singh in the previous session, several MPs opposed it, demanding it be sent to a select or standing committee for a deeper analysis. Following a brief debate, the Bill was today passed through voice vote and the House adjourned to meet again at 2 pm on Monday.



WHAT IT SAYS

- India has two active research stations in the Antarctic – Maitri and Bharti (in pic)
- Scientists are involved in research at both stations
- The Bill extends the application of domestic laws to these stations
- It gives effect to the Antarctic Treaty, which was signed in 1959 by 12 countries

CHINA A STUMBLING BLOCK IN INDIA'S QUEST FOR UNSC REFORMS: GOVT

Barring China, the other four permanent members of the UN Security Council (UNSC) back India's candidature for a permanent seat in the top

world body, the government told the Lok Sabha on Friday. "Four out of the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council

have bilaterally expressed official affirmations of support," said Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan. TNS

Singh said the Antarctic Treaty was signed in 1959 and India became a signatory in 1983. "The main objective of the treaty was that Antarctica is not used for military activity or there is no other misuse,

to ensure the demilitarisation of the area. The other objective was to prevent nations from indulging in mining activity or any other illegal activity," the minister said.

- **Lok Sabha on July 22, 2022, passed the Indian Antarctic Bill, 2022. The bill aims to bring Indian research stations in the Antarctic region under the domestic laws of the country.**
- **India has two active research stations in the Antarctic region- Bharti and Maitri. The research stations are bases for scientists doing research in the region.**

- **The bill seeks to extend the application of domestic laws to these research stations as well, as they do not fall under its ambit currently.**
- **The bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on April 1, 2022, and has become the first bill to be cleared by the house during the ongoing monsoon session of the Parliament.**
- **The center will establish a special committee for governance and environmental protection of the Antarctica region, chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.**
- **The committee will comprise 10 members, nominated from various ministries and organizations and not below the rank of joint secretary.**
- **It will also comprise two experts from the Antarctic environment and geo-political fields, who will be nominated by the central government.**
- **Imprisonment for 20 years may extend to life imprisonment and a fine of at least Rs 50 crore for conducting a nuclear explosion in Antarctica.**

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- **Imprisonment up to 7 years and a fine between Rs 10-50 lakh for drilling for mineral resources and introducing non-native animals or plants in Antarctica without a permit.**
- **India has set up three research stations in Antarctica -**
- **Dakshin Gangotri- 1983-84: It is located at a distance of 2,500 kilometers from the South Pole.**
- **Maitri- 1988: It is located in an ice-free, rocky area on the Schirmacher Oasis.**
- **Bharati- 2015: It is located beside Larsmann Hill, between Thala Fjord & Quilty bay, about 3000 km east of Maitri.**

16. Recently _____ State Government has announced a 'Free' Spoken English program to the aid of youngsters who want to improve their communication in English.

- A. Delhi
- B. Punjab
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Haryana
- E. None of these

- **Coming to the aid of youngsters who want to improve their communication in English, the Delhi State Government has announced a 'Free' Spoken English program for them.**
- **Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal today announced that DESU - Delhi Skill Entrepreneurship University will be launching a new course that will aid students in learning basic, spoken English and in turn help them improve their communication skills.**
- **The new course developed by DESU is targeted at students between 18 to 35 years.**
- **To join the program, students will be required to pay Rs 950/- up front as a course fee, which would be refunded back to them after completion of the program.**

17. Recently Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched _____ mobile which is aimed at creating awareness of pediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents.

- A. Bal Raksha mobile app

Govt. to start spoken English course for youth

Classes to be held across 50 centres

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Delhi government will embark upon a "mega mission" to help every youth in the Capital speak fluent English, Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced here on Saturday.

Mr. Kejriwal said the AAP government will roll out a state-of-the-art free spoken English course for residents between 16 years to 35 years. An initial fee of ₹950 will be taken as security deposit which will be refunded at the end of the course, subject to their attendance, he said.

North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari took to social media to question a similar scheme launched by the Delhi government in 2018.

"We've noticed how the youth of the lower middle-class and middle-class families first face difficulties in speaking English and then in securing jobs due to it," Mr. Kejriwal told a digital briefing.

"This course will be of highest international stan-



CM Arvind Kejriwal

dards. We are tying up with Macmillan and Wordsworth. Cambridge University will assess the entire course," he said, adding that those who are employed will be able to take classes in evening and on weekends.

One lakh students will be trained under the scheme in the first year in Phase I, which will see it unfold at 50 centres. The Delhi Skill & Entrepreneurship University will run the course, Mr. Kejriwal said.

Phase I will be open to students who have cleared Class VIII provided they have basic knowledge of English and have studied English till Class VIII.

A ND-NDE

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- B. *Bal Suraksha mobile app*
- C. *Bal Swaraj mobile app*
- D. *Bal Swasthya mobile app*
- E. *None of these*

- *Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Vaccination Centre for children at the All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA).*
- *He also launched the Bal Raksha mobile app, which is aimed at creating awareness of pediatric preventive healthcare through Ayurveda intervention amongst parents.*
- *The app will also collect feedback from parents regarding the impact of the kit on their children's health and immunity.*
- *The All India Institute of Ayurveda, an autonomous organization under the Ministry of Ayush, aims at bringing synergy between the traditional wisdom of Ayurveda and modern tools and technology.*

18. Recently a meeting of the *Ministry of Civil Aviation's Consultative Committee* was conducted to discuss the topic _____ in New Delhi.

- A. **"DIGI YATRA"**
- B. *"DIGI SURKASHA"*
- C. *"DIGI MELA"*
- D. *"DIGI SEVA"*
- E. *None of these*

- *The meeting of the Ministry of Civil Aviation's Consultative Committee was conducted to discuss the topic "DIGI YATRA" in New Delhi.*
- *MPs, who are members of the committee, participated in the meeting and gave some valuable suggestions regarding the project.*
- *It is a project designed to offer contactless, seamless passenger processing at airports by using Facial Recognition Technology (FRT).*
- *In the first phase, it is proposed to launch Digi Yatra at two airports- Varanasi and Bengaluru in August 2022.*
- *It will be launched at five airports- Pune, Vijayawada, Kolkata, Delhi, and Hyderabad by March 2023.*
- *Digi Yatra Foundation (DYF): It was established as a Joint Venture (JV) company in 2019 under Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013.*

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- *Its shareholders are AAI (26% shares) and BIAL, DIAL, GHIAL, MIAL, and CIAL equally hold the remaining 74% shares.*
 - *It was formed to create the Digi Yatra Central Ecosystem (DYCE).*
19. Recently On July 19, 2022, **NITI Aayog** and _____ launched the '**Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative** for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa in an event.
- A. WHO
 - B. World Food Programme**
 - C. UNICEF
 - D. FAO
 - E. None of these
-
- *On July 19, 2022, NITI Aayog and the World Food Programme (WFP) launched the 'Mapping and Exchange of Good Practices' initiative for mainstreaming millets in Asia and Africa in an event.*
 - *NITI Aayog and WFP will create a collection of good practices for increasing the production and consumption of millets in India and abroad.*
 - *Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, inaugurated the event.*
 - *Last year, India initiated a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly that 2023 will be observed as the International Year of Millets.*
 - *It aims to raise awareness about the health benefits of cereals and their suitability for cultivation in changing climatic conditions.*
 - *Millets are one of the important crops in Asian and African countries. Millets are a rich source of protein, micronutrients, and fiber.*
20. Who among the following has won the **Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 in the Large Institute Category?**
- A. National Academy of Agricultural Research Management**
 - B. Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology
 - C. Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University
 - D. University of Agricultural Sciences, Bangalore
 - E. None of these
-
- *National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM)*

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bagged Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021.

- **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) received the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 in the Large Institute Category for its overall performance.**
- **Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar gave the award at a function to observe the 94th Foundation Day of the ICAR.**
- **Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award:**
- **It is given to recognize outstanding performance by the ICAR institutes, DUs of ICAR, CAU, and State Agricultural Universities.**
- **It consists of Rs. 10,00,000 in cash, a citation, and a plaque.**
- **National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM):**
- **It was set up in 1976 in Hyderabad to address issues related to agricultural research and education management.**
- **It was established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).**

ICAR outstanding institution award for spices research institute



IISR Director CK Thankamani (third from left) receives the award from Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar (second from right)

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, July 17

ICAR-Indian Institute of Spices Research in Kozhikode has been awarded the “Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institution Award” for 2021. CK Thankamani, Director of the institute, received the award from Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar at the 94th ICAR Foundations day ceremony in New Delhi on Saturday.

This award comprises a cash award of ₹10 lakh, a citation and a plaque. This is the third

time that IISR is winning this award. “This is a recognition for the hard work and dedicated efforts of the institute in developing cutting edge technologies for advancing spice farming,” said Thankamani.

Bindu Joseph, a young woman farmer from Kozhikode, won the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Krishi Puruskar. The award recognises marginal, small and landless farmers for developing integrated and sustainable models of farming.

NAARM gets Sardar Patel Award of ICAR

OUR BUREAU

Hyderabad, July 17

The National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM), established by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), has bagged the Sardar Patel Outstanding ICAR Institute Award 2021 (in the Large Institute Category) for its overall performance.

Ch Srinivasa Rao, Director of NAARM, received the award from the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers’ Welfare Narendra Singh Tomar in New Delhi on Saturday.

Set up in 1976, the Hyderabad-based institute’s mandate includes capacity building in agricultural research, education and extension education systems.

21. Recently India’s first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat has been launched in Rajasthan. It has been designed and developed by which of the following?

- A. Starlite Ltd
- B. **Jupitice Justice Technologies**
- C. Geopact Limited
- D. Garmin Technology
- E. None of these

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- *India's first AI-powered digital Lok Adalat has been launched in Rajasthan.*
- *It has been inaugurated by Chairman of NALSA Uday Umesh Lalit during the 18th All India Legal Services Authorities' Meet in Jaipur.*
- *The digital Lok Adalat by Rajasthan State Legal Services Authority has been designed and developed by technology partner Jupitice Justice Technologies.*
- *Digital Lok Adalat has been designed for providing justice to common people in the remotest areas through the web, mobile, and CSCs.*
- *The Digital Lok Adalat will be used to dispose of the pending disputes or disputes that are at the pre-litigation stage by the Rajasthan State Legal Service Authority.*
- *It will provide end-to-end dispute resolution processes such as the e-notices, smart templates to draft settlement agreements, digital hearings, etc.*

22. Which of the following state/UT governments has decided to extend **Mission Buniyaad**?

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

- *Delhi government decided to extend Mission Buniyaad. Under Mission Buniyaad, students of government and Municipal Corporation of Delhi schools have shown 20%-30% improvement in literacy and numeracy skills.*
- *Mission Buniyaad was launched during the summer vacations to bridge the 'learning gap' that emerged due to the COVID-induced lockdown.*
- *The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) organized a joint orientation program to discuss the achievements and experience of the Mission Buniyaad.*
- *Mission Buniyaad is focused on further strengthening the foundational learning skills of students.*

23. Recently _____ has become the **first state to link all registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLTD with ERSS.**

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

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- **Himachal Pradesh has become the first state to link all registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLTD with ERSS.**
- **It is now possible to track these vehicles anywhere in the country through Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD).**
- **The number of vehicles that have been linked with the Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) is more than 9,423.**
- **Both the police and the transport department will now monitor ERSS.**
- **Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally inaugurated the system.**
- **He also launched the facility of the panic button for the safety of women and children in public vehicles.**

Jul 20, 2022, 9:34AM

Himachal Pradesh becomes first state in country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with VLTD with ERSS

Himachal Pradesh has become the first state in the country to connect all registered commercial vehicles equipped with Vehicle Location Tracking Device (VLTD) with Emergency Response Support System (ERSS). Now these vehicles can be tracked anywhere in the country through VLTD. More than 9,423 vehicles have been registered and linked with ERSS. Now it will be monitored by both the police and the transport department.

Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur formally inaugurated the system at a program organized at Peterhof, in Shimla yesterday. He also introduced the facility of panic button for the safety of women and children in public vehicles. Speaking on the occasion Jai Ram Thakur said the State has pioneered in implementation of this Project, which is a matter of great pride for every people of the State.

He said after the establishment of this monitoring Centre, it would be easy to detect the theft of vehicles and vehicle accidents for the safety of women and children in the State. Chief Minister that this is an innovative initiative, which would make the state roads more safe and secure.

It may be recalled that the Vehicle Location Tracking Device with Emergency Panic Button System and Command Control Center has been connected with Emergency Response Support System 112. When the panic button is pressed, a signal would be received through satellite to 112 and the person in distress would be connected and alert the police.



24. Consider the following statement regarding **Rural power supply data by Power Ministry.**

1. On an India basis, the **duration of power supplied to villages stands at 21.48 hours in April-May of FY23.**
2. Among the **top performing states, Maharashtra provided power to its villages for 23.16 hours during FY22.**

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

- According to the data, the power supplied to villages in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Karnataka has been well below the national average during the first two months of Q1 FY23
- On an Indian basis, the duration of power supplied to villages stands at 21.48 hours in April-May of FY23 against 20.61 hours in the entire FY22.

RURAL POWER SUPPLY

Gujarat, WB, Maharashtra top States

Duration of power supplied to villages stood at 21.48 hours a day in April-May FY23 against 20.61 hours in entire FY22

RISHI RANJANKALA

New Delhi, July 19

During the peak summer demand season of April and May, the average hours of power supplied to rural areas in the country stood at 21.48 hours a day with States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh providing electricity to villages for more than 23 hours.

According to the data, which is part of a reply to a question by Power Minister RK Singh in Rajya Sabha on Tuesday, the power supplied to villages in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka has been well below the national average during the first two months of Q1 FY23.

Top performers

As per the average hours of power supplied during a day in rural feeders, Maharashtra topped the list with 23.93 hours

followed by Gujarat (23.76 hours), West Bengal (23.38 hours), Andhra Pradesh (23.30 hours) and Madhya Pradesh (22.70 hours).

On the other hand, among the least performing were Haryana and Himachal Pradesh with power supply in villages for just 14.05 hours each followed by Karnataka (16.88 hours), Tripura (19.21 hours) and Bihar (20.77 hours).

On power supply disruption, Singh in his reply said "Interruptions in supply of electricity are generally on account of constraints of distribution network, or financial constraints with some distribution companies not having the resources to pay for power. Supply and distribution of electricity to all consumers is done by State power utilities."

Centre has assisted States through various schemes in-



Among the top performing States, Maharashtra provided power to its villages for 23.16 hours during FY22

cluding Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana (DDUGJY) and Integrated Power Distribution Scheme (IPDS) for uninterrupted power supply to all households, he added.

Ministry of Power has now launched the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) with the goal of achieving 24x7 power supply along with improving the financial viability of state-owned distribution companies, the Minister said.

Among the top performing States, Maharashtra provided

power to its villages for 23.16 hours during FY22.

Power supplied in FY22

Similarly, Gujarat provided electricity for 23.50 hours, West Bengal (23.38 hours), Andhra Pradesh (23.62 hours) and Madhya Pradesh (19.35 hours)

Among the least performing states, Haryana provided electricity in rural areas for 16.26 hours in FY22, Himachal Pradesh for 13.26 hours, Karnataka (17.56 hours), Tripura (19.93 hours) and Bihar (20.39 hours).

April, May and June are peak months for power demand due to high summer temperatures. In FY23, the first quarter witnessed exponentially high summers with mercury hitting 48-49 degrees in many places across the country. India's power consumption in Q1 FY23 broke all past records.

For perspective, the all-India power demand was up 18.6 per cent y-o-y during the quarter and the peak demand at 216 GW was 6.3 per cent higher on an annual basis. Daily peak power demand for Q1 FY23 averaged 196 GW (vs 187 GW in Q4 FY22), brokerage ICICI Securities said in a report. On April 29, India's peak power demand met during the day was recorded at 207 gigawatts (GW), which is higher by 13 per cent on an annual basis, and the energy met stood at 4578 million units (MU).

On a day-to-day basis, power demand is around 40,000-45,000 MW more than the same period last year. Energy consumption has also gone up from 3,500 MU on an average to 4,500 MU during the same period.

- Among the top-performing states, Maharashtra provided power to its villages for 23.16 hours during FY22. Similarly, Gujarat provided electricity for 23.50 hours, West Bengal (23.38 hours), Andhra Pradesh (23.62 hours), and Madhya Pradesh (19.35 hours).
- Among the least performing states, Haryana provided electricity in rural areas for 16.26 hours in FY22, Himachal Pradesh for 13.26 hours, Karnataka (17.56 hours), and Tripura (19.93 hours) and Bihar (20.39 hours).
- Peak summer demand: On April 29, India's peak power demand met during the day was recorded at 207 gigawatts (GW), which is higher by 13 percent on an annual basis, and the energy met stood at 4578 million units (MU).

25. Consider the following statement regarding the President of India.

1. Droupadi Murmu become the **15th President of India.**
2. She becomes the **first tribal woman to be appointed to the position and the youngest as well.**
3. She defeated the opposition candidate **Yashwant Sinha, by a margin of 947 votes, bagging 64.03% of the electoral college votes.**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

NDA nominee Droupadi Murmu elected 15th President of India

Amid heavy cross-voting, she received 64.03% of the total valid votes polled

NISTULA HEBBAR
NEW DELHI

Former Jharkhand Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu was elected the 15th President of India, the first tribal woman to be appointed to the position and the youngest as well.

She was declared elected on Thursday after four rounds of counting, though she had crossed the halfway mark after the third round of counting, posting an unsailable lead over her rival and the Opposition's candidate, Yashwant Sinha, who conceded the election thereafter.

After four rounds of polling, Ms. Murmu received 2,824 votes of 6,76,803 value, while Mr. Sinha received 1,877 votes of 3,80,177 value. She received 64.03% of the total valid votes polled, much more than what was openly declared in her support and pointing to the fact there had been a lot of cross-voting in Ms. Murmu's favour from the Opposition ranks.

"In my capacity as Returning Officer, I duly declare



Ultimate win: PM Narendra Modi with President-elect Droupadi Murmu in New Delhi on Thursday. •PTI

that Smt. Droupadi Murmu has been duly elected as President of India," said P.C. Mody, Secretary-General of the Rajya Sabha, who was the Returning Officer for the election.

'India scripts history'
Prime Minister Narendra Modi was the first to greet Ms. Murmu at her residence in New Delhi after the third round of counting showed that she had crossed the halfway mark. "India scripts his-

tory. At a time when 1.3 billion Indians are marking *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, a daughter of India hailing from a tribal community born in a remote part of eastern India has been elected our President!" tweeted Mr. Modi, adding that "Smt Droupadi Murmu's life, her early struggles, her rich service and her success motivates each and every Indian. She has emerged as a ray of hope for our citizens especially the poor, marginalised

Trinamool not to vote in V-P poll

The Trinamool Congress on Thursday said that the party's MPs would abstain from voting in the Vice-Presidential election on August 6. "The way the Opposition candidate [Margaret Alva] had been decided without proper consultation, we have decided to abstain from the voting process," Trinamool leader Abhishek Banerjee said. ▶PAGE 13

and the downtrodden." Ms. Murmu, who had been a former Governor of Jharkhand, hails from the Santhal tribe and was born in Mayurbhanj, coming up the hard way in life, graduating and teaching in Odisha before entering politics at the local body level and later being elected MLA and serving as a Minister from 2000 to 2004.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS ▶ PAGE 13

- **Former Jharkhand Governor and National Democratic Alliance (NDA) candidate Droupadi Murmu were elected the 15th President of India.**
- **She becomes the first tribal woman to be appointed to the position and the youngest as well.**
- **Droupadi Murmu is the first-ever person belonging to a scheduled tribe community to occupy the top post of Indian President.**
- **She was born on June 20, 1958, in a Santhali tribal**

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family in Uparbeda village, Mayurbhanj district in Odisha.

- She started as a school teacher before entering politics in 1997. She worked as an assistant professor at the Aurobindo Integral Education and Research Institute in Rairangpur.

Droupadi Murmu made the announcement of the results, in New Delhi on Thursday.

The 15th President of India

Nominated by the ruling NDA, Murmu received nearly two-thirds of the votes in the presidential electoral college and also breached the Opposition ranks by securing the support of parties such as the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha and the BSP

DROUPADI MURMU

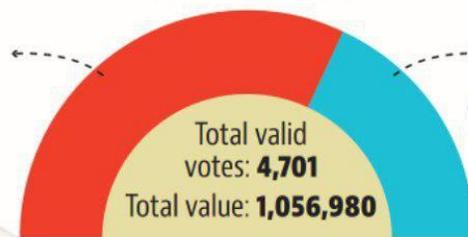
64.03%

Votes polled: **2,824** (Value: **676,803**)

YASHWANT SINHA

35.97%

Votes polled: **1,877** (Value: **380,177**)



- She was also a Junior Assistant in the irrigation department of the Government of Odisha.
- She served as the 9th Governor of Jharkhand from 2015 to 2021.
- She became India's first woman tribal governor and the first female tribal leader from Odisha to be appointed as a governor of an Indian state.
- She also served as the Minister of State with Independent Charge for Commerce and Transportation from March 6, 2000- August 6, 2002.
- Droupadi Murmu became the first tribal woman to be elected as President of India. A month younger than Neelam Sanjiva Reddy, who assumed office in 1977, she will be the youngest president ever.
- She defeated the opposition candidate Yashwant Sinha, by a margin of 947 votes, bagging 64. 03% of the electoral college votes.
- Ms. Murmu, who had been a former Governor of Jharkhand, hails from the Santhal tribe
- The following Articles of the Indian Constitution deal with the election of the President in India:
 - Article 52 - There shall be a President of India.
 - Article 54 - Election of President (Defines electoral college)
 - Article 55 - Manner of election of President
 - Article 57 - Eligibility for re-election
 - Article 58 - Qualifications for election as President
 - Article 62 - Time of holding election to fill a vacancy in the office of president and the term of office or person elected to fill a casual vacancy
- Qualification for election as President:
 - Must be above 35-yrs old; Must not hold any office of profit;

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- *Must have qualified for election as a member of Lok Sabha; Must be registered as an elector of India.*

26. Consider the following statement regarding *Jharkhand Rajya Fasal Rahat Yojana (JRFRY)*.

1. Farmers will receive a maximum *fiscal compensation of Rs 20,000 on up to five acres of land under JRFRY.*
2. The new scheme is for *'Drought-Hit' Farmers.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Jharkhand agriculture department is currently working on an action plan to address the drought's potential risks during the current Kharif season.*
- *Beginning on Friday (22 July), farmers will be able to register for the Jharkhand Rajya Fasal Rahat Yojana (JRFRY), which would give them financial help.*
- *In the event of crop loss owing to weather irregularities, farmers will receive a maximum fiscal compensation of Rs 20,000 on up to five acres of land under JRFRY. Farmers must register on jrfry.jharkhand.gov.in to access it.*
- *A farmer will receive Rs 3000 per acre from the state coffers for a crop loss of 30 to 50 percent and Rs 4000 per acre if the crop loss is greater than 50 percent.*

27. Consider the following statement regarding the *second edition of the North-East India Festival*.

1. *The second edition of the North-East India Festival is being organized from 29th to 31st July at Central World in Bangkok*
2. *Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh will be the Chief Guest at the Festival.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The second edition of the North-East India Festival is being organized from 29th to 31st July at Central World in Bangkok by the Embassy of India in association with Trend MMS of India.*

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- *India's northeast region comprises eight states - Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura.*
- *The first edition of the North-East India Festival was held in Bangkok in February 2019.*
- *This opened up substantial business opportunities for the North-East Indian business community, especially in the tourism, agro, and food processing sectors.*
- *The focus of this year's Festival will be on trade, investment, and tourism promotion and exchanges in the field of culture, education, and people-to-people connections.*
- *The three-day event will be inaugurated on the 29th of July. Minister of State for External Affairs Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh will be the Chief Guest at the Festival.*
- *The Festival will also witness the participation of Chief Ministers and other Ministers from the North-Eastern States along with senior Government officials. Senior dignitaries from Thailand are also expected to grace the inauguration and attend the Festival.*

28. Recently Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman S Somnath along with other senior scientists inaugurated the Human Space Flight Expo in _____.

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

- *Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO Chairman S Somnath along with other senior scientists inaugurated the Human Space Flight Expo in Bengaluru today to commemorate the Azadi ki Amrit Mahotsav.*
- *ISRO is embarking on its maiden unmanned mission Gaganyaan soon and the exhibition showcased the crew module, GSLV Mark III human-rated launch vehicle, and crew escape systems.*
- *As part of the program, two unmanned missions this year and one manned mission by next year is envisaged.*
- *The three days exhibition in the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium will also have talks by ISRO scientists and film shows.*

29. A grand statue of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhara Azad will be installed in _____.

- A. Indore
- B. Jabalpur
- C. Bhopal**
- D. Rewa

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E. None of these

- A grand statue of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad will be installed in Bhopal.
- At the base of the statue, soil brought from Bhabra, the birthplace of Azad, will be used and the statue site will be developed as a source of inspiration for the youth.
- This information was given by Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan while addressing the inaugural session of the first state-level Youth Mahapanchayat organized in Bhopal on the 116th birth anniversary of Amar Shaheed Chandrashekhar Azad.
- Yuva Puraskar will be established and State Youth Advisory Council will also be set up to encourage the creativity of youth. There will be a Yuva Panchayat every year in the state. To instill the spirit of patriotism among the youth, the district-level winners of Yuva Panchayat will be sent to the international borders of the country under the “Maa Tujhe Pranam” scheme.
- The two-day Mahapanchayat will have discussions on Environment and Youth, Next Zen Startups, Mera MP-Mera Gaurav, Youth and Social Development, Youth Champions of MP, and Youth and Democracy.

30. Recently **Burhanpur** of _____ becomes the first certified **Har Ghar Jal** district in the country.

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

- **Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh becomes the first certified Har Ghar Jal district in the country.**
- **Burhanpur is the only district in the country where all people from each of 254 villages have access to safe drinking water through taps.**
- **Only 36.54 percent of over one lakh households in Burhanpur had potable drinking water through tap connections at the time of the launch of Jal Jeevan Mission on 15th August 2019.**
- **Despite various disruptions and challenges in face of the COVID-19 pandemic, the consistent efforts by Panchayat representatives, Pani Samitis, and district officials of Burhanpur have led to the**

Burhanpur in MP is India's 1st 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHOPAL, 23 JULY

The Burhanpur district of Madhya Pradesh has become the country's first certified 'har ghar jal' district, wherein tapped clean drinking water is being supplied to each household in the district.

As per the state government, water is being supplied to all 254 villages of Burhanpur district through 'har ghar jal' scheme, and the union Jal Shakti ministry has certified these villages as 'har ghar jal'.

Union Jal Shakti minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat on Friday congratulated the MP State Government and the Burhanpur district administration and people of the district for the achievement.

PM Narendra Modi also tweeted and congratulated the people of Burhanpur and the state government.



MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said the process was being undertaken for the past two years under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Chouhan said about 72 RCC water tanks were constructed along with 107 sump wells and around 650 kilometre long water pipelines were laid throughout the district to ensure tapped water supply to more than 1.1 lakh households in the Burhanpur district.

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provision of functional tap water connections to all its 1 lakh 1 thousand 905 rural households within 34 months.

31. Consider the following statement regarding **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY)**:

1. Insurance companies made nearly **Rs 40,000 crore** under the Centre's flagship crop insurance scheme since its inception in 2016-17.
2. The PMFBY replaced the **previous two schemes: the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified NAIS.**
3. There will be a **uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops (winter-sown).**

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

- *Insurance companies made nearly Rs 40,000 crore under the Centre's flagship crop insurance scheme since its inception in 2016-17.*
- *This was revealed by the data shared by the Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare on the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).*
- *Since the scheme's inception until the Kharif 2021-22 season, Rs 4,190 per hectare has been paid to farmers as claims under the scheme.*
- *The central government has empanelled 18 general insurance companies to carry out PMFBY in the country, but specific insurance companies among them are chosen by the state governments concerned through a transparent bidding process.*
- *According to the data, these companies paid claims to farmers totaling Rs 1,19,314 crore against a total premium collection of Rs 1,59,132 crore under the scheme during the period.*
- *A scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, PMFBY is an insurance service for farmers for their yields, launched in 2016.*
- *The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with the One Nation One Scheme theme.*
- *The PMFBY replaced the previous two schemes: the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) and the Modified NAIS.*

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- *There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops (winter-sown).*
 - *In the case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.*
32. Recently _____ *have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, SSI-Mantra, devised by the new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations.*
- A. AIIMS
 - B. Safdarjung Hospital
 - C. Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute**
 - D. Tata Memorial Hospital
 - E. None of these
-
- *Rajiv Gandhi Cancer Institute and Research Center, New Delhi (RGCI) have installed the first-ever Made-in-India Surgical Robotic System, SSI-Mantra, devised by the new-age Indian med-tech start-up SS Innovations.*
 - *The ingenious SSI Mantra is a brainchild of World-renowned robotic cardiac surgeon Dr. Sudhir P Srivastava.*
 - *This machine will revolutionize the idea of surgery practices in our homeland and around the world in terms of precision, technical advancement, and cost reduction, making expensive robotic surgery available for the common people.*
33. Recently _____ *the State Wildlife Department has kick-started the first-ever survey of blackbucks along a stretch of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam to draw up a conservation plan to protect the endangered species.*
- A. Andhra Pradesh**
 - B. Telangana
 - C. Maharashtra
 - D. Odisha
 - E. None of these
-
- *The Andhra Pradesh State Wildlife Department has kick-started the first-ever survey of blackbucks along a stretch of islands in the Godavari between Dowleswaram and Yanam to draw up a conservation plan to protect the endangered species.*

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- The survey was mooted in the wake of scores of blackbucks getting stranded on the islands that have been hit by the Godavari.
- Forest Range Officer (Wildlife-Kakinada) S.S.R. Vara Prasad and Wildlife Researcher (A.P. Forest Department) D. Mahesh Babu on Monday kick-started the field survey, braving perilous floodwaters in the Godavari and its branches. They covered the islands by boat.

34. Consider the following statement regarding the E-AMRIT app.

1. COP 26 President Alok Sharma and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr. Suman Bery launched E-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) mobile application.
2. The e-AMRIT app will provide information like the benefits of electric vehicles, information related to developments in the Indian electric vehicle market, etc.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- COP 26 President Alok Sharma and Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr. Suman Bery launched E-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) mobile application.
- The e-AMRIT app will provide information like the benefits of electric vehicles, information related to developments in the Indian electric vehicle market, etc.
- The report on "Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India" has also been released that aims to promote battery recycling and promote evolving battery technologies.
- The report highlights the role of energy storage in achieving India's COP26 goals.
- The report provides details on the battery storage supply chain and reviews

NITI Aayog launches initiatives to boost electric mobility

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 22 JULY

NITI Aayog today launched two significant initiatives -- E-AMRIT (Accelerated e-Mobility Revolution for India's Transportation) mobile application to raise awareness on electric mobility and, the Report on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Reuse and Recycling Market in India, during the visit of COP 26 President Alok Sharma to India on 21-22 July 2022, said an official statement.

India is among 42 leaders to back and sign up for the UK's Glasgow Breakthroughs, launched at the COP26 climate summit. India is also a co-convenor of the Glasgow Breakthrough on Road Transport, together with the UK and the US. The Breakthrough on Road Transport aims to make Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs)

- including 2&3-wheelers, cars, vans and Heavy-Duty Vehicles the new normal by making them affordable, accessible and sustainable in all regions by 2030, said the statement.

"India is the fifth largest and fastest growing vehicle market in the world, providing massive potential for electric vehicle uptake. The shift to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs) is well underway and accelerating, creating 100,000s of new e-mobility jobs, driving down technology costs, ensuring the air we breathe is cleaner and reducing our reliance on imported fuels," COP26 President highlighted, speaking during the launch.

During the launch of the EV initiatives, CEO NITI Aayog Parameswaran Iyer highlighted that rapid development of the EV ecosystem, increased participation from the indus-

try, international collaboration and supportive government policies, will bolster India's EV adoption to grow exponentially over the next decade.

"Electrification of the transport system is the key driver of India's transformational mobility paradigm. Catalyzing this green transition will require a multi-fold increase in public as well as private capital flows to build India's new green infrastructure", said Suman Bery, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog while addressing the delegation.

The e-AMRIT app offers users key information like engagement tools that enable them to assess benefits of electric vehicles, determine savings and get all the information on developments in the Indian electric vehicle market and industry at their fingertips.

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different battery storage and recycling technologies.

- *NITI Aayog is collaborating with UK Government in the areas of e-vehicles, charging infrastructure, and battery storage.*
- *India is one of the signatories of the UK's Glasgow Breakthroughs, which was launched at the COP26 climate summit.*
- *India is the fifth largest and fastest growing e-vehicle market in the world.*

35. Shaheed Bhagat Singh Hariawal Lehar scheme recently seen in the news is an initiative of which of the following state government?

- A. Punjab**
- B. Haryana
- C. Rajasthan
- D. Manipur
- E. None of these

- *Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced the launch of a state-wide campaign to clean rivers and drains in the state. Calling on the people to support and make the campaign a mass movement, Mann said there is no dearth of funds for this noble cause.*
- *Mann also said the state government was making concerted efforts to enhance the green cover in the state, for which 'Shaheed Bhagat Singh Haryiwal Lehar' has been started.*
- *On this occasion, Mann drank a glass of water taken out of Kali Bein.*

36. Which state government has launched Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana 2022 for special classes for 10th and 12th students.

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

Free coaching for Classes X, XII students

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

The Delhi government will begin coaching classes for children from financially poor background under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana from next week, an official statement said on Thursday.

Social Welfare Minister Rajendra Pal Gautam held a review meeting with senior officers and coaching operators of the scheme and took stock of the preparations.

Under the scheme, the Delhi government will provide free coaching to meritorious students from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and poor families, who have passed Classes X and XII with good grades, the statement added.

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- *The Delhi government will begin coaching classes for children from financially poor backgrounds under the Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana from next week.*
- *Under Jai Bhim Mukhyamantri Pratibha Vikas Yojana, the Delhi government will provide free coaching to meritorious students from scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and poor families, who have passed Class X and Class XII with good grades.*



37. Recently Chairman & CEO, Railway Board, Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi inaugurated the Iconic Week Celebrations of the 'Azadi Ki Rail Gadi aur Stations' Highlighting the importance of 75 identified stations and _____ trains in the freedom struggle.
- A. 75
 B. 50
C. 27
 D. 30
 E. None of these

‘Azadi Ki Rail Gadi aur Stations’ celebrations get underway

ANJALI BHATIA
 NEW DELHI, 18 JULY

Chairman & CEO of the Railway Board Vinay Kumar Tripathi inaugurated the iconic week-long celebration of the 'Azadi Ki Rail Gadi aur Stations' at Rail Bhawan on Monday.

Highlighting the importance of 75 identified stations and 27 trains in the freedom struggle, the Indian Railways will organise the week-long celebrations from July 18, 2022

to July 23, 2022.

Speaking on the occasion, Tripathi said, "As a part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the event 'Azadi Ki Rail Gadi aur Stations' will be held during this week called as Iconic Week, under the overall spirit of Jan Bhagidari and Jan Andolan, which will showcase the convergence of the values and glories of the freedom struggle of the past with the aspirations and dreams of a young, new and iconic India.

This week will culminate with the Milestone function on 23rd July 2022."

The events of this Iconic Week Celebration are focused both on the railway stations and trains having historical importance.

For this, 75 railway stations have been identified as freedom stations and 27 trains for spot lighting.

On the day of the milestone function in Delhi on 23rd July 22, family members of free-

dom fighters from the respective local area will be invited to the stations to share their story. Under the programme spot lighting of trains, 27 identified trains will be flagged off by freedom fighter's families from the originating stations.

These trains will be appropriately decorated and historical facts about the trains would be depicted for the benefit of our citizens, particularly the younger generation.

- *Chairman & CEO, Railway Board, Shri Vinay Kumar Tripathi inaugurated the Iconic Week Celebrations of the 'Azadi Ki Rail Gadi aur Stations' today in Rail Bhawan.*

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- *Highlighting the importance of 75 identified stations/27 trains in the freedom struggle, Indian Railways will organize week-long celebrations from 18th July-23rd July.*
- *The events of this Iconic Week celebration are focused both on the Railway Stations and Trains having historical importance. For this, 75 Railway Stations have been identified as Freedom Stations and 27 Trains for Spot Lighting. In all these 75 Stations across 24 states.*
- *Under the program Spot Lighting of Trains, 27 identified trains will be flagged off by Freedom Fighter's family from the originating stations. These trains will be appropriately decorated and historical facts about the trains would be depicted for the benefit of our citizens, particularly the younger generation.*

38. Consider the following statement regarding **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM)**.

1. *It was launched as 'Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)' by the GOI's Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2011. It was renamed DAY-NRLM in 2015.*
2. *DAY-NRLM, MoRD organized "Udyamita Pakhwara" from 1st to 15th July, 2022*
3. *The program is supported partially by the World Bank.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development organized "Udyamita Pakhwara" across the country from 1st to 15th July.*
- *Rs. 11.91 Crore were dispersed towards the Community Enterprise Fund (CEF) to these enterprises through Community Institutions. DAY-NRLM is also facilitating the mobilization of SHG individual beneficiaries and groups for support under the PMFME scheme of MoFPI. Accordingly, a total of 6753 applications were submitted to State Nodal Agencies for Seed Capital support under the PMFME scheme.*
- *The DAY-NRLM is essentially a poverty relief program of the Central government. It was launched as 'Aajeevika – National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM)' by the GOI's Ministry of Rural Development in the year 2011. It was renamed DAY-NRLM in 2015.*
- *The scheme is an improved version of the earlier Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY).*
- *The program is supported partially by the World Bank.*
- *It aims at creating effective and efficient institutional platforms to enable the rural poor to increase their household income through sustainable livelihood enhancements and better access to financial services.*

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- *The scheme started with an agenda to cover 7 Crore rural poor households via Self Help Groups (SHGs) and federated institutions and support them for livelihoods collectives in 8-10 years.*
 - *In 2021, the Union Cabinet approved a special package worth Rs. 520 crores in the Union Territories (UTs) of Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) and Ladakh for five years (till the financial year 2023-24) under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihood Mission (DAY-NRLM).*
39. Consider the following statement regarding **FDI equity inflow in the R&D sector during 2021.**
1. *India attracts USD 343.64 million FDI equity inflow in the R&D sector during 2021, which is 516% higher compared to 2020*
 2. *Karnataka is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D followed by Telangana and Haryana*
 3. *Singapore is the top investing country in R&D with a 40% share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Germany and the U.S.A.*

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 attracted USD 343.64 million FDI equity inflow in the R&D sector during C.Y. 2021 (Calendar Year) which is 516% higher as compared to previous C.Y. 2020 (USD 55.77 million).*
- *FDI is permitted under a 100% automatic route in the R&D sector subject to applicable laws/regulations, security, and other conditionalities.*
- *Karnataka is the top FDI Equity recipient state in R&D during C.Y. 2021 followed by Telangana and Haryana. The following states showed growth of more than 250% during C.Y. 2021 compared to previous C.Y. 2020: Telangana, Karnataka, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh & Tamilnadu.*
- *Singapore is the top investing country in R&D during C.Y. 2021 with a 40% share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Germany (35%) and the U.S.A (11%). Further, FDI Equity inflow from several countries like Germany, Mauritius, France, Singapore, Oman, and the U.S.A. showed an increase of more than 200% as compared to the previous C.Y. 2020.*
- *Daimler Truck Innovation Center was the top FDI Equity inflow recipient company in R&D during C.Y. 2021 with a 35% share of total FDI Equity in R&D followed by Aragon Life Sciences Private Limited (34%) and Stelis Biopharma Private Limited (21%).*

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40. Consider the following statement regarding **Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY)**.

1. Government has spent Rs 3.16 trillion on a free ration scheme.
2. The government distributes rice and wheat to beneficiaries under NFSA at Rs 3 and Rs 2 per kg.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The government expenditure on the free ration scheme — Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) since its April 2020 roll-out has crossed Rs 3.16 trillion, the food ministry told Parliament.
- The allocation under PMGKAY is likely to cross Rs 3.4 trillion by the end of September 30.
- Launched as part of the Covid-19 relief measures, 5 kg of grains are distributed free under PMGKAY to more than 800 million beneficiaries every month free of cost.
- Additionally, these people also get an equal quantity of highly subsidized food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).
- The scheme, initially launched for the April-June period of FY21, was later extended till November-end, 2020; in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic, it was re-introduced in May 2021 and then got extended till FY22-end.
- In March, the cabinet announced the extension of PMGKAY (phase VI) till September 30, 2022. The government is yet to take a call on extending the PMGKAY.
- The government distributes rice and wheat to beneficiaries under NFSA at Rs 3 and Rs 2 per kg, respectively.

800 MILLION BENEFICIARIES

Govt's spend on free ration scheme crosses ₹3.16 trn

Expenditure likely to touch ₹3.4 trn by September 30

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, July 22

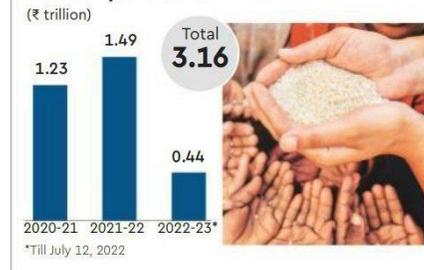
THE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE on the free ration scheme — Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PMGKAY) — since its April, 2020 rollout has crossed ₹3.16 trillion, the food ministry told Parliament on Friday.

Minister for state for consumer affairs Sadhvi Niranjani Jyoti said the Food Corporation of India had incurred around ₹2.78 trillion so far while rest of the expenses of ₹0.39 trillion has been incurred by states which follow decentralised procurement system.

The allocation under PMGKAY is likely to cross ₹3.4 trillion by the end of September 30, sourced told FE.

The food ministry in a recent note has said that if the scheme is extended to the second half of

Govt expenses for PMGKAY
(₹ trillion)



the current financial year with the current grain mix, the country's rice stocks may fall below the buffer by April 1 next year. It also said it would cost more than ₹90,000 crore to run the scheme in H2.

Launched as part of the Covid-19 relief measures, 5 kg of grains are distributed free under PMGKAY to more than 800 million beneficiaries every month free of cost.

Additionally, these people also get an equal quantity of

highly subsidised food grains under the National Food Security Act (NFSA).

The scheme, initially launched for the April-June period of FY21, was later extended till November-end, 2020; in the wake of the second wave of the pandemic, it was re-introduced in May 2021 and then got extended till FY22-end.

In March, the cabinet had announced extension of PMGKAY (phase VI) till Sep-

tember 30, 2022. The government is yet to take a call on extending the PMGKAY.

"Even though the Covid-19 pandemic has significantly abated and economic activities are gathering momentum, this PMGKAY extension would ensure that no poor household goes to bed without food during this time of recovery," the food ministry had stated.

According to the food ministry, close to 76 million tonne (MT) of grain was distributed under PMGKAY till March, 2022 and by end of September 30, 2022, total allocation of grain would be 100 MT.

The economic cost of food-grain procurement by the FCI, which includes expenses such as minimum support price payment to farmers, procurement, acquisition and distribution costs etc. for rice and wheat are estimated at ₹3,670 and ₹2,588 per quintal, respectively, for 2022-23.

The government distributes rice and wheat to beneficiaries under NFSA at ₹3 and ₹2 per kg, respectively.

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41. Consider the following statement regarding **Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts**.

1. Almost 23 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, which are 14-digit health IDs, have been created so far.
2. Andhra Pradesh generated the highest 3.21 crore followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Almost 23 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, which are 14-digit health IDs, have been created so far, with Andhra Pradesh generating the highest 3.21 crore followed by Uttar Pradesh and Bihar.
- In a written reply to a question, Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said ABHA numbers can be generated for citizens of all age groups with a KYC (know your customer) verification.
- The ABHA number is a 14-digit ID that allows users to save their health records and medical investigations online.
- The ABDM has been launched by the government to establish the National Digital Health ecosystem by creating an online platform, enabling interoperability of health data to create an EHR for citizens.
- Three key registries of ABDM — namely ABHA number/health ID, Health Professional Registry (HPR), Health Facility Registry (HFR) — and digital infrastructure for data exchange are created to enable data interoperability across digital health platforms.

42. Consider the following statement regarding new norms by the Department of Commerce for Work from Home for Special Economic Zones.



230 m Ayushman Bharat Health A/Cs Created So Far: Govt

New Delhi: Almost 230 million Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) numbers, which are 14-digit health IDs, have been created so far, with Andhra Pradesh generating the highest 32 m followed by UP and Bihar, Lok Sabha was told Friday. Minister of State for Health Bharati Pravin Pawar said ABHA numbers can be generated for citizens of all age groups with a KYC verification. The ABHA number allows users to save their health records and medical investigations online. The data can be accessed and shared online by healthcare providers across the country.—PTI

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1. The Department of Commerce has notified a new Rule, namely Rule 43A - Work from Home in Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 across all Special Economic Zones.
2. WFH may be extended to a maximum of 50% of total employees including contractual employees of the unit.
3. Notification provides a transition period of 90 days for SEZ units to seek approval, whose employees are already WFH.

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 Department of Commerce has notified a new Rule, namely Rule 43A - Work from Home in Special Economic Zones Rules, 2006 across all Special Economic Zones.
- The notification was issued on demand from the industry for making a provision for a country-wide uniform Work From Home (WFH) policy across all Special Economic Zones.
- As per the new notification, WFH may be extended to a maximum of 50% of total employees including contractual employees of the unit. There is flexibility granted to the Development Commissioner (DC) of SEZs to approve a higher number of employees (more than 50%) for any bonafide reason to be recorded in writing.
- Work From Home is now allowed for a maximum period of one year. However, the same may further be extended for one year at a time by the DC on the request of units. In respect of SEZ units whose employees are already working from home, the notification has provided a transition period of 90 days to seek approval.

43. Consider the following statement regarding Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY).

1. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) is implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying.
2. Governmental financial assistance of Rs. 3000/- per annum is provided to each enrolled beneficiary and the enrolled beneficiary's contribution is for Rs. 1500/- annually.
3. The Department through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) initiated 'Fish Market Price Information System' (FMPIS) in the year 2018, to capture and disseminate fish market prices.

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

- *The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) implemented by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Government of India provides livelihood and Nutritional support for socio-economically backward active traditional fisher's families during the fishing ban/lean period.*
- *Under this activity, the Governmental financial assistance of Rs. 3000/- per annum is provided to each enrolled beneficiary and the enrolled beneficiary's contribution is for Rs. 1500/- annually. Such accumulated amount of Rs. 4500/- is disbursed to each enrolled beneficiary by the respective State/UT at the rate of Rs. 1500/- per month during the fishing ban/lean period for three months annually. During the last two years of implementation of PMMSY, a total number of 8,12,195 have been provided the aforesaid livelihood and nutritional support at a total cost of Rs. 360.99 crores with central assistance of Rs. 140.72 crores.*
- *The Department through National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) initiated 'Fish Market Price Information System' (FMPIS) in the year 2018, to capture and disseminate fish market prices of commercially important marine and inland fishes from selected wholesale and retail fish markets.*
- *Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) was launched on 10th September 2020. The scheme aims to bring about Blue Revolution through the sustainable development of the fisheries sector over five years (2020-2025.)*

44. As per WHO's Global TB Report, 2021 incidence of TB in India has reduced from 217 / lakh population in 2015 to _____ lakh population in 2020.

- A. 190 Lakh
- B. 188 Lakh**
- C. 170 Lakh
- D. 198 Lakh
- E. None of these

Amrit Mahotsav

NATIONAL TUBERCULOSIS CONTROL PROGRAMME

As per WHO's Global TB Report, 2021 incidence of TB in India has reduced from 217 / lakh population in 2015 to 188 / lakh population in 2020

Services integrated with Ayushman Bharat- Health & Wellness Centres to decentralize screening and treatment services closer to the community

Posted On: 19 JUL 2022 5:56PM by PIB Delhi

The Government has implemented the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM). With the goal of achieving Sustainable Development Goals related to TB by 2025, five years ahead of the global targets, the programme has implemented a National Strategic Plan with the following objectives: -

- *The Government has implemented the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) under the aegis of*

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the National Health Mission (NHM). To achieve Sustainable Development Goals related to TB by 2025.

- *The Government has made steady progress toward achieving the SDG targets. As per the Global TB Report, 2021 by the World Health Organisation, the incidence of Tuberculosis in India has reduced from 217 / lakh population in 2015 to 188 / lakh population in 2020.*

45. Consider the following statement regarding Phase-II of FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India).

- 1. 2,877 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations sanctioned under FAME–II in 68 cities across 25 States/UTs**
- 2. 1576 charging stations sanctioned across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under FAME-II**
- 3. 4.7 lakhs Electric Vehicles gave incentives under FAME India.**

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 Ministry of Heavy Industries has sanctioned 2,877 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations in 68 cities across 25 States/UTs under Phase-II of FAME India (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India).*
- *Further, 1576 charging stations have also been sanctioned across 9 Expressways and 16 Highways under Phase II of the FAME India Scheme. Under Phase-I of the FAME India Scheme, 479 charging stations have been installed as on 01.07.2022.*
- *To improve the infrastructure required for the large-scale use of electric vehicles, the Government formulated a scheme namely FAME India Scheme in 2015.*
- *At present, Phase-II of the FAME India Scheme is being implemented for 5 years w.e.f. 01st April 2019.*
- *Under Phase-II of the FAME-India Scheme Rs. 1000 Cr. has been allocated for the development of charging infrastructure.*
- *The budget utilization under phase II of the FAME India Scheme as on 30th June 2022 has been Rs. 2099 Crore [approx.]. Under Phase-II of the FAME India Scheme, 4.7 lakhs of Electric Vehicles have been supported till*

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15.07.2022 by way of Demand Incentive. Further, MHI has sanctioned 6315 e-buses to 65 cities/STUs/CTUs/ State Government entities for intracity and intercity operations across 26 states/UT under the Scheme.

46. Consider the following statement regarding the **GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0)**.

1. **GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Meta (formerly Facebook)**
2. **The first phase of the GOAL program was launched as a pilot project in May 2020 and it was completed by Dec 2021.**
3. **It aims at digital empowerment of tribal youth and women through the concept of mentor and mentee.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **GOAL (Going Online as Leaders) is a joint initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Meta (formerly Facebook), which aims at the digital empowerment of tribal youth and women through the concept of mentor and mentee.**
- **The first phase of the GOAL program was launched as a pilot project in May 2020 and it was completed by Dec 2021.**
- **The second phase of the GOAL Programme (GOAL 2.0) was launched on 28th June 2022 to digitally upskill tribal youth by promoting entrepreneurship and opening up opportunities for them using digital technology.**
- **Ministry of Tribal Affairs in coordination with the Ministry of IT and Electronics will be providing 6 digital classes in each of the 175 EMRS schools selected under the program.**
- **The project is being implemented by ERNET, which is an autonomous organization under MeITY through STC funds available with MeITY, and 10% funding is being done by NESTS.**

47. Consider the following statement regarding **new norms of the Flag Code of India, 2002**.

1. **The National Flag shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/ polyester/ wool/ silk khadi bunting."**
2. **Flag Code of India, 2002, had been amended to allow "where the Flag is displayed in open or displayed on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night."**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The central government has amended the country's flag code to allow round-the-clock use of the tricolor ahead of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' (hoisting of the national flag in every home) campaign.**
- **The modifications will make machine stitching and the use of plastic material for making the national flag easier.**

Flagging fortunes of Khadi flag-maker

Revoke rule that allows polyester flags, says Sangha

GIRISH PATTANASHETTI
HUBBALLI

While the nation is busy making preparations for the platinum jubilee celebrations of Independence, the mood at the country's sole Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS)-recognised National Flag manufacturing unit of Karnataka Khadi Gramodyog Samyukta Sangha, Bengeri, at Hubballi in Karnataka, is not upbeat. This is the unit which supplies the Tricolour to be hoisted atop the Red Fort.

Every year, by the end of July, the Samyukta Sangha would have despatched Tricolour worth ₹2.5 crore. But



Dwindling demand: The flag-making unit in Hubballi in Karnataka is India's only BIS-certified facility. • KIRAN BAKALE

thanks to the Centre's amendment to the National Flag Code allowing flags made of polyester, the Sangha has not even received half the usual orders. So far, it has orders for flags worth just around ₹ 1.2 crore, but the Sangha has raw material stock to supply flags worth ₹5 crore. The Samyukta

Sangha had set its target high this year in anticipation of a vibrant 'Amrit Mahotsav' celebration and procured more raw material.

The amendment to the Flag Code came as a shocker not only to the Samyukta Sangha but also to all those involved in the Khadi and Village Industries.

Quite ironically, there is no demand for khadi flags manufactured here even when the government has launched the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, exhorting people to hoist the Tricolour at their houses from August 13-15. One reason for this is that the size specified under the campaign –

SPECIAL

20x30 inches and 16x27 inches – is not permitted under the BIS' standards for the National Flag. The unit in Hubballi, recognised by BIS in 2004, meticulously follows the Flag Code and manufactures only nine specified sizes of the flag.

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- **Union Home Secretary Ajay Bhalla wrote a letter to the secretaries of all central ministries and departments three days ago, informing them that the Flag Code of India, 2002, had been amended to allow "where the Flag is displayed in open or displayed on the house of a member of the public, it may be flown day and night."**
- **This was added to clause (xi) of paragraph 2.2 of Part-II of the Flag Code of India, 2002, because the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign will begin on August 13 and conclude on Independence Day as part of the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.'**
- **Previously, the tricolor could only be flown from sunrise to sunset, regardless of weather conditions. The Flag Code of India, 2002, and the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 govern the hoisting and use of the Indian national flag, according to the ministry.**
- **According to Bhalla's official communique, paragraph 1.2 of Part-I of India's Flag Code has been changed to read: "The National Flag shall be made of hand spun and hand woven or machine made, cotton/ polyester/ wool/ silk khadi bunting."**

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- *Previously, machine-made and polyester flags were not permitted, though private manufacturers were breaking the rules by selling all varieties of tricolor.*

48. Consider the following statement regarding **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana**.

1. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme used almost 31.47 crore refills of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).**
2. **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana was launched by Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on 1 May 2016.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is a scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas for providing LPG connections to women from Below Poverty Line (BPL) households.**
- **The scheme was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.**
- **The target under the scheme was to release 8 Crore LPG Connections to the deprived households by March 2020.**
- **According to information provided by officials on Thursday, 9.34 crore beneficiaries of the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme used almost 31.47 crore refills of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG).**
- **PMUY recipients used 31,47,52,219 LPG refills in FY22, according to data presented by Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli in a written reply in the Lok Sabha.**
- **Additionally, under Phase-II of PMUY (Ujjwala 2.0), all PMUY beneficiaries receive a free first refill and stove in addition to free LPG connections with no deposit required.**
- **As of July 1, 2022, 1.35 crore, LPG connections were made available through Ujjwala 2.0 by the oil marketing companies (OMCs). Up till June 30 of this year, OMCs have distributed 116.9 crore refills (other than installation refills) to PMUY beneficiaries.**

49. Consider the following statement regarding the **PM CARES for Children Scheme**.

1. **The PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 29th May 2021.**
2. **Ministry of Women and Child Development has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheme by verification of the beneficiaries.**
3. **Scholarship of Rs.20,000/- per student per annum to all school-going children of Class 1 to 12 by the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment.**

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The PM CARES for Children Scheme was launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 29th May 2021.*
- *Ministry of Women and Child Development has been designated as the Nodal Agency for implementation of the Scheme by verification of the beneficiaries.*
- *The following provisions of Scholarship are under the Scheme for such Children who have lost both their parents or legal guardians Adoptive Parents or Surviving Parent to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *School Education:*
- *(i) Scholarship of Rs.20,000/- per student per annum to all school-going children of Class 1 to 12 by the Ministry of Social justice & Empowerment. So far, 3700 beneficiaries have been assisted by the Ministry under this Scheme during the current financial year.*
- *Higher Education:*
- *(i) Provision of Swanath Scholarship of Rs.50,000/- per child per annum for technical education (by AICTE)*
- *(ii) Provision of skill training under the KARMA Scheme by AICTE.*

50. Consider the following statement regarding *National LED Programme*.

- 1. Prime Minister launched *National LED Programme* on 5th January 2015 under which *Street Light National Programme (SLNP)* was formulated to replace conventional street lights with energy-efficient LED street lights.**
- 2. Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has installed over 1.25 crore LED street lights in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Hon'ble Prime Minister launched *National LED Programme* on 5th January 2015 under which *Street Light National Programme (SLNP)* was formulated to replace conventional street lights with energy-efficient LED street lights.*

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- To date, Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has installed over 1.25 crore LED street lights in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Gram Panchayats (GPs) across India.
- SLNP is being implemented in States/Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) that have signed the implementation agreement with EESL. At present, EESL is implementing Street Light National Programme in 23 States and 6 Union Territories. EESL has given proposals to all States/UTs and as and when the respective State/UT administration approves the same and agreements are signed with the ULBs, the replacement of street lights is taken up by EESL.
- Presently 1,615 of ULBs have entered into a contract with EESL for the replacement of conventional street lights with LED street lights under SLNP.
- SLNP so far is estimated to have resulted in an annual saving of 8.5 billion units equivalent to Rs.6800 crore.

51. Recently as per government data a total of _____ renewable energy capacity (excluding large hydro) has been installed in the country as on 30-06-2022.

- A. 124.07 GW
- B. 114.07 GW**
- C. 175.07 GW
- D. 104.07 GW
- E. None of these

- Against the target of achieving 175 GW of Renewable Energy (excluding Large Hydro) installed capacity by 2022, a total of 114.07 GW of renewable energy capacity (excluding large hydro) has been installed in the country as on 30-06-2022.
- Further, a capacity of 60.66 GW is under various stages of implementation and a capacity of 23.14 GW is under various stages of bidding.
- The Government has taken several steps to promote renewable energy in the country. These include :
 - Permitting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) up to 100 percent under the automatic route,
 - Waiver of Inter-State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for inter-state sale of solar and wind power for projects to be commissioned by 30th June 2025,
 - Declaration of trajectory for Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) up to the year 2022.
 - PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) Scheme is aimed at ensuring energy security for farmers in India, along with honoring India's commitment to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40% by 2030 as part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs).
 - PM-Kusum Yojana got its administrative approval in March 2019 and guidelines were framed in July 2019. This scheme was launched by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) for the installation of solar pumps and other renewable power plants across the nation.

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- *Kusum Scheme implemented by: The Ministry responsible for this scheme is the New and Renewable Energy Ministry.*

- 52. *Recently the government launched _____ software for academics and deep-tech start-ups in the country that would lead to collaborative research and increasing innovation through the Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM).*
 - A. **MATLAB**
 - B. **NIHAR**
 - C. **NISAR**
 - D. **LabVIEW**
 - E. **None of these**

- *For the first time in the country, academic users in India will have free access to the Laboratory Virtual Instrument Engineering Workbench (LabVIEW) software suite - a system-design platform and development environment for a visual programming language.*
- *The Indian Science Technology and Engineering facilities Map (I-STEM), the national web portal for sharing research equipment/facilities, and National Instruments Inc., headquartered in Austin, TX, USA, entered into a collaborative arrangement to enable this free access to the platform. I-STEM (www.istem.gov.in) is an initiative by the Scientists of the Indian Institute of Science Bangalore supported by the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser to the Govt. of India under the PM-STIAC mission.*
- *LabVIEW uses a graphic interface that enables different elements to be joined together to provide the required flow and runs on Windows, OS X (Apple), and Linux Operating systems, making it suitable for most computing systems.*
- *I-STEM already provides academics with access to COMSOL Multiphysics and MathWorks/MATLAB platforms, at no cost.*
- *The I-STEM Web Portal: a National Portal that is the gateway for researchers to locate the specific facilities they need for their R&D work and identify the one that is either located closest to them or available the soonest.*

- 53. *Consider the following statement regarding the Startup India initiative.*
 - 1. *Startup India initiative was launched by the Government on 16th January 2016.*
 - 2. *Maharashtra has the highest number of recognized startups followed by Karnataka, Delhi, and Uttar Pradesh.*

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

- *Startup India was a campaign that was first addressed by PM Narendra Modi on 15th August 2015 at Red Fort, New Delhi. This campaign was introduced by the Government of India as an initiative to develop over 75 startup support hubs in the country.*
- *Startup India scheme is an important government scheme that was launched on 16th January 2016 to promote and support start-ups in India by providing bank finances. It was inaugurated by the former finance minister, Arun Jaitley.*
- *In the last three years (2019 to 2021), 46,173 entities were recognized as startups.*
- *The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme aims to provide financial assistance to startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market entry, and commercialization.*
- *On February 5, 2021, the Government of India made an official announcement about the approval of SISFS. It has been approved for four years and was implemented with effect from April 1, 2021.*
- *Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS): Rs. 945 crores has been sanctioned for 4 years starting from 2021-22.*
- *As on 30th June 2022, 428 startups have been selected by approved incubators for funding under the Scheme. out of which, 125 startups have received Rs. 14.226 crores under the scheme.*

54. **Aadi Krithigai Festival** recently seen in the news is a festival of which of the following state?

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

- *The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has greeted everyone on the special day of Aadi Krithigai.*
- *Aadi Krithigai is an important festival celebrated in the Tamil month of Adi or Aadi. In 2022, the date of Aadi Krithigai is July 23. The festival is dedicated to Lord Muruga or Subramanya.*
- *Incidentally, the festival is also referred to as Aadi Krittika, Kirthigai, Kritika, and Krithika. The festival is celebrated with fervor in the Murugan Temples in Tamilnadu.*
- *As per some beliefs Muruga first appeared on earth on Aadi Krithigai day.*

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- *Aadi Krithigai in some regions is celebrated to symbolize the victory of good over evil when Murugan slew the demon Surapadman.*
- 55. Recently the government has set a target of _____% procurement to be made through GeM by the 15th of August and 100% procurement to be made through GeM by the end of the current financial year.
 - A. 50 %
 - B. 75 %**
 - C. 90 %
 - D. 60 %
 - E. None of these
- *Commerce and Industry Minister Sh. Piyush Goyal emphasized that the Hon'ble Prime Minister has set a target of 75% procurement to be made through GeM by the 15th of August and 100% procurement to be made through GeM by the end of the current financial year.*
- *Government e-Marketplace (GeM) is an online platform for public procurement in India which was envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister.*
- *The initiative was launched on August 9, 2016, by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, to create an open and transparent procurement platform for government buyers.*
- *The portal has transformed public procurement in India by driving its three pillars viz. inclusivity, transparency, and efficiency.*
- *GeM has about 61,440 Government Buyer Organizations and about 47.99 Lakh Sellers & Service Providers with a rich listing of over 41.44 lakh Product Offerings and 1.9 lakh Service offerings.*
- *All states (except Sikkim) have already signed MoUs with GeM. As many as 239 CPSUs are also registered on GeM and making significant procurement through GeM Portal.*

International / Report News

56. Recently _____ launched an "**Aviation Passenger Charter**" to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports after the widespread disruption seen this year.
- A. Indian
 - B. Spain
 - C. England**
 - D. Germany
 - E. None of these

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- **The British government launched an "Aviation Passenger Charter" to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports after the widespread disruption seen this year.**

Jul 17, 2022, 8:50PM

British govt launches "Aviation Passenger Charter" to help passengers know their rights

The British government launched an "Aviation Passenger Charter" today to help passengers know their rights if they are faced with problems at airports after the widespread disruption seen this year. Long queues and cancelled flights caused by staff shortages have caused chaos at times, prompting airlines to cut back their schedules as the industry struggles to keep up with a surge in demand after the COVID-19 pandemic. The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays or missing baggage, the government said. Transport Minister Grant Shapps said that passengers deserve reliable services, and to be properly compensated if things don't go to plan, and the chaotic scenes at airports are unacceptable.

Last month, the government published a 22-point support plan to avoid further disruption, including telling airlines to run "realistic" summer schedules and promising to speed up security checks.



- **Long queues and canceled flights caused by staff shortages have caused chaos at times, prompting airlines to cut back their schedules as the industry struggles to keep up with a surge in demand after the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **The new charter will help passengers know what to do if they are confronted by cancellations, delays, or missing baggage.**

57. Recently in July India and _____ signed MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualification to facilitate student mobility and academic collaboration between Higher Education institutions (HEIs).

- A. UAE
- B. UK**
- C. Australia
- D. Japan
- E. None of these

- **India and the UK sign MoU on Mutual Recognition of Academic Qualification to facilitate student mobility and academic collaboration between Higher Education institutions (HEIs).**
- **In May 2021, during the Virtual Summit between Prime Ministers of India and the UK, a comprehensive Roadmap to 2030 was adopted for enhanced bilateral cooperation between the two**

India, UK to sign MoUs on mkt access, education and health

INDIA AND the UK will sign on Thursday three memorandums of understanding (MoUs), covering market access, health and education, sources told FE.

The MoUs are in addition to the ongoing negotiations for a proposed free trade agreement (FTA). In April, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson had pitched for wrapping up the FTA by as early as Diwali in October.

However, as Johnson stepped down from the posi-

tion of the Conservative Party leader earlier this month (he will remain the Prime Minister until a new leader is selected, likely by October), there are fresh uncertainties as to whether the Diwali deadline could be met and whether there could be any realignment of priorities in the FTA negotiations.

Both India and the UK launched formal negotiations in January for the FTA, which could ultimately cover more than 90% of tariff lines. —FE BUREAU

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countries. Both sides also agreed to a new Enhanced Trade Partnership.

- *Education forms an important pillar of this roadmap. In light of India’s National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), the two sides agreed to expand education by agreeing to mutual recognition of academic qualifications.*
- *This is a landmark moment in our bilateral educational relations as the signing of this MoU would enable smoother student mobility between the two countries and help in developing stronger institutional collaboration and widen the scope of academic and research collaboration between the Higher Education Institutions of both countries.*

58. Recently The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Judicial Cooperation between India and the Judicial Service Commission of _____.

- A. **Maldives**
- B. South Africa
- C. Mauritius
- D. Australia
- E. None of these

- *The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding in the field of Judicial Cooperation between India and the Judicial Service Commission of Maldives.*
- *This is the eighth MoU signed between India and other countries in the field of Judicial Cooperation.*
- *This MoU will provide a platform to tap the benefits of Information Technology for court digitization and can be a potential growth area for the IT companies and start-ups in both countries. In recent years, the close relationship between India and Maldives has intensified multi-dimensionally.*
- *With the signing of this agreement on cooperation in the field of law and justice, the good relations between the two countries will receive further impetus.*

Cabinet nod for MoU in judicial cooperation with the Maldives



New Delhi: The Union cabinet on Wednesday approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in the field of judicial cooperation between India and the Judicial Service Commission of the Maldives. This is the eighth MoU signed between India and other countries in the field of judicial cooperation. This MoU will provide a platform to tap benefits of information technology for court digitization and can be a potential growth area for IT companies and startups in both the countries. **STAFF WRITER**

59. Consider the following statement regarding *Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA)*.

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1. The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a legislative amendment to approve waiver to *India* against the CAATSA sanctions for the purchase of the S-400 missile defense system from Russia.
2. In 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to purchase five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems.
3. Under it, the US imposes sanctions on countries that do military trade with countries like Iran, North Korea, and Russia.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The U.S. House of Representatives has passed a legislative amendment to approve waiver to India against the CAATSA sanctions for the purchase of the S-400 missile defense system from Russia.
 - The legislative amendment has been passed during floor consideration of the National Defence Authorisation Act (NDAA).
 - This bill has been introduced by Ro Khanna and it urged to provide a CAATSA waiver to help deter aggressors like China.
 - In 2018, India signed a USD 5 billion deal with Russia to purchase five units of the S-400 air defense missile systems.
 - S-400 is the most advanced long-range surface-to-air missile defense system.
 - Under the CAATSA, the US has imposed sanctions on Turkey for purchasing S-400 missile defense systems from Russia.
 - Countering America’s Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (CAATSA): It was passed in 2017.
 - Under it, the US imposes sanctions on countries that do military trade with countries like Iran, North Korea, and Russia.
 -
60. Recently _____ has declared monkeypox a global health emergency.
- A. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
 - B. World Health Organization (WHO)**
 - C. U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)

ELSEWHERE



U.S. House votes for CAATSA sanctions waiver

WASHINGTON

The US House of Representatives has passed by voice vote a legislative amendment that approves waiver to India against the punitive CAATSA sanctions. The amendment, introduced by Indian-American Congressman Ro Khanna, aims at providing India protection over its purchase of S-400 missile defence system from Russia to deter aggressors like China. PTI

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D. World Bank
E. None of these

- **World Health Organization (WHO) has declared monkeypox a global health emergency.**
- **It came at the end of the second meeting of the WHO's emergency committee on the virus.**
- **The classification is the highest alert that the WHO can issue and follows a worldwide upsurge in cases.**
- **WHO Director-General Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said more than 16,000 cases have now been reported from 75 countries. There have been five deaths so far as a result of the outbreak.**
- **There are only two other such health emergencies at present - the coronavirus pandemic and the continuing effort to eradicate polio.**
- **The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health. Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland, Founded: 7 April 1948.**

WHO classifies monkeypox as 'public health emergency'

Outbreak has affected over 14,500 people in 72 countries

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI
The World Health Organization has declared the global monkeypox outbreak a "public health emergency of international concern" (PHEIC), one step below that of a "pandemic". The monkeypox outbreak has affected more than 14,500 people in 72 countries.

According to the WHO, a PHEIC represents "an extraordinary event, which constitutes a public health risk to other States through international spread, and which potentially requires a coordinated international response".

On January 30, 2020, the organisation had categorised COVID-19 as a PHEIC, after about 7,500 cases of novel coronavirus were reported. On March 11 that year, the agency elevated it to "pandemic".

The latest move followed a seven-hour meeting on Thursday of the International Health Regulations Emergency Committee to discuss the monkeypox outbreak. It is this committee of the WHO that decides on the seriousness of a public health crisis.

Though the Committee did not reach a consensus on whether the outbreak constituted a PHEIC, Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, decided that the situation merited such a classification.

"We have an outbreak that has spread around the world rapidly, through new modes of transmission, about which we understand too little, and which meets the criteria in the International Health Regulations. For all these reasons, I have decided that the global



Rising risk: People waiting in line to receive the monkeypox vaccine in Brooklyn, New York, on July 17. AFP

monkeypox outbreak represents a public health emergency of international concern," he stated.

The WHO has been criticised in the past for not recognising the incipient threat from COVID-19 soon enough.

Guidelines to follow

As part of the PHEIC declaration, which is said to be "temporary" and reviewed every three months, countries are expected to follow guidelines. They are grouped in three categories: Those with no reported cases or where the last case was from 21 days ago; those with recently imported cases and experiencing human-to-human transmission and finally, countries where cases are being reported and have a history of the presence of the virus. The guidelines direct countries to step up surveillance, spread awareness, and ensure that at-risk groups are not stigmatised.

Indian officials are yet to comment on the WHO's classification. So far three cases have been confirmed in India – all in men, and in Kerala, with a history of travel to the United Arab Emirates. All three are hospitalised and reportedly "stable", according to health officials. The WHO said that so far

14,533 probable and laboratory-confirmed cases (including 3 deaths in Nigeria and 2 in the Central African Republic) have been reported from 72 countries across six WHO regions, up from 3,040 cases in 47 countries in early May.

The highest numbers of cases are currently reported from countries in the European region and the Americas.

The majority of reported cases of monkeypox currently are in men, and most of those cases occur among men who identified themselves as gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (MSM). In urban areas, and are clustered in social and sexual networks. Early reports of clusters affected include a few with no known epidemiological link to other cases, the WHO stated.

The Secretariat noted that, although the number of cases and countries experiencing outbreaks of monkeypox appear to be rising, the WHO's risk assessment has not changed since the first meeting of the Committee on June 25, and the risk is considered to be "moderate" at global level and in all six WHO Regions, except for European region, where it is considered to be "high."

61. Consider the following statement India- Africa trade ties.

1. India to strengthen its partnership with Africa in the areas of Solar Power, defense trade & military exchanges, physical & digital infra, and healthcare & pharma.
2. Africa is India's 4th largest trading partner of India.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Goyal calls for deepening trade ties with Africa; exploring solar energy, startup ecosystem

New Delhi: Solar energy, infrastructure, military cooperation and startup ecosystem are four critical areas where India can be a valuable partner to African nations, Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal said on Tuesday.

The trade between India and African countries has been pretty balanced with exports of trade and services of about USD 40 billion and imports of USD 49 billion, Goyal said while speaking at the inauguration of 17th CII-Exim Bank conclave here.

"And we would like to continue this engagement and partnership where both African nations and India support each other in an endeavour to support each other's economic growth.



"India gives 27 Less Developed Countries from Africa the benefit of duty free tariff preference. It's time we also look at further deepening and strengthening the trade partnership and possibly look at giving greater trading access to both African continent and to India so that we can expand this trade in a much faster and greater way," the minister said.

Speaking at the conclave on 'India-Africa Growth

Partnership - Creating Shared Futures', he said India and South African countries can work in several areas to bring cost effective, affordable and truly designed for local population solutions in several areas.

"And India would like to strengthen our offer of friendship, our offer of relationship based business so that we can meet the dream of 1.4 billion African people. There are four areas of partnerships that I believe can fulfil the aspirations of the people of Africa and India going forward," Goyal said.

He said both the countries are blessed with significant amount of sunlight and solar power can be one area of engagement between Africa and India. PTI

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- *India plans to strengthen its partnership with Africa in four areas to fulfill the aspirations of both countries.*
- *The first area is solar power, this will help bring clean energy, and energy security and will create jobs in Africa.*
- *Second is defense trade and military exchanges in the Indian Ocean, manufacturing of armored vehicles and UAVs.*
- *The third is physical & digital infra, helping in IT/Consultancy & Project Exports and the fourth one is healthcare & pharma.*
- *India-Africa partnership will play an important role in our journey going forward as India and Africa collectively constitute 1/3 of the world's population and both of us are very much alienated in several areas.*
- *Africa is India's 4th largest trading partner of India. India's merchandise trade grew by 34% from \$67 bn in 2019-20 to \$89 bn in 2021-22. India exports \$40 bn and Imports \$ 49 bn from various African countries.*

62. Consider the following statement regarding the **Petersberg Climate Dialogue forum**.

1. **13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue is held in Berlin.**
2. **The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The 13th Petersberg Climate Dialogue begins in Berlin. The two-day informal ministerial meet is being chaired by Germany and Egypt.*
- *The informal ministerial meeting aimed at improving the implementation of climate action which is the core goal of COP-27.*
- *The Petersberg Climate Dialogue will create a roadmap for the global climate conference in Egypt in November.*
- *According to the previous resolution, the preservation of the Congo Basin forests is necessary for the fight against climate change.*
- *During the dialogue, representatives from several countries will discuss the implementation of all the previous resolutions to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.*
- *Petersberg Dialogue forum:*

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- *It was launched in 2010 after the Copenhagen Climate Change Conference.*
- *It served as a platform to build political consensus on issues related to climate change.*

63. Consider the following statements regarding *CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership*.

1. *The conclave is being held in Mumbai and Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal addressed its inaugural session.*
2. *The conclave was launched in 2010 and this year's edition is the 12th edition of the conclave.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Forty leaders from 17 countries are taking part in the two-day CII-EXIM Bank Conclave.*
- *Leaders are in New Delhi for the ongoing CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership. This is the 17th edition of the conclave.*
- *The focus of this year's conclave is on infrastructure development and trade finance, education and training, agriculture and food processing, consultancy services, and healthcare.*
- *Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal addressed the inaugural session of the CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on the India-Africa Growth Partnership.*
- *India is Africa's fourth-largest national trading partner. Trade with India accounted for more than 6.4% of total African trade in 2017.*
- *Mauritius is the first and only African country so far to have a CEEPA (Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement) with India.*
- *CII-EXIM Bank Conclave on India-Africa Growth Partnership:*
- *It was launched in 2005. It was launched with the support of India's Ministry of External Affairs and Ministry of Commerce & Industry.*
- *It aims to encourage the development of private investment from India in African countries.*

64. Mario *Draghi* recently tendered his resignation to President *Sergio Mattarella*. Mario Draghi was the Prime Minister of which of the following countries?

- A. *Italy*
- B. *Germany*
- C. *Japan*
- D. *France*

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E. None of these

- **Draghi tendered his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella during a morning meeting at the Quirinale Palace.**
- **President Mattarella has asked him to remain as a caretaker Premier.**
- **Draghi has led a unity government since February 2021. A unity government is a broad coalition government consisting of all parties or all major parties in the legislature.**
- **Draghi’s coalition government crumbled when three of his main partners refused to participate in a confidence vote.**
- **The ruling Lega and Forza Italia parties have also said they will not take part. It paves way for the snap election in September or October.**
- **Rome is its capital and largest city. Its currency is Euro. Italy is a unitary parliamentary republic.**

Italy PM Mario Draghi quits after coalition falls apart

President is likely to dissolve Parliament and call early vote

ASSOCIATED PRESS
ROME

Italian Premier Mario Draghi resigned on Thursday after his ruling coalition fell apart, dealing a destabilising blow to the country and Europe at a time of severe economic uncertainty brought on by the coronavirus pandemic and Russia’s war in Ukraine.

Mr. Draghi tendered his resignation to President Sergio Mattarella during a morning meeting at the Quirinale Palace. Mr. Mattarella, who rejected a similar resignation offer from the Premier last week, “took note” of the new one and asked Mr. Draghi’s government to remain on in a caretaker capacity, the President’s office said.

While the President could see if a new parliamentary majority was possible, his office indicated that he would dissolve the body and call early elections.



Mario Draghi

The turmoil couldn’t have come at a worse time for the eurozone’s third-largest economy. Like many countries, Italy is facing soaring prices for everything from food to household utilities as a result of Moscow’s invasion. On top of that, it is also suffering through a prolonged drought that is threatening crops and struggling to implement its EU-financed pandemic recovery program.

Mr. Draghi, who is not a politician but a former cen-

tral banker, was brought in 17 months ago to navigate the economic downturn caused by COVID-19. But his government of national unity imploded on Wednesday after members of his uneasy coalition of right, left and populists rebuffed his appeal to the band back together to finish the Italian Parliament’s natural term.

Instead, the centre-right Forza Italia and League parties and the populist 5-Star Movement boycotted a confidence vote in the Senate, a clear sign they were done with Draghi.

“Thank you for all the work done together in this period,” Mr. Draghi told the lower Chamber of Deputies on Thursday morning before going to see Mattarella. Clearly moved by the applause he received there, he repeated a quip that even central bank chiefs have hearts.

65. According to government data, India has extended _____ Lines of Credit (LOCs) to Sri Lanka amounting to USD 1850.64 million in the past 10 years.

- A. 10
- B. 9
- C. 8**
- D. 5
- E. None of these

- **India has extended 8 Lines of Credit (LOCs) to Sri Lanka amounting to USD 1850.64 million in the past 10 years in sectors including railways, infrastructure, defense, renewable energy, petroleum, and fertilizers.**
- **Under its 'Neighbourhood First' policy, the Government is committed to developing friendly and mutually beneficial relations with all its neighbors. In line with this policy, India continues to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development and also supports it in overcoming its economic challenges.**

India extended 8 LoCs worth \$850mn to Lanka: Jaishankar

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India has extended eight Lines of Credit (LoCs) to Sri Lanka amounting to \$1,850.64 million in many sectors, including railways, infrastructure, defence, renewable energy, petroleum and fertilizers, in the past 10 years, foreign minister S Jaishankar informed Parliament on Friday.

Under its ‘Neighbourhood First’ policy, Jaishankar said, India continued to assist Sri Lanka in its economic development as also support it in overcoming its economic challenges. The minister was responding to a written question in the Lok Sabha on financial assistance to Sri Lanka to help it overcome the recent economic crisis, and steps taken to recover the loans given to the country.

Development assistance under LoCs is extended in accordance with the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) guidelines and, in accord-



ance with these guidelines, the terms of these soft loans are transparent, with low rate of interest, moratorium in principal repayment, long repayment period and inbuilt flexibility, said Jaishankar in his response.

“In case of delay in repayment by the borrowing government, the issue is taken up bilaterally,” he added.

In January 2022, India extended a \$400-million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union settlements till July 6, 2022, said the minister.

An LoC of \$500 million was extended to Sri Lanka for importing fuel from India. In addition, India has extended a credit facility of US \$1 billion for the procurement of food, medicines and other essential items from India.

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- *In January 2022, India extended a USD 400 million currency swap to Sri Lanka under the SAARC Framework and deferred successive Asian Clearing Union (A.C.U.) settlements till July 6, 2022.*
- *A Line of Credit of US\$ 500 million was extended to Sri Lanka for importing fuel from India.*
- *India has extended a credit facility of US\$ 1 billion for the procurement of food, medicines, and other essential items from India.*
- *The minister further explained how humanitarian assistance was also provided to Sri Lanka by gifting essential medicines worth about INR 6 crores, 15,000 liters of kerosene oil, and USD 55 million LoC for the procurement of Urea fertilizer.*
- *The government of Tamil Nadu has contributed rice, milk powder, and medicines worth USD 16 million, as part of the larger Indian assistance effort.*

66. Recently *which of the following country declared the years 2023 to 2033 as a Decade of tourism to boost its tourism sector?*

- A. *India*
- B. *Nepal*
- C. *Bangladesh*
- D. *Sri Lanka*
- E. *None of these*

- *The Nepal government announced that 2023 to 2033 will be celebrated as the Nepal visit decade, aiming at reviving the country's tourism sector hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.*
- *Making the announcement, Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation minister Jeevan Ram Shrestha also unveiled the 73-point tourism recovery action plan.*
- *Under the action plan, the government will offer attractive discounts to foreign film producers and artists for shooting in Nepal.*
- *A plan has also been made to give identity cards as an honor to people who have continuously contributed to the tourism sector.*
- *A mountain climbing research center will be opened in the Everest region.*
- *An Everest base camp study committee will be formed to study the risks of the Everest base camp. Similarly, a museum will be established to reflect the heroic identity of the Sherpas.*
- *The government has also made preparations to open the climbing of more mountains from 5,800 meters to 8,000 meters for climbing within six months.*

Year 2023 to 2033 declared as Nepal visit decade to boost tourism



PTI ■ KATHMANDU

The Nepal government on Sunday announced that 2023 to 2033 will be celebrated as the Nepal visit decade, aiming at reviving the country's tourism sector hard hit by the coronavirus pandemic.

Making the announcement, Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation minister Jeevan Ram Shrestha also unveiled the 73-point tourism recovery action plan.

Under the action plan, the government will offer attractive discounts to foreign film producers and artists for shooting in Nepal, the minister said.

The government will also host an international conference of tourism ministers from South Asia nations in the near future.

The action plan also includes launching night time heritage walks in Kathmandu, Kirtipur, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur within the Kathmandu valley.

Nepal's tourism sector, a vital forex earner, was hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic. However, as the cases of COVID started declining this year, over 50,000 tourists per month are visiting the Himalayan nation since the beginning of the year 2022, officials said.

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- *With the help of the Non-Resident Nepali Association, the 'One Nepali One Foreign Friend Campaign' will also be launched.*
- 67. *Russia and Ukraine signed separate agreements with _____ and the United Nations clearing the way for exporting millions of tonnes of desperately needed Ukrainian grain as well as Russian grain and fertilizer ending a wartime standoff that had threatened food security around the globe.*
 - A. US
 - B. Germany
 - C. Turkey
 - D. Egypt
 - E. None of these
- *Russia and Ukraine signed separate agreements Friday with Turkey and the United Nations clearing the way for exporting millions of tonnes of desperately needed Ukrainian grain as well as Russian grain and fertilizer ending a wartime standoff that had threatened food security around the globe.*
- *Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and Ukrainian Infrastructure Minister Oleksandr Kubrakov signed separate deals with U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and Turkish Defense Minister Hulusi Akar. The ceremony in Istanbul was witnessed by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.*
- *The deal will enable Ukraine to export 22 million tons of grain and other agricultural products that have been stuck in Black Sea ports due to the war.*
- *Ukrainian and Russian military delegations had reached a tentative agreement last week on a U.N. plan that would also allow Russia to export its grain and fertilizers.*

68. Recently _____ becomes the first Arab country to develop a constellation of synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellites.
- A. UAE
 - B. Saudi Arabia
 - C. Israel
 - D. Iran
 - E. None of these

Ukraine and Russia to sign grain deal

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
ANKARA

Ukraine and Russia were due on Friday to sign an elusive deal designed to help relieve a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain exports.

The first major agreement between the warring sides since Russia's February invasion of its neighbour comes with global food prices soaring and people in some of the countries facing starvation.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres was due to arrive in Turkey on Thursday for the signing ceremony at Istanbul's lavish Dolmabahce Palace on the Bosphorus Strait.

"The grain export agreement will be signed in Istanbul (Friday) under the auspices of President Erdogan and Mr. Guterres together with Ukrainian and Russian delegations," the Turkish leader's spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin tweeted.

UAE plans \$820-mn fund for satellites, space plans

The United Arab Emirates will set up a 3-billion dirham (\$820-million) fund to develop satellites, as well as bolster an ambitious space program that's already put a probe into Martian orbit and includes plans to explore Venus. The six-year development program will see the first satellite launch in three years. The Gulf nation said the move will make it the first Arab country to develop a constellation of Synthetic Aperture Radar Satellites.

BLOOMBERG

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- **The United Arab Emirates (UAE) announced its plans to develop a radar satellite constellation as part of the National Space Fund worth over the US \$800 million to boost its space sector.**
- **The project makes the UAE the first Arab country to develop a constellation of SAR satellites.**
- **Sirb (Arabic for a flock of birds), the synthetic aperture radar (SAR) satellite constellation is to be developed over six years. The first Sirb satellite is due to launch in three years.**
- **The small satellites will operate in X-band and will feature deployable antennae. The spacecraft will have an accuracy of one meter and will be used for environmental and land usage monitoring, data collection, and analysis. The high-quality land use, ice cover, and surface characterization images have a wide range of applications.**

Banking / Economy News

69. Consider the following statement regarding **RBI's fifth round of the Survey on Remittances for the year 2020-21**.
1. As per the survey, the share of India's inward remittances from **Gulf countries has likely declined from more than 50% in 2016-17 to about 30% in 2020-21.**
 2. During this period, advanced economies like the **US, the UK, and Singapore emerged as important sources for the country for remittances.**
 3. **Maharashtra has emerged as the top recipient state surpassing Kerala.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **As per an RBI article, the share of inward remittances from Gulf nations dipped sharply during 2020-21 on account of the economic stress created by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

Remittances from advanced nations beat flows from Gulf region in FY21

Maharashtra displaces Kerala as the top recipient State

OUR BUREAU
 Mumbai, July 17
 In what is seen as a shift of workers to the West, Advanced Economies (AEs) — particularly the US, the UK and Singapore — emerged as key source countries for remittances pipping the Gulf Cooperation Council region (GCC).
 The share of the GCC region in India's inward remittances is estimated to have declined from more than 50 per cent in 2016-17 to about 30 per cent in 2020-21, according to the Reserve Bank of India's fifth round of Survey on Remittances. In contrast, AEs accounted for a 36 per cent share in 2020-21, as per the findings of the Survey (for 2020-21 reference period) published in the RBI's latest monthly bulletin. The US surpassed the UAE as the top source country, accounting for 23 per cent of total remittances in 2020-21.
 This corroborates with the World Bank report (2021) citing the economic recovery in the US as one of the important drivers of remittances into India, accounting for almost 20 per cent of total inflows, said RBI officials Soumasree Tewari and Ranjeeta Mishra in an article 'Headwinds of Covid-19 and India's inward remittances'.
 The officials noted that the



The US surpassed the UAE as the top source country, accounting for 23 per cent of total remittances in 2020-21

share of the traditional recipient States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, which had a strong presence in the GCC region, almost halved in 2020-21, accounting for only 25 per cent of the total remittances since 2016-17. Maharashtra emerged the top recipient State (with about 35 per cent of the total share) surpassing Kerala (about 19 per cent).
 The RBI officials assessed that apart from the host country dynamics, changing occupational patterns in these States with increasing white-collar migrant workers to the GCC region and entry of low-wage semi-skilled workers from other States and Asian countries may have led to this compositional shift.
 By contrast, migration from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Orissa, and West Bengal to the Gulf countries has increased in recent years. According to the Ministry of External Affairs data, more than 50 per cent of the ap-

proved emigration clearances for the GCC region in 2020 was for these States. With the dominance of low-wage unskilled labourers, however, their share in remittance has remained significantly low; while the share of Maharashtra and Delhi has increased significantly in 2020-21 to about 35 per cent (from about 17 per cent in 2016-17) and about 8 per cent (from about 6 per cent), respectively, according to the article.
 This was despite Maharashtra's remittances dipping almost 13 per cent in 2020-21 with the largest number of Covid-19 cases and prolonged lockdown.

NRI deposits
 While NRI deposits are empirically found to be driven by the exchange rate and interest differentials, the trend in NRE (Non-Resident External) account, which is typically used for parking income from abroad by non-resident Indians

in rupee (NRI), saw a sharp spike in the consecutive waves of the pandemic, according to the article. For example, NRI deposits rose by \$2,826 billion in April-December 2020 against \$5,862 billion in the year-ago period.
 Apart from favourable yields, deposits in the NRE accounts increased significantly during this period as returning overseas migrants, amidst lay-offs and heightened uncertainty regarding their return and future employment prospects, repatriated their savings into these accounts.
 While overseas remittances for family maintenance, representing a chunk of India's inbound remittances, moderated with the loss of overseas employment opportunities, local withdrawals from non-resident rupee-denominated deposit accounts increased implying the drawdown of savings to tide over the crisis, the authors said.
 India remained the top recipient country (with \$89.4 billion inward remittances), accounting for 12 per cent of total global remittances, recording a marginal decline of 0.2 per cent in 2020 and a growth of 8 per cent in 2021.

Bank group-wise share
 The impact of the slowdown in remittances has been quite diverse across banks. In 2020-21, the share of private banks in overall remittances stood at 52.8 per cent followed by public sector banks and foreign banks at 39.4 per cent and 7.8 per cent, respectively.

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- *The Reserve Bank of India conducted the fifth round of the Survey on Remittances for the year 2020-21.*
- *This survey was conducted with objectives:*
- *To analyze the factors contributing to the resilience of remittances and*
- *To understand to what extent the pandemic has changed the underlying dynamics of remittances flow.*
- *As per the survey, the share of India's inward remittances from Gulf countries has likely declined from more than 50% in 2016-17 to about 30% in 2020-21.*
- *The decline in remittances from the Gulf countries during 2020-21 reflects a slower pace of migration.*
- *It also highlights the fact that there is a larger presence of the Indian diaspora in informal sectors which were hit the most during the pandemic period.*
- *During this period, advanced economies like the US, the UK, and Singapore emerged as important sources for the country for remittances.*
- *These countries account for 36 percent of the total payments in 2020-21.*
- *According to the survey, remittances from the US have surpassed that of UAE, with the former accounting for 23% of total remittances in 2020-21.*
- *Remittances from UAE now account for 17-18% of India's total inward remittances.*
- *The share of the traditional remittance recipient states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Karnataka, has almost halved in 2020-21.*
- *These states had strong dominance in the Gulf countries.*
- *These states accounted for only 25% of total remittances compared to over 42% in 2016-17.*
- *Now, Maharashtra has emerged as the top recipient state surpassing Kerala.*
- *Maharashtra now accounts for almost 35% of the total remittances in 2020-21.*
- *Remittances are the second major source of external financing for low and middle-income countries after foreign direct investment.*

70. Consider the following statement regarding the **NITI Aayog discussion paper titled 'Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing and Regulatory Regime for India.'**

1. *The paper offers a template and roadmap for a Digital bank licensing and regulatory framework in India.*
2. *In the restricted phase, digital business banks may be required to bring in Rs 20 crore of minimum paid-up capital.*
3. *Upon progression from the sandbox a full-scale digital business bank will be required to bring in Rs 200 crore.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3

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

● PRUDENTIAL, LIQUIDITY NORMS TO BE ON PAR WITH COMMERCIAL BANKS

Niti Aayog proposes three-step process for full-stack digital banks

Neo-banks, small finance banks eligible to apply

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 20

THE NITI AAYOG on Wednesday suggested a roadmap for the setting up of full-stack digital business/consumer banks to deepen the access to financial services in the country.

The think tank also recommended a carefully calibrated three-step approach for digital bank license by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). In the first phase, a restricted digital bank licence should be given to an applicant with restrictions in terms of volume/value of customers serviced and the like. In the second stage, the licensee will be put in a

Step-by-step flow for licence

- In the first phase, a restricted DB license to be given to the applicant with restrictions

- The applicant acquiring restricted licence will be put in the regulatory sandbox framework by RBI

- Issue of a 'full-scale' digital bank licence contingent on satisfactory performance of the licensee in the regulatory sandbox



regulatory sandbox framework by the RBI.

Finally, issue of a 'full-scale' digital bank licence will be contingent on satisfactory performance of the licensee in the

regulatory sandbox, including salient, prudential and technological risk management.

In the policy paper, the Niti Aayog said upon progression from the sandbox with an initial

capital of ₹20 crore into the final stage, a full-stack digital business/consumer bank will be required to bring in ₹200 crore capital (equivalent to that required of the Small Finance bank). 'Digital Banks' or DBs referred to in the paper means banks as defined in the Banking Regulation Act, 1949). In other words, these entities will issue deposits, make loans and offer the full suite of services that the Act empowers them to. As the name suggests, DBs will principally rely on the internet and other proximate channels to offer their services and not physical branches.

As a natural corollary to being a 'bank' in full sense of its legal definition, it is proposed that DBs will be subject to prudential and liquidity norms at par with the incumbent commercial banks. However, DBs offer a differentiated proposition and as such, there is scope for differentiated treatment in adjacent areas of their operation consistent with treating them identically with incumbent commercial banks, in the critical areas of prudential and liquidity risk, it added.

Given the 'digital-native' nature of banks that will operate under this licence, one or more controlling persons of the applicant entity may be required to have an established track record in adjacent industries such as e-commerce, payments, technology. As with other licenses (payment banks), applicants may have the option to apply in consortium. Existing neo-banks, seeking to upgrade or small finance banks/other regulated entities, are also potential eligible candidates for application.

As a natural corollary to being a 'bank' in full sense of its legal definition, it is proposed that DBs will be subject to prudential and liquidity norms at par with the incumbent commercial banks. However, DBs offer a differentiated proposition and as such, there is scope for differentiated treatment in adjacent areas of their operation consistent with treating them identically with incumbent commercial banks, in the critical areas of prudential and liquidity risk, it added.

- In November 2021, NITI Aayog released a discussion paper titled 'Digital Banks: A Proposal for Licensing and Regulatory Regime for India.'
- The paper offers a template and roadmap for a Digital bank licensing and regulatory framework in India.
- NITI Aayog has proposed to introduce a restricted digital business bank license and a restricted digital consumer bank license, at deepening financial inclusion using technology.
- Digital Banks or DBs referred to in the discussion paper published by NITI Aayog, means banks as defined in the Banking Regulation (B R Act) Act, 1949.
- In other words, these entities will issue deposits, make loans and offer the full suite of services that the B R Act empowers them to.

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- *In the discussion paper, NITI Aayog has recommended a potential template, pathway, and operative steps under the applicable laws to be executed for enacting a DB licensing and regulatory regime for India.*
- *As a threshold issue, a two-stage approach is recommended –*
- *Stage-1: Given the important role of credit in the growth of the economy and the pressing public policy necessity for bridging the credit gap in the MSME sector, it is recommended that a Digital business bank license be phased-in in stage 1.*
- *Stage-2: The RBI may consider introducing a “Digital Universal Bank” license in Stage 2 based on regulatory experience gathered in Stage 1.*
- *For the implementation of the above approach, the following sequence is recommended –*
- *Step-1: Introduce a restricted Digital Business bank license.*
- *Step-2: The applicant acquiring this restricted license (“Licensee”) enlists in the regulatory sandbox and commences operations as a Digital Business bank in the sandbox.*
- *RBI’s regulatory sandbox framework recognizes the need to offer relaxations to entities enlisted in the sandbox to facilitate experimentation.*
- *Step-3: If the satisfactory performance of the Licensee is found, the initial set of restrictions can be progressively relaxed to advance the Licensee to a Full Stack Digital Business bank license.*
- *In the restricted phase, digital business banks may be required to bring in Rs 20 crore of minimum paid-up capital.*
- *Upon progression from the sandbox, a full-scale digital business bank will be required to bring in Rs 200 crore.*

71. In July 2022, which bank entered into a partnership with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to launch online tax payment services?

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

- *Federal Bank has entered into a partnership with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to launch online tax payment services.*
- *The bank has entered into a partnership to assist taxpayers to pay through the e-pay tax facility in the e-filing portal.*
- *Anyone can now pay taxes through modes like Debit/Credit Card, UPI, Net banking, cash, NEFT/RTGS, etc.*
- *The Bank received approval from the Centre for direct tax collection last financial year.*

Federal Bank ties up with CBDT for tax remittances

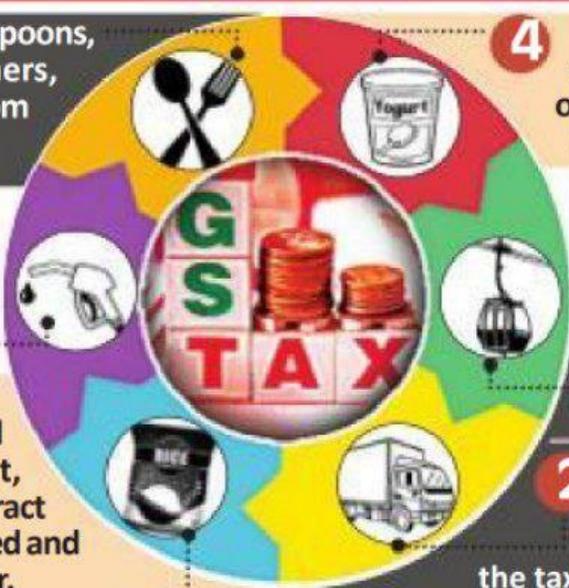
CHENNAI

Federal Bank has partnered with the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) to assist taxpayers in making payments via the income tax e-filing portal. “Anyone can now pay their taxes instantly via any of their payment modes such as debit/credit card, UPI, net banking, cash, NEFT/RTGS,” the bank said. With this partnership, Federal Bank has become a pioneer to be registered under Tin 2.0 of the Income Tax Department.

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- *Federal Bank is an Indian private sector bank with headquarters in Kerala. Its CEO is Shyam Srinivasan. Its tagline is your perfect banking partner.*

The recommendations on Goods and Services Tax rates that were made during the 47th GST Council meeting held in June come into effect today. Following is a list of items that will get costlier:



<p>1 GST on paper knives, spoons, forks, ladles, skimmers, cake-servers increased from 12 % to 18 %.</p>	<p>4 Curd, lassi, and puffed rice would attract GST at the rate of 5 per cent when pre-packaged and labelled.</p>
<p>2 GST on petroleum/ coal bed methane will be increased from 5 % to 12 % .</p>	<p>Here are some goods and services where GST has been slashed:</p>
<p>3 Pre-packaged and labelled pulses, and cereals like rice, wheat, and flour (atta) will now attract 5 per cent GST when branded and packed in a unit container.</p>	<p>1 Tax on the transport of goods and passengers by ropeways reduced from 18 % to 5 %</p>
	<p>2 Renting of truck or goods carriage where the cost of fuel is included will be cheaper as the tax is reduced from 18 % to 12 %</p>

New GST rates have become effective from 18 July 2022. GST Council decided on new GST rates in its 47th meeting held in Srinagar last month.

Banks will charge 18% GST as a fee for issuing cheques. Hotel accommodation costing up to 1,000 rupees per day will be taxed at a rate of 12%. GST on solar water heaters has been increased from earlier 5% to 12% now. GST on e-waste has increased from earlier 5% to 18% now.

The tax on transport of goods and passengers by ropeways will be lowered from 12% to 5%.

The GST exemption on air travel to and from the northeastern states and Bagdogra will be limited to economy class only. Electric vehicles are eligible for the 5% GST rebate. No GST will be levied on single packages of unbranded pre-

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72. Recently _____ has partnered with India's leading private insurers Tata AIG General Insurance Company (TAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Corporation (BAGIC) to launch Group Accidental Guard (GAG) Policy through DOP network.

- A. Fino PayTech Limited.
- B. **India Post Payments Bank**
- C. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL)
- D. Airtel M Commerce Services Limited
- E. None of these

- **The India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) has partnered with India's leading private insurers Tata AIG General Insurance Company (TAGIC) and Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Corporation (BAGIC) who are currently live and have enabled us to provide General insurance products to thousands of Indian citizens through the DOP network.**

- **Further to the launch of vehicle insurance & health Insurance last year, the Group Accident Guard (GAG) product of TATA AIG has been rolled out by IPPB for bank Customers. Group Personal Accident Insurance protects its members against accidents leading to disability or death.**
- **The services are live in MATM for all certified (POSP) end users to start insurance sales with immediate effect.**
- **India Post Payments Bank, abbreviated as IPPB, is a division of India Post that is under the ownership of the Department of Post, a department under the Ministry of Communications of the Government of India. Opened in 2018, as of January 2022, the bank has more than 5 crore customers.**

IPPB, India Post collaborate with Tata AIG to launch Tata Accidental Guard

The India Post Payment Bank (IPPB), along with India Post, Mumbai Region has launched a unique accidental benefit policy, named as the TATA ACCIDENTAL GUARD (TAG) in collaboration with TATA AIG. India Post, Mumbai Region is promoting the policy extensively across Mumbai city and suburb, to create awareness amongst the citizenry about the benefits of this policy that has an extremely pocket friendly premium of Rs 399 per annum covering a beneficiary amount of Rs 10 lakh. The age limit of the policy is between 18-65 years. Being an exclusive accidental policy, it would give the nominee the sum assured of 10 lakh in case of the accidental death of the insurant.

73. Recently in July Punjab National Bank (PNB) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ to deliver specially designed banking products to security personnel.

- A. **Assam Rifles**
- B. Central Reserve Police Forces
- C. Central Industrial Security Forces
- D. ITBP
- E. None of these

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- **Punjab National Bank (PNB) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Assam Rifles to deliver specially designed banking products to security personnel.**
- **The agreement was signed between Colonel P S Singh of the Directorate General of Assam Rifles, and PNB Chief General Manager Sunil Soni at the force’s headquarters in Meghalaya’s capital Shillong on Monday evening.**
- **The MoU was inked to provide benefits such as personal accident insurance, and air accident insurance under the ‘PNB Rakshak Plus’ scheme.**
- **The scheme covers several benefits, including personal accidental death cover of Rs 50 lakh, air accidental death cover of Rs 1 crore, and an overdraft up to the last three months’ net salary or pension amounting from Rs 75,000 to Rs three lakh.**
- **The scheme also includes concession in the rate of interest and service charges for housing, care, education, and personal loan products.**

PNB and Assam Rifles sign MoU for "PNB Rakshak Plus Scheme"



Punjab National Bank (PNB), the nation’s top public sector bank, has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Assam Rifles, the oldest paramilitary force of the country, to deliver specially designed banking products to the military personnel through the bank’s flagship scheme "PNB Rakshak Plus". This scheme covers personal accident insurance, air accident insurance for members of the military forces who are now serving, have retired, or are in training, as well as for the central armed police forces, state police forces, metro police, and retired defence pensioners. The agreement was signed today between Colonel P S Singh, Col (A), Headquarters, Directorate General, Assam Rifles, and Sunil Soni, Chief General Manager of PNB, at the Assam Rifles Headquarters in Shillong. Highlighting the distinctive aspects of PNB Rakshak Plus and speaking about the significant progress PNB has made over the years in providing services to veterans and members of the armed forces, Sunil Soni, Chief General Manager of PNB, said: "Collaborating with the Assam Rifles is a significant milestone in our journey and speaks about our unwavering commitment to provide the best possible financial services to our heroes." He also said that the bank will also provide preferential services at concessional rates. Lt Gen PC Nair, AVSM, YSM, Director General Assam Rifles, also expressed his gratitude for associating with PNB in signing this MOU.

74. Recently _____ announced to move its Headquarter to India From Singapore .

- A. Flipkart
- B. PhonePe
- C. Standard Chartered Bank
- D. DBS Bank
- E. None of these

- **Walmart group digital payments firm PhonePe is planning to shift its headquarters from Singapore to India, according to a source privy to the development.**
- **Flipkart, the largest shareholder of the firm, will continue to remain headquartered in Singapore and there is no decision to shift its base.**
- **Flipkart had partially spun-off PhonePe in December 2020 to enable the payments firm to access dedicated capital to fund its long-term ambitions over the next three to four years.**

PhonePe to shift HQ to India



Walmart group digital payments firm PhonePe is planning to shift its headquarters from Singapore to India. Flipkart, the largest shareholder of the firm, will continue to remain headquartered in Singapore and there is no decision to shift its base. When contacted, a PhonePe spokesperson confirmed the development. PhonePe had crossed the 250 million registered user milestone, with over 100 million monthly active users (MAU) generating nearly one billion digital payment transactions in October 2020.

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- *PhonePe is a payments app that allows you to use BHIM UPI, your credit card, and debit card or wallet to recharge your mobile phone.*
- *PhonePe was founded in December 2015, by Sameer Nigam, Rahul Chari, and Burzin Engineer. The PhonePe app, based on the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), went live in August 2016. It is owned by Flipkart, a subsidiary of Walmart.*

75. Recently *Yes Bank announced to invest of Rs 350 crore to acquire a _____ % stake in JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).*

- A. 15 %
- B. 20 %**
- C. 25 %
- D. 50 %
- E. None of these

- *Private lender Yes Bank plans to invest Rs 350 crore to acquire a 20% stake in JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC), which it has identified as the base bidder for its Rs 48,000-crore pile of stressed assets. The bank plans to raise \$1 billion in the capital during the current financial year.*
- *Yes, Bank managing director & CEO Prashant Kumar said that the immediate investment by the bank would be 10% of the cash component of the assignment value.*
- *The value of the base bid made by JC Flowers ARC is Rs 11,100 crore. "Anything above that (10% stake) will be subject to regulatory approval, up to 20%. So about Rs, 350 crores will be the total capital required for a 20% stake*
- *Out of the assignment value of Rs 11,100 crore, JC Flowers ARC will pay 15% in cash, with the remaining 85% being in the form of security receipts.*
- *The bank initially planned to set up an ARC where it would be the majority partner holding a 51% or 49% stake. This plan was nixed by the Reserve Bank of India in 2021 as the central bank wanted Yes Bank to hold no more than 20% in an ARC.*

JC Flowers offers ₹11,100 cr to buy YES Bank assets

2/12

YES Bank will invest up to ₹350 crore for a 20% stake in the ARC venture



ANSHIKA KAVASTHA
Mumbai, July 18

JC Flowers ARC has made a bid of ₹11,100 crore for buying stressed assets of YES Bank Ltd worth ₹48,000 crore..

If JC Flowers is selected as the ARC post the Swiss Challenge, YES Bank will invest up to ₹350 crore for a 20 per cent stake in the asset reconstruction joint venture, YES Bank's MD and CEO Prashant Kumar said on Monday. On Friday, the private sector lender accepted JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company as the base bidder for the sale of the NPA block. The bank then launched a transparent bidding process on 'Swiss Challenge basis', using the JC Flowers ARC as the base bid.

The entire process for completion of the Swiss Challenge and transfer of the stressed assets will take about 60-75 days, Kumar said. The proposed asset

sale will help clean-up the lender's asset quality, bring down its gross NPA ratio to below 2 per cent from 14 per cent as of March. The block of stressed assets worth ₹48,000 crore is currently valued at around ₹8,300 crore.

As per the Reserve Bank of India's 15/85 norm, the ARC will pay 15 per cent of the bid upfront as cash, while the remaining amount will be held as security receipts (SRs). Further, a share of the recoveries will also go the bank in lieu of its shareholding in the ARC, Kumar said.

The asset sale and subsequent improvement in the asset quality will help YES Bank exit its reconstruction scheme, and pave way for the long-pending fund-raising, Kumar said.

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76. Which bank launched WhatsApp Banking Services for its customers in July 2022?

- A. PNB Bank
- B. HDFC Bank
- C. IDFC Bank
- D. State Bank of India**
- E. None of these



- To make banking easier for customers, India's largest public sector lender, State Bank of India has launched its WhatsApp Banking service.
- Now, SBI customers can avail certain banking services through WhatsApp. Customers can view Mini Statement and check their Account Balance on WhatsApp.
- SBI WhatsApp Banking services are available on the number 919022690226.
- With the help of WhatsApp Banking services, SBI credit card customers can check their account summary, reward points, outstanding balance, etc.
- State Bank of India (SBI): It is a nationalized public sector bank.
- Its headquarters is located in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) is the largest non-promoter shareholder in SBI.
- Dinesh Kumar Khara is the current Chairman of the State Bank of India.

77. ADB lowered India's growth forecast to _____ for FY23 from 7.5 per cent.

- A. 6.6%
- B. 6.9%
- C. 7.2%**
- D. 7.4%
- E. None of these

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) in its recent forecast reduced India's growth projection to 7.2 for FY23 from 7.5 percent.
- ADB has also raised the inflation forecast for India to 6.7 percent for FY23 from 5.8 percent.
- ADB estimated that the services sector will do better in FY23 and higher commodity prices will boost the mining industry. The manufacturing sector will get affected due to the rising oil prices.
- Private investment will remain low due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms.

ADB lowers India's GDP forecast by 30 bps to 7.2%

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, July 21

Asian Development Bank (ADB) on Thursday lowered the economic growth forecast for India for current fiscal year (2022-23) to 7.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent projected in April. "India has been hit by the Omicron variant and the economic impact of the war in Ukraine. Consequently, GDP growth for FY2021 is revised down from 8.9 per cent to 8.7 per cent and from 7.5 per cent to 7.2 per cent for FY2022 (fiscal to be ending in March 2023). Although consumer confidence continues to improve, higher-than-expected inflation will erode consumer purchasing power," ADB said in its supplement to the Asian Development Outlook (ADO) for 2022.

Some of the impact of this may be offset by a cut in excise duties, the provision of fertiliser and gas subsidies, and the extension of a free food distribution programme, it said. Private investment will soften due to the higher cost of borrowing for firms as the RBI continues to raise policy rates to contain inflation.

Forecast for SE Asia

For the South Asian region, it has lowered the growth forecast from 7 per cent to 6.5 per cent for 2022 and from 7.4 per cent to 7.1 per cent for 2023 mainly due to the economic crisis in Sri Lanka and high inflation and associated monetary tightening in India. "The economic impact of the pandemic has declined across most of Asia, but we are far from a full and sustainable recovery," said ADB Chief Economist Albert Park.

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- The high inflationary pressures reduce consumer purchasing power. Inflation in most Asian countries is increasing at a rapid rate.
- For FY 23, ADB has revised its growth forecast for the Asia region to 4.6% from 5.2%.

78. Consider the following statement regarding the 3rd edition of the India Innovation Index.

1. Karnataka has bagged the top rank in NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index, 2021.
2. The number of indicators has increased from 36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020) to 66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021).
3. Manipur secured the lead in the Northeast and Hill States category.

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

- Karnataka has bagged the top rank in NITI Aayog's India Innovation Index, 2021.
- The India Innovation Index is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem.
- It is prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness.

Karnataka, Telangana, Haryana top NITI Aayog's innovation index

Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu ranked fourth and fifth

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi, July 21

Karnataka retains the top slot, while Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu have been replaced by Telangana and Haryana in the number two and three slots, respectively, in NITI Aayog's innovation index for 2021, released on Thursday. Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are ranked in the fourth and fifth positions.

On the lines of GII

Manipur leads the 'North East and Hill States' category, while Chandigarh is the top performer in the 'Union Territories and City States' category, NITI Aayog said in a



India's rank in the Global Innovation Index has risen consistently from 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

statement. The index, which examines innovation capacities and ecosystems at the sub-national level, has been developed on the lines of the Global Innovation Index (GII). "The third edition solidifies the scope of innovation analysis in the country by adopting the framework of the GII and expanding the number of indicators from 36 to 66

across seven key pillars," according to the report.

India's rank in the GII has risen consistently from 81 in 2015 to 46 in 2021.

"Innovation is critical to promoting the country's resilience and self-reliance. The index points to the decentralisation of innovation across the states," said Neeraj Sinha, a senior adviser at the Aayog.

According to Amit Kapoor, who is also instrumental in preparing the India index, the 2021 edition draws some international parallels, which will add to the country's learnings.

A comprehensive tool

The India Innovation Index is a comprehensive tool for the evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. It ranks the States and the Union Territories on their innovation performance to encourage competition amongst them, the official statement said.

The index also contributes to the government's efforts to monitor select global indices to drive the reform and growth mechanism, for which the NITI Aayog is the nodal organisation.

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- It ranks the states and the union territories on their innovation performance to build healthy competition amongst them.
- India Innovation Index 2021 is the third edition of this report.
- India Innovation Index 2019 was the first edition.
- The latest framework of the index has been mapped from the Global Innovation Index.
- The number of indicators has increased from 36 (in the India Innovation Index 2020) to 66 (in the India Innovation Index 2021).
- It is based on the 66 indicators divided across 16 sub-pillars and 7 key pillars.
- As in the earlier edition, the five ‘Enabler’ pillars measure inputs, and the two ‘Performance’ pillars measure output.
- The report segregates all the States/UTs into three categories
- Major States
- North East and the Hill States
- UT and City-states

Innovation index

The table lists the score and ranking of 17 major States in the third edition of NITI Aayog’s India Innovation Index. Karnataka ranked first followed by Telangana and Haryana while Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Bihar were ranked at the bottom of the index



State	Score	Rank	State	Score	Rank
Karnataka	18.01	1	M.P.	12.74	13
Telangana	17.66	2	Gujarat	12.41	14
Haryana	16.35	3	Bihar	11.58	15
Maharashtra	16.06	4	Odisha	11.42	16
Tamil Nadu	15.69	5	Chhattisgarh	10.97	17

PATHBREAKERS: TOP 5 STATES

Major Rank

- 1 Karnataka
- 2 Telangana
- 3 Haryana
- 4 Maharashtra
- 5 Tamil Nadu

Northeast & Hill Rank

- 1 Manipur
- 2 Uttarakhand
- 3 Meghalaya
- 4 Arunachal Pradesh
- 5 Himachal Pradesh

UT & City Rank

- 1 Chandigarh
- 2 Delhi
- 3 Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- 4 Puducherry
- 5 Goa

Source: NITI Aayog

- Karnataka has bagged the top rank among the category of major states. Telangana and Haryana are in the second and third positions respectively.
- Manipur secured the lead in the Northeast and Hill States category.
- Chandigarh was the top performer in the Union Territories and the City States category.
- Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Bihar and Gujarat were at the bottom of the index among the major states category.
- In NE and Hill States category, Nagaland, Assam, Tripura, and Mizoram were at the bottom.

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- Similarly, in UT and City States category, Ladakh, Lakshadweep, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman, and Diu were at the bottom.
- The report highlighted that India's ambitious target is to be named among the top 25 nations in the Global Innovation Index (GII).
- GI ranks the innovation ecosystem performance of economies around the globe each year.
- It is released by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) in partnership with other institutions.
- India was ranked 46th in the GI 2021 rankings.
- The overall index score is about 14.56.

79. RBI has signed its renewed **Statement of Commitment to the FX Global Code**. In which year was this code launched initially?

- A. 2013
- B. 2014
- C. 2015
- D. 2017**
- E. None of these

- RBI has signed its renewed **Statement of Commitment to the FX Global Code**.
- **FX Global Code** is a compilation of best market practices, applicable to the wholesale foreign exchange market participants.
- It is voluntary. Central banks and market participants have formulated and developed it under the auspices of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), Basel.
- It does not impose any legal or regulatory obligation. It was initially launched on May 25, 2017.
- It was later reviewed and Global FX Committee published an updated Code on July 15, 2021.
- The global FX Committee (GFXC) is currently implementing it in coordination with the Local FX Committee (LFXC) in each jurisdiction.

80. Recently in July 2022, the **customs duty collection arrangement facility** has been launched by which of the following banks?

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

RBI renews commitment to market practices code

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has renewed its statement of commitment to the FX Global Code, which is a compilation of best market practices formulated by central banks worldwide. "RBI continues to support the principles of good practices within the Code. RBI had also facilitated the formation of India Foreign Exchange Committee to promote adoption and adherence of the code among FX market participants in India," the RBI said on Wednesday. The FX Global Code has been developed under the auspices of the Bank for International Settlements, Basel. The FX Global Code was launched in May, 2017. Subsequently, after a holistic review, an updated code was published by the Global FX Committee on July 15, 2021, the RBI said.

BS REPORTER

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- **Customs duty collection arrangement facility has been launched by South Indian Bank.**
- **Corporate and retail customers of the bank can now pay customs duty through its internet banking platform 'SIBerNet'.**

South Indian Bank launches customs duty collection arrangement facility

BL Kochi Bureau | Updated On: Jul 19, 2022



Murali Ramakrishnan, MD & CEO, South Indian Bank on the occasion of launch of customs duty collection by South Indian Bank through ICEGATE portal with Shankari Murali ICAS (Principal Chief Controller of Accounts - CBIC), Chandan Mishra ICAS (Chief Controller of Accounts), Rushikesh Kodgi ICAS (Dy. Controller of Accounts), Sanchay Sinha (SGM & Country Head RBD), Joly Sebastian (DGM & Head-Govt. Business), Renjith R Nair (AGM Public PC), Bhuvika Kalia (Manager PC Public) and Adhishakti Manoj PC Public.

South Indian Bank's corporate and retail customers will now be able to pay customs duty through its internet banking platform 'SIBerNet'. The facility allows customers to make online payments by selecting South Indian Bank from the list of banks on CBIC's portal.

The facility was kicked-off with the inauguration of the bank's e-FPB. The e-FPB will be attached to the bank's corporate branch in Delhi. Consequently, the bank will collect customs duty on

- **The bank will collect customs duty on behalf of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC) under authorization from the RBI.**
- **South Indian Bank is a private sector bank. It is headquartered in Thrissur, Kerala.**

81. Which of the following has been recently included by Finance Ministry in the list of securities under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956?

- A. Social Venture Funds (SVFs)
 - B. Additional Tier-1 Instruments
 - C. Green Bonds (GBs)
 - D. Zero coupons zero principal**
 - E. None of these
- **Zero coupons and zero principal (ZCZP) instruments have been declared as securities by Finance Ministry.**
 - **As per the notification of the Finance Ministry, the ZCZP instrument is an instrument issued by a not-for-profit organization.**
 - **This shall be registered with the social stock exchange (SSE) segment of a recognized stock exchange by the regulations made by SEBI.**

UNDER SEBI'S AMBIT

'Zero coupon, zero principal' bonds get 'securities' status

Will help non-profits get funds more transparently; aid corporates in CSR spend

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, July 17

The Finance Ministry has designated 'zero coupon zero principal' instruments (ZCZP) as securities. Experts say this will help many organisations, including corporates, utilise their fund earmarked for social responsibility programmes and also help non-profit organisations get funds in a more transparent manner.

In simple words, neither any interest is paid nor the principal repaid under ZCZP.

'Benefiting all'

A gazette notification issued by the Ministry said: "Zero Coupon-Zero Principal instrument means an instrument issued by a not-for-profit organisation which shall be registered with the social stock exchange (SSE) segment of a recognised stock exchange in accordance with the regulations made by the Securities and Ex-

change Board of India (SEBI)."

The notification also declared the inclusion of ZCZP in the list of securities under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956. As on date, this list included shares, scrips, stocks, bonds, debentures, debentures or other marketable securities, derivatives, units or any other instrument issued by any collective investment scheme, security receipt, mutual fund units (excluding ULIPs), units issued by any pooled investment vehicle and government securities. These securities can be traded on a recognised stock exchange and the trading can be regulated by SEBI.

Dhirendra Kumar, CEO of Value Research, said: "This move is certainly going to benefit both — one who wants to donate and one who wants to raise money for social causes. Take the example of a corporate that is mandated to use a



The new notification is a follow up to FM Nirmala Sitharaman's FY20 Budget announcement

part of its profit for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) activity. It will now get an instrument to invest, sans any returns."

The new notification is a follow up to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's announcement in the FY20 Budget.

Working group

To implement this, SEBI formed a working group that recommended that ZCZP bonds be listed on the SSE. They will carry a tenure equal to the duration of the project that is

being funded, and at maturity will be written off in the investee's books. Such bonds are particularly well suited to investors looking to create social impact but do not wish to have their funds returned to them.

However, as the group said, such bonds are not without risks, as there is no guarantee that the social impact that a non-profit is promising will in fact materialise. Accordingly, investors will be keen to channel funds only to credible and legitimate NPOs, which the SSE will ensure by requiring beneficiary NPOs to report on the social impact in a standardised format.

Furthermore, the group recommended investors in ZCZP bonds may be awarded a tax benefit to incentivise their participation in this instrument.

Accordingly, last September, the SEBI board approved a framework for an SSE through which ZCZP can be issued. It proposed that the minimum issue size of ZCZP will be ₹1 crore while the minimum application size shall be ₹2 lakh.

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- The notification also includes ZCZP in the list of securities under the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.
- This list of securities currently includes shares, scrips, stocks, bonds, debentures, debenture stock or other marketable securities, derivatives, units, or any other instrument issued by any collective investment scheme.
- This list of securities also includes security receipts, mutual fund units (excluding ULIPs), units issued by any pooled investment vehicle, and government securities.
- These securities can be traded on a recognized stock exchange. SEBI can regulate their trading.
- In September 2021, the SEBI board has approved a framework for the social stock exchange (SSE) through which ZCZP can be issued. Neither any interest is paid nor is principal repaid under ZCZP.

82. Consider the following statement regarding **Henley Passport Index** and identify which of the statement is incorrect.

1. India is ranked 87th on the Henley Passport Index.
2. Japan topped the Henley Passport Index for the fifth year in a row.
3. Singapore and South Korea are ranked in the second position with access to 192 nations.
4. India's passport allows visa-free access to 60 nations.
5. Pakistan passport is the least useful, only allowing entry into 27 countries.

- India is ranked 87th on the Henley Passport Index.
- India's passport allows visa-free access to 60 nations. Japan topped the Henley Passport Index.
- Japan has visa-free access to 193 nations. Japanese passport remains most powerful for the fifth year in a row.
- Singapore and South Korea are ranked in the second position with access to 192 nations.
- Afghanistan's passport is the least useful, only allowing entry into 27 countries.
- During the past decade, the rank of the UAE has improved significantly. Its rank improved from 64th place in 2012 to 15th place now.
- India was ranked 90th in Q3 and Q4 in 2021.
- 21 countries in Africa provide visa-on-arrival services to Indian citizens. Only two European countries provide such services.

Indians now have visa-free access to about 60 countries

Saurabh.Sinha
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New Delhi: Indians now have visa-free access to about as many countries as they had pre-Covid. The latest quarterly Henley Passport Index—which ranks the “power” of a passport based on the number of countries allowing holders visa-free access—for 2022 lists India at number 87 with access to about 60 countries without a visa.

“Indian passport holders now have roughly the same travel freedom as they did pre-pandemic, with unrestricted access to 57 destinations around the world (as opposed just 23 destinations in 2020),” Henley and Partners said in a statement.

The statement quotes VFS Global, a visa processing provider, saying visa application volumes between January and May this year have grown by over 100% compared to the same period last year. “For example, in India, visa applications are averaging more than 20,000 per day as we head into the July-August holiday season. These numbers include travellers visiting Canada, Europe, and UK, along with other popular destinations,” it says.

Henley said “recent watershed moments” like the pandemic and the war in Europe have brought “residence and citizenship by investment programmes centre stage as affluent individuals seek domicile diversification solutions.”

Henley & Partners CEO Juerg Steffen said: “Throughout the chaos of the pandemic, the benefits of a second or even third passport were self-evident for investors see-



BACK TO PRE-COVID TIMES?

king security and peace of mind. We have seen an increase of 55% in enquiries compared to the previous quarter, which was itself record-breaking. The top four nationalities currently driving demand are Russians, Indians, Americans, and Brits.”

The five most powerful passports this year and the number of places where holders of the same have unrestricted access to are—Japan (193 destinations); Singapore and South Korea (192 each); Germany and Spain (190 each); Finland, Italy and Luxembourg (189 each) and Austria, Denmark, Netherlands and Sweden (188 each). UK is the sixth-most powerful passport (187 countries) along with France. US is at number seven (186 countries), along with Switzerland and New Zealand. Canada and Australia are eighth (185 countries each).

The least powerful passport is of Afghanistan, ranked 112 with access to only 27 countries. Iraq (111 rank, 29 destinations); Syria (110 rank, 30 destinations); Pakistan (109 rank, 32 destinations); Yemen (108 rank, 34 destinations); Somalia (107 rank, 35 destinations); 106. Nepal and Palestinian Territory (106 rank, 38 destinations each) and North Korea (105 rank, 40 destinations) are among the weakest passports.

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- *Henley Passport Index uses data from the International Air Transport Authority. It provides a ranking of the 199 passports of the world.*

Pakistani passport ranked 4th worst

ISLAMABAD: The Henley Passport Index, which ranks all the world's 199 passports, has termed the Pakistani passport as the fourth-worst in the world. In the newly unveiled rankings, Pakistan is ranked only higher than conflict-ravaged Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, which occupies the bottom spot, reported Dawn. Afghan passport holders can access just 27 destinations, the passport having the lowest visa-free score. Among other bottom-tier countries, the holders of Iraqi passports are able to gain entry to a mere 29 countries and those of Syrian passports to 30. The top spot was taken by Japan, with the country's passport providing its holder access to 193 destinations. Next in line are Singapore and South Korea, whose passports provide access to 192 countries, followed by Germany and Spain, with their passports having a visa-free score of 190.

83. Consider the following statement regarding *Repos Pay and Phy-gital*.
1. *Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane has launched Repos Pay and Phy-gital at the 'Fuelling India 2022' event in Mumbai on 15 July 2022.*
 2. *Repos Pay is a Mobile Electric Charging platform. Phy-gital is an Energy Fintech Platform.*
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. *Only 1*
 - B. *Only 2*
 - C. *Both 1 & 2*
 - D. *None of the above*
- *Union Minister of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Narayan Rane has launched Repos Pay and Phy-gital.*
 - *Repos Pay is a Mobile Electric Charging platform. Phy-gital is an Energy Fintech Platform.*
 - *Both of them have been launched at the 'Fuelling India 2022' event in Mumbai on 15 July 2022.*
 - *'Repos Pay' is a platform where one can order a Mobile Electric Charging Vehicle on the app and charge their vehicle.*
 - *'Phy-gital' is an energy fintech platform. This platform will provide credit facilities (buy now, pay later) to consumers through technology.*
 - *Indian MSME contributes nearly 29% of the country's GDP and 50% of India's exports.*
84. Recently _____ launched an Industry-first, dedicated, women-focused Committee 'EmpowerHer' as part of its flagship HR initiative 'Prerna'.
- A. *City Union Bank*

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- B. Union Bank Of India**
- C. Bank Of Baroda**
- D. Punjab National Bank**
- E. None of these**

- **Union Bank of India today, launched an Industry-first, dedicated, women-focused Committee ‘EmpowerHer’ as part of its flagship HR initiative ‘Prerna’. The program aims to promote women’s career trajectory and improve diversity in the bank by navigating through existing biases and challenges.**

- **Union Prerna is the HR Transformation initiative of Union Bank of India, aimed at improving productivity through the digitalization of processes, employee-centric interventions, and a learning revolution within the banking space.**

- **The objective of this Committee is to understand the local problems, highlight the importance of gender equity and focus on sensitization at work.**

Union Bank of India launches Union Prerna 2.0 - EmpowerHer



Mumbai: Union Bank of India on July 15, launched an Industry-first, dedicated, women-focused Committee ‘EmpowerHer’ as part of its flagship HR initiative ‘Prerna’. The program aims to promote women’s career trajectory and improve diversity in the bank by navigating through existing biases and challenges.

Launched by MD & CEO, A Manimekhalai, the event was

attended by Senior Management and more than 40 women Committee members across the country. The day-long event was also graced by the Executive Director Rajneesh Karnatak, Chief General Manager HR, Lal Singh and General Manager HR, GN Das.

A Manimekhalai touched upon the existing barriers that prevent women from achieving their goals.

85. Recently _____ has joined India led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI).

- A. Asian Development Bank**
- B. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank**
- C. New Development Bank**
- D. European Investment Bank**
- E. None of these**

European Investment Bank joins India-backed coalition CDRI

The EU-owned European Investment Bank (EIB) has joined the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), an India-backed initiative aimed at boosting sustainable development while dealing with the adverse impact of climate change.

- **The European Investment Bank (EIB), the bank of the European Union, has joined India led Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), a partnership of national governments, UN agencies, multilateral development banks, and the private sector, which promotes the rapid development of infrastructure resilient to climate change and natural disasters in countries at all stages of development.**

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- Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019 at the initiative of the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi, CDRI allows its members to share knowledge and resources and help countries to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and expand universal access to basic services, enabling prosperity and creating decent working conditions
- As the EU climate bank, the EIB will work within CDRI on sharing knowledge, including via its newly deployed development branch, EIB Global. The EU bank will also focus on developing standards and certifications relevant to disaster-resilient infrastructure.
- The EIB will help CDRI to develop the research and knowledge-management capabilities of its members.

86. Recently **Koo** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the _____ Government to **open a development center in the state.**

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

Koo signs MoU with Telangana govt, to open development centre in Hyderabad

Multi-lingual social media platform -- Koo on Wednesday said it has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telangana government to open a development centre. With Hyderabad being an IT hub, boasting access to a robust technology ecosystem and a large pool of IT talent, Koo envisions its presence in the region to grow in a significant manner, it said in a release.

- **Bengaluru-based multilingual social media platform Koo has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Telangana Government to open a development center in Hyderabad.**
- **With micro-blogging available in 10 languages, including Telugu, Koo boasts of a sizable community of users from the region. As part of this MoU, the Government of Telangana will work jointly with Koo on the use of Telugu to increase reach among non-English speakers in the state.**
- **The collaboration will also promote the rich legacy and heritage of Telugu as a language, in addition to the unique culture of Telangana.**
- **Koo was launched in March 2020. The objective was to enable users to express themselves online in their mother tongue. Currently, it is available in 10 languages – Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Assamese, Bengali, and English. The app has over 40 million downloads.**

87. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has imposed a penalty of Rs 57.75 lakh on _____ for non-compliance with norms related to fraud classification.

- A. Jana Small Finance Bank
- B. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
- C. **Suryoday Small Finance Bank**

- D. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- E. None of these

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 57.75 lakh on Suryoday Small Finance Bank for non-compliance with norms related to fraud classification.**
- **This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank with its customers.**
- **Suryoday Small Finance Bank is a new-age bank that went live on January 23rd, 2017. It is among the 10 companies and the only one from Maharashtra to obtain a 'Small Finance Bank' license from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). Currently, it has an over 1.4 million customer base.**

88. Consider the following statement regarding **Canara Bank mobile banking app - Canara ai1**.

1. **"E-transactions for Everyone, Everywhere, every time," is the core vision.**
2. **The app is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Canara Bank launched a mobile banking app - Canara ai1 - on Friday. "E-transactions for Everyone, Everywhere, every time," is the core vision, said L V Prabhakar, MD, and CEO of the bank.**
- **The app is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language.**

RBI imposes ₹57.75-lakh penalty on Suryoday SFB

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 22

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed a monetary penalty of ₹57.75 lakh on Suryoday Small Finance Bank Ltd. (SSFB) for non-compliance with its directions on "frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs".

The examination of the Inspection Report (IR) and all related correspondence pertaining to the Statutory Inspection of the bank (conducted by RBI with reference to its financial position as on March 31, 2019) revealed, inter alia, non-compliance with the aforesaid RBI directions, per a central bank statement.

The non-compliance with the aforesaid directions was to the extent the bank failed to (i) furnish FMR (fraud report) to RBI, with respect to certain

cases of fraud, within three weeks of their date of detection, and (ii) refer to State Police authorities certain cases of fraud committed by its staff, RBI said.

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

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

Canara Bank unveils mobile super app Canara ai1

ISHA RAUTELA

Bengaluru, July 22

Canara Bank launched Canara ai1, its mobile banking app. The banking app would be a one-stop solution with more than 250 features to cater to the banking needs of its customers.

It is aimed to eliminate the need to have multiple mobile apps working in silos for availing different specific services. The app is available in 11 languages to cater to multiple sections of society in their preferred language.

LV Prabhakar, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Canara Bank, said, "The core vision of the bank is 'E-transactions for Everyone, Everywhere, Every Time.' The bank is leveraging technology to enable customers to perform banking at their fingertips."

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- The app has advanced features such as intuitive UI and UX with multiple themes and customized menus that can be personalized as per the user's choice.
- It also has security features like device binding, malware detection, detection of remote administration tools, and a dynamic keyboard to provide safe and secure banking.
- Canara Bank is the third largest nationalized bank in India. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It is headquartered in Bangalore. Established in 1906 at Mangalore by Ammembal Subba Rao Pai, the bank also has offices in London, Hong Kong, Dubai, and New York.

89. Consider the following statement regarding **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) gold holdings as of May according to World Gold Council (WGC).**

1. The gold reserves of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rose by 3.8 tonnes to 765.1 tonnes in May.
2. India has the tenth-largest official gold holdings in the world.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The gold reserves of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) rose by 3.8 tonnes to 765.1 tonnes in May, the World Gold Council (WGC) citing data from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) showing International Financial Statistics.
- The share of the precious metal gold in the central bank's total reserves was at 7.5 percent for May. In January-May, the Reserve Bank of India purchased 11.0 tonnes of gold. In 2021, the central bank's gold purchases stood at 77.5 tonnes, significantly higher than 41.7 tonnes in 2020.
- Notably, India has the tenth-largest official gold holdings in the world. Rising concern over global economic growth in recent months may have led the

'RBI's gold holdings rise by 3.8 tn to 765.1 tn in May'

AGENCIES
New Delhi

The Reserve Bank of India's gold reserves rose by 3.8 tn to 765.1 tn in May, the World Gold Council said on Wednesday, citing data from the International Monetary Fund's International Financial Statistics.

The share of the precious metal in the central bank's total reserves was at 7.5% for May. For Jan-May, the RBI purchased 11.0 tn gold. In 2021, the central bank's gold purchases stood at 77.5 tn, significantly higher than 41.7 tn in 2020. India has the tenth-largest official gold holdings in the world. Rising concern over

global economic growth in recent months may have led the RBI to turn to gold as an alternative asset. The precious metal is considered a haven asset, especially in times of turbulence in global financial markets.

The central bank began buying gold in December 2017 after a gap of eight years. In its annual report for 2017-18 (Jul-Jun), the RBI said it continued to look for opportunities to diversify India's foreign currency assets, adding that the gold portfolio had also been activated. The RBI added a sizeable quantum of gold to its reserves in 2009, when it bought 200 tn of gold from the IMF.

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Reserve Bank of India to turn to gold as an alternative asset.

- **The central bank began buying gold in December 2017 after a gap of eight years. In its annual report for 2017-18 (July-June), the RBI said it continued to look for opportunities to diversify India's foreign currency assets. It also added that the gold portfolio had also been activated.**
- **The Reserve bank added a sizeable quantum of gold to its reserves in 2009, when it bought 200 tonnes of gold from the International Monetary Fund.**



WORLD OFFICIAL GOLD HOLDINGS
International Financial Statistics, July 2022*

	Tonnes	% of reserves**	Holdings as of	
1 United States	8,133.5	67.5%	May 2022	51 Cambodia
2 Germany	3,355.1	66.9%	May 2022	52 Finland
3 IMF	2,814.0	¹⁾	May 2022	53 Jordan
4 Italy	2,451.8	64.0%	May 2022	54 Bolivia
5 France	2,436.6	59.3%	May 2022	55 Bulgaria
6 Russian Federation	2,298.5	21.4%	Jan 2022	56 Malaysia
7 China, P.R.: Mainland	1,948.3	3.5%	May 2022	57 Serbia, Rep. of
8 Switzerland	1,040.0	6.0%	Apr 2022	58 WAEMU ³⁾
9 Japan	846.0	3.8%	May 2022	59 Peru
10 India	765.1	7.5%	May 2022	60 Ecuador
11 Netherlands, The	612.5	57.3%	May 2022	61 Slovak Rep.
12 ECB	504.8	34.7%	May 2022	62 Ukraine
13 Turkey ⁵⁾	450.0	30.8%	May 2022	63 Syrian Arab Re
14 Taiwan Province of Ch	423.6	4.4%	Apr 2022	64 Morocco
15 Portugal	382.6	73.7%	May 2022	65 Afghanistan, Is
16 Kazakhstan, Rep. of	379.7	68.9%	May 2022	66 Nigeria

90. Recently _____ became India's first insurer to introduce the add-on for its customers by launching the 'Pay as you Drive' (PAYD) add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies.

- A. Ather Energy
- B. Go Digit General Insurance**
- C. Ashok Leyland
- D. Tata Powers
- E. None of these

- **Go Digit General Insurance has announced that it has launched the 'Pay as you Drive' (PAYD) add-on feature for motor insurance Own Damage (OD) policies.**
- **This makes Digit Insurance one of India's first insurers to introduce the add-on for its customers.**
- **Notably, the announcement has arrived in less than two weeks of the regulatory body Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) permitting general insurance companies to introduce such tech-enabled concepts in motor OD policies.**

91. Recently _____ has partnered with Inspektlabs to automate the vehicle inspection process, using AI-based technology.

- A. Kotak Securities
- B. Kotak Mahindra General Insurance**
- C. Kotak Investment Advisors

Digit's 'pay as you drive' cover is 1st in industry

Mayur.Shetty@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: Go Digit General Insurance is the first insurer to offer a 'pay as you drive' (PAYD) add-on feature for motor insurance own damage (OD) policies. The company has announced this cover less than two weeks after the insurance regulator allowed the PAYD feature in motor covers.

Anyone driving less than an average of 10,000 kilometres a year, from the time of purchase by the current owner from the showroom, can opt for the cover. The discount, which can go up to 25%, will be subject to odometer reading, telematics data and annual kilometre opted.

Customers can complete the entire process within five minutes using video pre-inspection and get the policy in less than 30 minutes.

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- D. Kotak Mutual Fund
 E. None of these

- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Limited (Kotak General Insurance) announced automating vehicle inspections for vehicle insurance renewals with Artificial Intelligence (AI) based technology.**
- **Kotak General Insurance has partnered with Inspektlabs to automate the vehicle inspection process, using AI-based technology.**
- **Under the AI-based inspection process, during policy renewals, customers can capture photos or videos of their vehicle and upload them on the cloud-based App.**
- **Kotak Mahindra General Insurance Company Ltd. is a general insurance company headquartered in Mumbai.**

Kotak General launches AI-based vehicle inspection



KOTAK MAHINDRA General Insurance (Kotak General Insurance) on Monday announced the automation of vehicle inspection for insurance renewals, using artificial intelligence (AI)-based technology. During policy renewals, customers can capture photos or videos of their vehicles and upload them on a cloud-based app, a release said.

92. Recently _____ has partnered with EazyDiner - India's table reservation, food discovery & restaurant payment platform, to launch a tailor-made co-branded credit card .

- A. **IndusInd Bank**
 B. ICICI Bank
 C. RBL Bank
 D. HDFC Bank
 E. None of these

- **IndusInd Bank has partnered with EazyDiner - India's table reservation, food discovery & restaurant payment platform, to launch a tailor-made co-branded credit card - 'EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Credit card'.**
- **This collaboration aims to redefine the dining experience for those who have a penchant for exploring a variety of restaurants. The all-new card will provide the cardholders with a complimentary 'EazyDiner Prime membership that will offer the customer a guaranteed discount of up to 25 percent at select restaurants.**
- **IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai.**
- **Mr. Sumant Kathpalia Managing Director & CEO**

93. Consider the following statement regarding **India BioEconomy Report 2022**.

1. **India's bioeconomy has reached USD 80 billion in 2021.**

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2. According to the India BioEconomy Report 2022, India's bioeconomy is likely to cross the mark of USD 150 billion by 2025 and USD 300 billion by 2030.

3. India BioEconomy Report 2022 has been released based on the data collected by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

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**

Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh says, Bioeconomy will be key to India's future economy over the next 25 years

Releasing India's Bioeconomy Report 2022, the Minister said, India's Bioeconomy will touch 300 billion US dollars by 2030 from 80 billion US Dollars in 2021

Dr Jitendra Singh also launches Special Biotech Ignition Grant call for North East Region (BIG-NER); announces financial support of Rs 50 Lakhs each to 25 start-ups and entrepreneurs from North East Region to develop biotech solutions

Posted On: 19 JUL 2022 5:22PM by PIB Delhi

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh today said, Bioeconomy will be key to India's future economy over the next 25 years.

Releasing India's Bioeconomy Report 2022, Dr Jitendra Singh pointed out that India's Bioeconomy has reached over 80 billion US Dollars in 2021 recording 14.1% growth over \$70.2 billion in 2020. Noting the rapid growth in the sector, the Minister said, Bioeconomy is likely to touch 150 billion dollars by 2025 and over 300 billion dollars by 2030.

- According to the India BioEconomy Report 2022, India's bioeconomy is likely to cross the mark of USD 150 billion by 2025 and USD 300 billion by 2030.**
- India BioEconomy Report 2022 has been released based on the data collected by the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).**
- India's bioeconomy has reached USD 80 billion in 2021, an increase of 14.1 percent from USD 70.2 billion in 2020. India generates USD 219 million of bioeconomy daily.**
- In 2021, at least three biotech startups were founded every day, and around USD 1 billion was spent on research and development.**
- In the last 10 years, the number of biotech startups has increased from 50 to 5,300. The number of biotech startups will reach 10000 by 2025.**
- India is one of the top three in South Asia and the top 12 destinations for biotechnology in the world. India has 2nd highest number of USFDA-approved manufacturing plants.**

94. Recently The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions, including on withdrawals, on four cooperative banks given their deteriorating financial positions. Which is not on the list?

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- A. Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank , Maharashtra
- B. The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank Ltd, West Bengal
- C. United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor
- D. Shankari Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bahraich**
- E. None of these

- **The Reserve Bank of India has imposed restrictions, including on withdrawals, on four cooperative banks given their deteriorating financial positions.**
- **These four banks include Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank in Maharashtra, The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank Ltd at Suri in West Bengal along with two banks from Uttar Pradesh including United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor and National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bahraich.**
- **A depositor of Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank cannot withdraw more than 20,000 rupees from the bank while the withdrawal limit for The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank is 50,000 rupees. In the case of National Urban Co-operative Bank, the limit of withdrawal has been capped at 10,000 rupees per customer. The RBI has also imposed several restrictions on United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor, including a ban on withdrawals of funds by customers.**
- **The directions issued by the RBI to these four cooperative banks under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, will remain in force for six months.**

95. Consider the following statement **regarding as per the report by the standard study**

1. India's population is estimated to **shrink by 41 crores in the next 78 years.**
2. **As per Worldometer elaboration of the latest United Nations data. India's current population is 1.52 billion.**
3. **India's population density is likely to decrease to 335 persons per km sq by 2100.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2

Restrictions imposed on four co-op banks

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 22

THE RESERVE BANK of India has imposed restrictions, including on withdrawals, on four cooperative banks in view of their deteriorating financial positions.

The restrictions have been imposed on Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank, The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank Ltd, Suri (West Bengal) and National Urban Co-operative Bank Ltd, Bahraich.

A depositor of Saibaba Janata Sahakari Bank cannot withdraw more than ₹20,000 from the bank while this for The Suri Friends' Union Co-operative Bank is ₹50,000.

Similarly, in the case of National Urban Co-operative Bank, the limit of withdrawal has been capped at ₹10,000 per customer.

The RBI has also imposed several restrictions on United India Co-operative Bank Limited, Bijnor, including a ban on withdrawals of funds by



customers. The directions issued by the RBI to the four cooperative banks under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, will remain in force for six months.

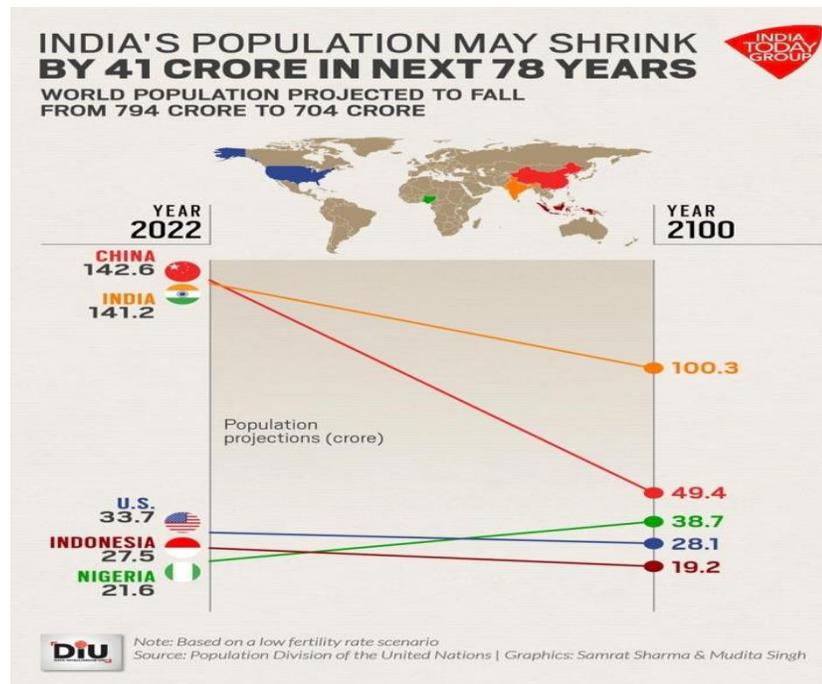
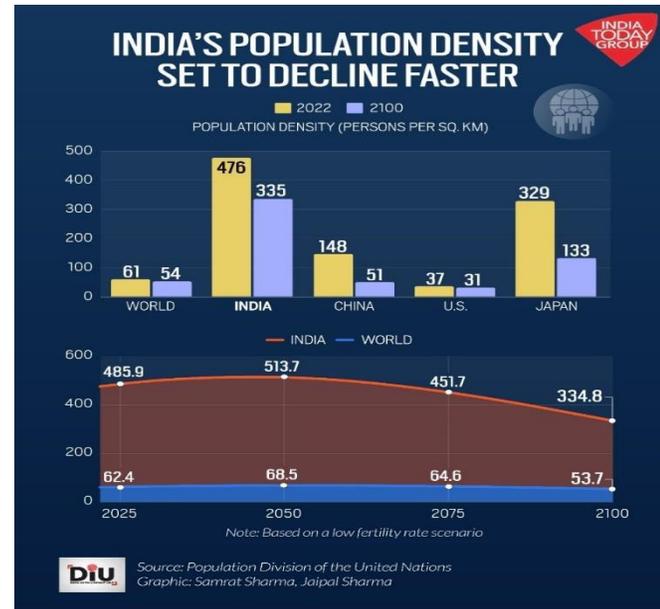
The Reserve Bank has issued separate statements announcing the restrictions on the cooperative banks.

In another statement, the RBI said it has imposed a ₹57.75-lakh penalty on Suryoday Small Finance Bank for violation of certain norms related to 'frauds classification and reporting by commercial banks and select FIs'.

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

- **India is the second most populous country in the world but its population is estimated to shrink by 41 crores in the next 78 years.**
- **While on average, 476 people live in every sq. kilometer in India, it is only 148 people per sq. kilometer in China.**
- **By the year 2100, India's population density is expected to fall to 335 persons per km sq.**
- **The fall in India's population density is projected to be much higher than what is projected for the entire world.**
- **India's population is expected to fall from 141.2 crores in 2022 to 100.3 crores in 2100, the latest report by the Population Division of the United Nations projects.**
- **Meanwhile, other countries such as China and the U.S. are also expected to witness a similar trend. China may see its population shrink by an astounding 93.2 crore to just 49.4 crores in the year 2100. These projections are based on a low fertility rate scenario.**
- **In other words, the total fertility is projected to remain 0.5 births below what it is by around 2050.**
- **India's fertility rate is expected to fall from 1.76 births per woman to 1.39 in 2032, 1.28 in 2052, 1.2 in 2082, and 1.19 in 2100.**



96. Consider the following statement regarding the State Bank of India (SBI) study on the farm loan waivers scheme since 2014.

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1. Till March 2022, out of 3.7 crore eligible farmers, only 50% of farmers have received the loan waiver amount.

2. The farm loan waiver schemes were not implemented properly in **Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), and Punjab (24%)**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

- Only 50% of farmers received benefits from the farm loan waivers scheme since 2014: State Bank of India (SBI) study.
- According to a study by the State Bank of India (SBI), only half of the beneficiaries have received farm loan waivers announced by nine states.
- Till March 2022, out of 3.7 crore eligible farmers, only 50% of farmers have received the loan waiver amount.
- The farm loan waiver schemes were not implemented properly in **Telangana (5%), Madhya Pradesh (12%), Jharkhand (13%), and Punjab (24%)**.
- 100% of eligible farmers of Chhattisgarh in 2018 and 91% of farmers of Maharashtra in 2020 received the benefits of the farm loan waiver scheme.
- In Andhra Pradesh, 92% of eligible farmers got the benefit of the announced farm loan waiver.
- This study is based on the outcomes of ten farm loan waivers worth about ₹2.53 lakh crore announced by nine States.
- Rejection of farmers' claims by State Governments, fiscal limits for loan waiver schemes, and changes in Governments are the main reason for the poor implementation of the farm loan waiver scheme.

Average farm income soared 1.3-1.7 times in FY22 from FY18: SBI Research

PTI ■ MUMBAI

The income of farmers has grown in the range of 1.3-1.7 times in FY22 from the FY18 levels on average while grain exports soared to over USD 50 billion, says an SBI Research report.

For certain crops in some states (like soyabean in Maharashtra and cotton in Karnataka) farmers' income more than doubled in FY22 from FY18 levels, while in all other cases it rose in the range of 1.3-1.7 times.

The increase in the income of farmers engaged in cash crops has been more prominent

compared to farmers growing non-cash crops, SBI chief economist Soumyakanti Ghosh said in an elaborate report on Sunday.

This also has led to an increase in the share of agriculture in the GDP to 18.8 per cent from 14.2 per cent, the report said. This rise was also due to the shrinkage of the industrial and services contribution to the economy due to the deadly second wave of the pandemic.

But the report is silent on the massive fall in the prices of spices like black pepper, cardamom, clove, and cinnamon among others as also natural rubber.

Also, the report, based on key farming states like Maharashtra, Rajasthan, MP, UP, Karnataka, and Gujarat among others, notes that allied/non-farm income showed a significant increase of 1.4-1.8 times in the majority of states in tandem with farm income during this period, substantiating the trend in the 77th National Sample Survey that said source of farmers income has become increasingly diverse apart from crops.

Significantly, this also ensured that there have been no yawning gaps in income inequalities in the hinterland during this period.

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- *The report also raised concerns that whether these loan waivers help farmers in genuine distress.*
 - *The proportion of standard accounts is high in Jharkhand (100%), Uttar Pradesh (96%), Andhra Pradesh (95%), and Punjab (86%).*
 - *The report concluded that loan waivers destroy the credit culture which can harm farmers in long term.*
97. Recently the **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund** purchased a stake in the tunnel road **Navayuga Quazigund Expressway** in _____ for around **Rs 30.36 billion**.
- A. **Jammu & Kashmir**
 - B. Ladakh
 - C. Sikkim
 - D. Uttarakhand
 - E. None of these
- *To diversify its asset base, the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund purchased a stake in the tunnel road Navayuga Quazigund Expressway in Jammu and Kashmir for around Rs 30.36 billion.*
 - *National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIFL) announces the acquisition of an equity stake in the Navayuga Quazigund Expressway (NQEPL) through the NIIF Master Fund at an enterprise value of around Rs 30.36 billion.*
 - *Athaang Infrastructure, the exclusive roads platform of NIIF Master Fund, would administer the operational tunnel road in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.*
 - *The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) awarded one of the largest annuity projects on a BOT (build-operate-transfer) basis.*
 - *According to NIIFL, NHAI makes fixed, semi-annual payments to this project, ensuring steady and predictable cash flows.*
 - *This acquisition, which is also the first tunnel road that the company has acquired, is a significant asset to the portfolio.*
98. Recently as per government **India will see a brisk ramp-up of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations** to _____ from the **existing 4,500-plus stations by 2024**.
- A. 5000
 - B. 6000
 - C. 7000
 - D. **8000**
 - E. None of these

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- *In a major move towards a natural gas-based economy, India will see a brisk ramp-up of compressed natural gas (CNG) stations to 8,000 in the next two years from the existing 4,500-plus stations.*
- *As part of the scale-up, 166 CNG stations were launched last week by Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri to strengthen the gas-based infrastructure and availability of cleaner fuel in the country.*
- *These 166 stations add on to the 1,332 which were set up in 2021-22 alone. After the completion of the ongoing city gas distribution (CGD) development in geographical areas (GAs) awarded under the 11th and 11th (A) CGD bidding round being carried out by the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board.*

99. As Per Government data *India's merchandise exports during the first six months of the calendar year 2022 jumped about 27 percent to _____ billion dollars.*

- A. 216 Billion dollars
- B. 235 billion dollars**
- C. 155 billion dollars
- D. 195 billion dollars
- E. None of these

- *India's merchandise exports during the first six months of the calendar year 2022 jumped about 27 percent to 235 billion dollars, compared with 185.9 billion dollars a year ago.*
- *The country's imports during January-June 2022 stood at 361.1 billion dollars, against 258.6 billion in the corresponding period last year.*
- *The total merchandise export was 421.9 billion dollars during 2021-22 against the export target of 400 billion dollars, achieving 105.4 percent of the export target.*
- *Barring a few sectors, all major sectors during the January-June 2022 showed a positive trend with an overall growth rate of 26.7 percent.*

100. Recently in July _____ *launched a co-branded credit card with online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip.*

- A. JP Morgan
- B. Deutsche Bank
- C. Royal Bank of Scotland
- D. Standard Chartered Bank**
- E. None of these

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- *Standard Chartered Bank launched a co-branded credit card with the online travel tech platform EaseMyTrip.*
- *The credit card provides a flat 20% instant discount on domestic and international hotel bookings; a flat 10% instant discount on domestic and international flight bookings on the EaseMyTrip website or mobile application.*
- *EaseMyTrip is an Indian online travel company, founded in 2008 by Nishant Pitti, Rikant Pitti, and Prashant Pitti. Headquartered in New Delhi, the company provides hotel bookings, air tickets, holiday packages, bus bookings, and white-label services.*
- *Standard Chartered plc is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in London, England.*

101. Recently in July _____ signed a multi-year contract with FYNDNA for the development and deployment of several Enterprise-class systems.

- A. Federal Bank
- B. HDFC Bank**
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of these

HDFC Bank signs multi-year software development pact

HDFC Bank has signed a multi-year pact with FYNDNA TechCorp Pvt Ltd for the development and deployment of several enterprise-class systems.

- *As part of HDFC Bank Limited's ("Bank") efforts to progressively transform itself into a completely digitalized ecosystem, the Bank has partnered with FYNDNA TechCorp Pvt Ltd ("FYNDNA").*
- *It has signed a multi-year contract with FYNDNA for the development and deployment of several Enterprise-class systems. The intent is to unify customer information, consolidate systems, build resilience in its payment infrastructure, provide cloud-ready, scalable product ledgers, integrate all of them, and enable them to operate with existing solutions and platforms.*
- *This is a part of the Bank's objective of forging alliances with Fintech players to offer a new-age, digital experience to its customers. This partnership will enable HDFC Bank to respond to changing customer requirements with speed and agility in real-time. The Bank will use FYNDNA's expertise to aim for higher availability and consistency in its operations in keeping with the 24 X 7 needs of its customers.*

102. Recently _____ Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JCB India Limited, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India as its 'preferred financier'.

- A. Karnataka Bank**
- B. RBL Bank
- C. HDFC Bank

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- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of these

- **The city-headquartered Karnataka Bank has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with JCB India Limited, a manufacturer of earthmoving and construction equipment in India.**
- **Under the agreement, JCB will be nominating Karnataka Bank as its ‘preferred financier’ wherein individuals, contractors, companies, and partnership firms can avail of loans from the bank at competitive interest rates for purchasing a wide range of equipment from the product line of JCB India Limited.**
- **The tie-up arrangement with JCB India is expected to boost the lending avenues under the bank’s MSME portfolio.**
- **Karnataka Bank Limited is an old-generation private sector bank. It is an ‘A’ Class Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangaluru in Karnataka, India.**

103. Recently in July _____ signed an onboarding agreement with ONDC and will debut on it in August 2022 to provide pan-India access to ONDC.

- A. Flipkart
- B. Snapdeal**
- C. Nykaa
- D. Meesho
- E. None of these

- **The eCommerce platform Snapdeal will debut on the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) next month.**
- **The company signed the onboarding agreement to join the platform earlier this month. Teams on both sides are in the advanced stages of completing the required technical integration to enable a pan-India launch by mid-August.**

ONDC adds 15 cities, onboards Snapdeal

SHARLEEN D’SOUZA
Mumbai, 18 July

Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) has expanded its pilot to 15 more cities. This comes at a time when it plans to begin operations next month.

Snapdeal has also signed the onboarding agreement with the network and will debut on it next month.

On Monday, ONDC expanded to Noida, Faridabad, Lucknow, Bijnor, Chhindwara, Kolkata, Pune, Chennai, Kannur, Thrissur, Udipi, Kanchipura, Pollachi, Mannar and Ramnathpuram. The network first began its pilot on April 29 in Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong.

“We will keep on adding more locations and add more cities this week itself,” T Koshy, chief executive officer (CEO) of ONDC, told *Business Standard*. Koshy also said that ONDC has onboarded 100 merchants on its platform. Several of them are digitising their catalogue in accordance with ONDC’s protocol.

It is also in the process of completing a small fundraise. This will take its total



fundraise to ₹195 crore from ₹157 crore raised earlier. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) and Bank of India are part of the ongoing fundraise.

“Snapdeal will provide pan-Indian access on ONDC. At the time of launch, more than 2,500 cities and towns across the country will be enabled for access. More cities and towns will be added to the ONDC network during the year,” Snapdeal said in its press release.

The release added that both ONDC and its own teams are in advanced

stages of completion that require technical integration to enable a pan-Indian launch by mid-August.

The e-commerce major also said various third-party providers that work with it will offer both inter and intra city logistics. It may also explore using the on-network logistics options available on the ONDC platform.

Snapdeal will launch on ONDC with three key categories that are fashion, home and beauty and personal care.

Snapdeal draws more than 86 per cent of its orders from outside the metro cities. Around 72 per cent of the orders

flow from buyers living in smaller cities and towns,” Snapdeal said.

“The increasing digitisation of India’s retail is a transformative opportunity that can benefit the sellers, buyers and other stakeholders. ONDC’s efforts will catalyse this growth in the right direction and help create an inclusive, enabling and open-access-based digital commerce ecosystem. Snapdeal looks forward to a strong partnership with ONDC in this path-breaking endeavour,” said Himanshu Chakrawarti, president, Snapdeal.

“Snapdeal’s onboarding on ONDC will accelerate our efforts to reach a wider audience of buyers and sellers. It will help us cover larger parts of the country. We look forward to leveraging Snapdeal’s long-standing expertise in serving India’s online users. We also look forward to working closely with it to build an online ecosystem that truly serves the needs of the country,” said Koshy.

The growth of Indian e-commerce is being fuelled by price-conscious consumers from the country’s smaller cities and towns.

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- *Snapdeal will provide pan-India access on ONDC. At the time of launch, more than 2,500 cities and towns across the country will be enabled for access and more cities and towns will be added as per ONDC network expansion during the year.*
- *It will launch on ONDC in three key categories: fashion, home, beauty, and personal care.*
- *Snapdeal's launch on ONDC will be supported by a network of sellers from North (Delhi-NCR, Jaipur, Agra, Ludhiana), West (Surat, Rajkot, Mumbai), South (Tirupur, Chennai, Bengaluru), and East (Kolkata, Guwahati) amongst others.*
- *As per a recent RedSeer report, the number of online buyers from India's tier II and smaller cities and towns, which account for more than 80% of the country's population, will triple in five years from roughly 78 million in 2021 to nearly 256 million by 2026.*

104. Recently _____ extended its partnership with **Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF)** to the Patiala district of Punjab for the implementation of its **Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP)**.

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

- *With the successful implementation of its Holistic Rural Development Program (HRDP) in rural Uttarakhand, HDFC Bank Parivartan extended its partnership with Ambuja Cement Foundation (ACF) to the Patiala district of Punjab.*
- *The 4-year project will cover 15 villages of Rajpura and Sambhu blocks of Patiala district, with focused interventions on agro-based livelihood, women empowerment, health & sanitation, and quality education.*
- *HRDP is a flagship CSR initiative of #Parivartan, HDFC Bank's umbrella brand for all its social development programs.*
- *In Punjab's Patiala district, there is a high level of distress among the rural communities and villages selected for the HRDP project implementation.*
- *During the last four years, under HRDP, ACF has successfully facilitated the transformation of 20 villages in the Haridwar and Roorkee districts, with both social and economic development. As an implementing partner for HDFC Bank Parivartan, ACF looks forward to doing the same in the select villages of Patiala.*

105. Recently **RINL inks MoU with STPI** to establish a **Centre of Excellence in Visakhapatnam**. The CoE has been named as _____ .

- A. Koyana

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- B. Kalpakkam
- C. Kaiga
- D. **Kalpataru**
- E. None of these

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between Software Technology Parks of India (STPI), STPINEXT, and RINL-VSP (Visakhapatnam Steel Plant) for Industry 4.0 CoE (Centre of Excellence) for the promotion of innovation and start-up activities for RINL and other industries in and around Visakhapatnam.
- India is now becoming the epicenter of steel making in the World and it stands as the second largest steel producer in the world Visakhapatnam will become the hub of providing solutions in steel making to the country.
- The CoE is coming up over a built-up space of approximately 6,000 square feet at Ukkunagaram.
- The CoE has been named ‘Kalpataru’.
- It will house an Industrial Robotics lab, an Industrial Drones lab, and an Industrial IoT (Internet of Things) lab.
- This is being established with funding support from the Ministry of Electronics & IT, the Government of India (MeitY), RINL, and the State government.

106. Recently CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) and _____ have entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) to operate and maintain advanced lithium-ion cells manufacturing facility in Taramani, Chennai.

- A. **Godi India**
- B. Jupitice Technology
- C. Rashtiya Ispat Nigam Limited
- D. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- E. None of these

- CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute) and Hyderabad-based Godi India have entered into a public-private partnership (PPP) to operate and maintain advanced lithium-ion cells manufacturing facility in Taramani, Chennai.

ment in January by picking a ma- primary and secondary pur- quality of life through eco- ceeding ₹100 crore.

GODI India draws up \$3-b plan for multiple lithium-ion cell Giga factories

Inks pact with CSIR-CECRI for commercial operations in Chennai

G BALACHANDAR

Chennai, July 19
 GODI India, a Hyderabad-headquartered lithium-ion cell developer and manufacturer, plans multiple Giga factories with an investment of \$3 billion over the next five years for the production of lithium-ion cells to serve the growing battery demand for electric vehicles and the stationary energy storage segments in India and abroad.

Recently, it became the first Indian company to be certified for its lithium-ion cells, developed using home-grown technology. While GODI India has a lithium-ion cell production unit and an R&D facility in Hyderabad, it has just com-

menced operations in Chennai through a public-private partnership agreement with CSIR-CECRI (Central Electrochemical Research Institute).

"One key fundamental element missing in the Indian EV ecosystem is cell manufacturing as none of the Indian companies possesses the technological know-how, which has patents and we are the first Indian company to commercially manufacture lithium-ion cells in India," Founder and CEO of GODI India, Mahesh Godi, a former Silicon Valley and Wall Street professional, told *BusinessLine*.

"We are going to set up multiple Giga factories as we see bigger opportunities not just in India but in other markets too. In the next two years, we plan to invest \$250 million and it will reach half a billion in the following year. By 2027,



Mahesh Godi, Founder and CEO of GODI India

we hope to hit investments of \$3 billion," he added.

Chennai facility

In Chennai, GODI will produce lithium-ion cells out of CECRI's Taramani unit, which will eventually have a capacity of 25 MWh. This capacity can serve the battery requirements of about 20,000 electric two-wheelers a year. The Chennai facility will start delivering its cells starting from

next month to electric two-wheeler and four-wheeler OEMs.

With two cell production lines now, GODI India has been flooded with enquiries from EV OEMs for the supply of cells. "We have already received enquiries worth \$200-million from India, Europe and North America. Also, several Indian OEMs are asking us to set up dedicated units for them. Our Taramani production is already sold out," he said.

Godi said the company has secured its raw material supply chain for the production of cells as it has been working with Tier 1 companies that supply to companies such as Tesla. "Our supply chain is secured for Giga lines," he added.

It is also working with at least 20 companies in India for localisation of many of the raw materials required for cell production.

CM

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- *CSIR is a treasure of knowledge covering all facets of science. CSIR is contributing a lot to Space, Defence, Nuclear, and other societal applications. Partnering with Godi India marks a new chapter in the development of advanced lithium-ion cells for next-generation of energy storage applications.*
- *Currently, all the lithium-ion cells are being imported mostly from China and South Korea. Godi India is the first Indian company to manufacture made-in-India and made-for-India lithium-ion cells, which are certified by BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards), tested, and qualified by TUV, the third-party testing agency. With this, Godi India can manufacture and sell the cells at par with the standard cells available in the world market.*
- *Central Electro Chemical Research Institute is one of a chain of forty national laboratories under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi. Founded on 25 July 1948 at Karaikudi in Tamil Nadu, CECRI came into existence in January 1953.*

107. Recently **DBS Bank** was named '**World's Best Bank**' and '**World's Best Digital Bank**' by **Euromoney Magazine**. it is headquartered in?

- A. Maldives
- B. Mauritius
- C. Singapore**
- D. England
- E. None of these

- *Euromoney names DBS 'World's Best Bank' and 'World's Best Digital Bank' for 2021*
- *DBS is a leading financial services group in Asia with a presence in 18 markets.*
- *Headquartered and listed in Singapore, DBS is in the three key Asian axes of growth: Greater China, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.*
- *The bank's "AA-" and "Aa1" credit ratings are among the highest in the world.*
- *In addition, DBS has been accorded the "Safest Bank in Asia" award by Global Finance for 13 consecutive years from 2009 to 2021.*

108. Which of the following will **become the 11th pension fund manager in the Indian pension fund management space?**

- A. Kotak Group
- B. UTI Group
- C. SBI Group
- D. DSP Group**
- E. None of these

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- **PFRDA has given license to DSP Investment Managers to start doing pension fund management business.**
- **The license has been granted to DSP Investment Managers as a Sponsor of a pension fund.**
- **PFRDA Chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay told that PFRDA Board has approved DSP Investment Managers as a Sponsor.**
- **DSP Group will become the 11th pension fund manager in the Indian pension fund management space.**
- **Currently, there are seven functioning Pension Fund Managers. They are the pension fund management arms of SBI, UTI, LIC, ICICI, HDFC, Aditya Birla SunLife, and Kotak.**
- **Three are about to commence pension fund management business. Their names are Axis Asset Management, Tata Asset Management, and Max Life Insurance.**
- **Pension assets in India have been growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 30%. However, the last fiscal was an aberration with a CAGR of 27%.**
- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) was established in October 2003. Its Chairman is Supratim Bandyopadhyay. Its head office is in New Delhi.**

NPS: Pension regulator grants licence to DSP Investment Managers to launch fund

After Blackrock exit, DSP Group applied afresh for licence

K R SRIVATS

New Delhi, July 21

Pension regulator PFRDA has granted a licence to DSP Investment Managers to undertake pension fund management business. This licence has been given to DSP Investment Managers as a sponsor of a pension fund, Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, PFRDA, told *BusinessLine*.

Bandyopadhyay highlighted that PFRDA gives licences only to the sponsor of a pension fund. With this, the DSP Group will be the 11th pension fund manager. The latest licence is understood to have come after the ap-

plicant used the on-tap licensing window that was open between mid-April and May 17 this year.

PFRDA opening up window

This is the second year in a row when PFRDA opened such a window to enhance the number of pension fund managers in the country.

Industry observers point out that the PFRDA had earlier awarded a licence to DSP Blackrock. However, with Blackrock having exited, the DSP Group had to again make a fresh application as a sponsor to obtain licence, it is learnt. Arms of SBI, UTI, LIC, ICICI, HDFC, Aditya Birla SunLife and Kotak are functioning as pension fund managers while Axis Asset, Tata Asset and Max Life Insurance will launch pension fund man-



Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairman, PFRDA

agement business.

The PFRDA had last year opened a similar window for awarding licences to sponsors. After this, some players had approached PFRDA evincing interest to become pension fund managers, it is learnt.

The 'on-tap' system is similar

to what the RBI had allowed for new banking entrants. The PFRDA board last year had approved Tata AMC and Max Life Insurance applications.

Pension sector AUM

Besides throwing open the door to more pension fund managers, the RFP had introduced at least five-fold jump in their fees, making it lucrative to undertake this activity. Currently, the total assets under management (AUM) of the pension sector stands at over ₹7.40-lakh crore.

Pension assets in India have been growing at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of about 30 per cent. However, last fiscal was an aberration with growth coming in at 27 per cent, lower than expected.

109. Recently The Centre and RBI have pulled up banks for lending to state government entities based on the escrow of the state's future revenue streams or using collectorates and courts as security. Which of the following article of the Indian constitution deals with the borrowing by States?

- A. Article 293
- B. Article 292
- C. Article 72
- D. Article 63
- E. None of these

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- *The Centre and RBI have pulled up banks for lending to state government entities based on the escrow of the state's future revenue streams or using collectorates and courts as security.*
- *Article 293 of the Indian constitution deals with the borrowing by States (Article 292 regulates borrowing by Central Govt.)*
- *Under Article 293 (3), state governments are required to take the Centre's permission for fresh borrowing, if they are indebted to the Government of India.*
- *Every single state is currently indebted to the Centre and thus, all of them require the Centre's consent to borrow.*

110. Consider the following statement regarding **India Rubber Meet 2022**.

1. *India Rubber Meet 2022, the sixth edition of the biennial rubber conference will be held in Kochi on July 22 and 23.*
1. *The theme of the conference is 'Natural Rubber For Sustainable Future'.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India Rubber Meet 2022, the sixth edition of the biennial rubber conference that offers a platform for rubber industries, farmers, and scientists involved in rubber research, will be held in Kochi on July 22 and 23.*
- *The meet is being organized by the Rubber Board in collaboration with rubber industry partners, including Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).*
- *Rubber Board Executive Director K.N. Raghavan said at a press conference here on Thursday that the theme of the meet was 'Natural rubber for sustainable future'.*

India Rubber Meet 2022 begins today, to discuss sustainable future

Over 500 industry delegates, 200 growers to take part

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, July 21

India Rubber Meet 2022, the sixth edition of the biennial rubber conference that offers a platform for rubber industries, farmers and scientists involved in rubber research, will be held in Kochi on Friday and Saturday. The meet is being organised by the Rubber Board in collaboration with rubber industry partners, including Automotive Tyre Manufacturers' Association (ATMA).

Satish Sharma, Chairman of ATMA, will inaugurate the sessions and Sawar Dhanania, Chairman of the Rubber Board

and president of All Indian Rubber Industries Association will be among the speakers. Speaking to reporters, KN Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, said the theme of the conference is 'Natural Rubber For Sustainable Future'. The two-day conference will focus on addressing new opportunities, innovative ideas and strategic planning for a more sustainable future.

Key speakers

John Baffes, Senior Agricultural Economist, Development Economics Prospective Group of the World Bank, and R. B. Premadasa, Secretary-General of the Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries, Kuala Lumpur, will be among the key speakers at the Rubber Meet.

There will be around 200 farmers, who will participate in the two-day session along with 500 delegates from the industry and the community of scientists engaged in rubber research.

According to Raghavan, rubber farmers had been encouraged to engage in self tapping and around 42,000 farmers had taken up tapping in their own farms.

He said the processing of rubber wood was one of the areas in which the Rubber Board is focussing as processed rubber wood was reaching India from other countries. Processing rubber wood offered a great opportunity for the rubber farmers even though in States such as Tripura, rubber wood was being utilised as firewood.

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- *The industry has stepped forward to help primary producers meet the challenges of sustainability concerns.*
- *The Rubber Board's 'NE-MITHRA' project for rubber planting in collaboration with ATMA is a unique and responsible attempt by the tire industry to support rubber farmers.*

111. Recently *Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance* and _____ have announced a strategic partnership to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the bank's 3M customers.

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

- *Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, and DBS Bank India, the wholly owned subsidiary of DBS Bank Ltd, Singapore, have announced a strategic partnership to offer a wide array of life insurance solutions to the bank's 3M customers.*
- *Through this partnership, Bajaj Allianz Life and DBS Bank aim to empower the customers to Live More and Bank Less by investing in life insurance products that best meet their life needs in a planned manner.*
- *Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance is one of India's leading and fastest-growing private life insurers. The company is a partnership between two powerful and successful entities in their own right – Bajaj Finserv Limited, one of India's most diversified non-banking financial institutions, and Allianz SE, one of the world's leading asset managers and insurers.*
- *DBS Bank Limited, often known as DBS, is a Singaporean multinational banking and financial services corporation headquartered at the Marina Bay Financial Centre in the Marina Bay district of Singapore.*

112. Recently which organization and *Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC)* signed an MOU for exploring and setting up hydropower and pump storage projects?

- A. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- B. **National Hydroelectric Power Corporation**
- C. National Thermal Power Corporation Limited
- D. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- E. None of these

NHPC, DVC ink pact to set up JV firm for hydro power, pumped storage project

State-owned hydro power giant NHPC on Wednesday said it has inked a pact with Damodar Valley Corporation to explore possibility of forming a joint venture firm for setting up hydro power and pump storage projects. As per a regulatory filing, the MoU heralds a new dawn in co-operation between the two power sector organisations in jointly harnessing the hydro power and pump storage projects as energy storage solutions.

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- An MoU has been signed by NHPC Limited and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC).
- The MoU has been signed to form a Joint Venture Company (JVC) for the exploration and installation of hydroelectric and pumped storage projects.
- In the presence of Shri A.K. Singh, CMD of NHPC Limited, and Shri Ram Naresh Singh, Chairman of the DVC, the MOU was signed.
- Under the MOU, they will jointly harness the hydropower projects and pump storage projects as energy storage solutions.
- It will be in line with the country's energy transition goal of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030 and Net Zero by 2070.
- 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.
- Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC): It is a government-owned power plant that operates in India's West Bengal and Jharkhand states along the Damodar River.
- DVC is headquartered in Kolkata. It was founded on 7 July 1948.

113. Recently, ICAI has revised Guidance Note for Companies Auditors Report Order (CARO) 2020 in the wake of the Government's amendments to which Schedule of the Companies Act, 2013?

- A. Schedule I
- B. Schedule II
- C. Schedule III
- D. Schedule IV
- E. None of these

- CA Institute has revised the Guidance Note for Companies Auditors Report Order (CARO) 2020.
- The Guidance Note was initially issued in 2020 and the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) has revised it now.
- ICAI's step to revise the Guidance Note is in the wake of amendments made by the Government to Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 in March 2021.
- Schedule III requires various disclosures to be made by companies in their financial statements.

CA Institute revises guidance note on CARO 2020

Revision follows amendments to Schedule III of Companies Act

KR SRIVATS
New Delhi, July 18

The CA Institute has come out with a revised guidance note for the Companies Auditors Report Order (CARO) 2020, which placed more onus on statutory auditors regarding fulfilling their professional responsibilities.

The members of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) are now required to go with the revised guidance note while issuing their report on CARO for the financial statements of companies under the Companies Act 2013.

CARO 2020 is the overhauled auditor's report to accompany companies' balance sheets for the financial year commencing on or after April 1, 2021 (FY 21-22).

Three versions Under the Companies Act 2013, there has been three versions of CARO — which specifies the format of the auditor report on company financial statements — in 2015, 2016 and 2020. The latest ICAI move to revise the



note (initially issued in 2020) comes primarily in the wake of the government's amendments made to Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 in March 2021.

Schedule III, as amended, requires various disclosures to be made by companies in their financial statements. Some of these disclosure requirements mirror the requirements in CARO 2020, such as title deeds of immovable properties, revaluation of property, plant and equipment and intangible assets, proceedings for holding benami property, borrowings from banks or financial institutions on the basis of security of current assets, granting loans/advances which are either repayable on demand or without specifying any terms or period of repayment, undisclosed income under the Income Tax Act, 1961 and company declared as wilful defaulter.

The other new elements of Schedule III included borrowings not used for the specific purpose for which bor-

rowings were obtained, disclosure of certain ratios and details of corporate social responsibilities activities, etc.

"These requirements have been incorporated in Schedule III after the issuance of earlier guidance note on CARO. In light of aforesaid amendments, specific guidance has been included for the auditors in the CARO revised Guidance Note. Auditors should consider these additional disclosures in Schedule III to the Companies Act, 2013 while issuing their report on CARO", Sanjeev Kumar, Chairman, Auditing and Assurance Standards Board (AASB) of ICAI, told *BusinessLine* here.

Put simply, the Ministry of Corporate Affairs had in 2020 issued a new CARO version that required an auditor to report a pre-identified list of areas and events. While the earlier version (in 2016) had 16 clauses, the new one issued in 2020 had 21 clauses.

Unlike CARO 2016, which required reporting on all fixed assets, the new requirements focus on property, plant, equipment and intangible assets. Reporting of proceedings under the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 was also included.

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- *CARO specifies the format of the auditor report on company financial statements.*
- *Under the Companies Act 2013, there have been three versions of CARO (2015, 2016, and 2020).*

114. Recently Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a \$96.3 million loan to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in _____.

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh**
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Rajasthan
- E. None of these

- *The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$96.3 million loan to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in Himachal Pradesh.*
- *The money will be used to implement the projects under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project.*
- *The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship program of the Government of India, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024.*
- *ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region.*

ADB approves \$96.3 mn loan for safe drinking water in Himachal Pradesh

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 24 JULY

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$96.3 million loan to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in Himachal Pradesh.

The money will be used to implement the projects under the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project. More than 90 per cent of the state's rural population has access to drinking water, but the water supply infrastructure is old and deteriorated, resulting in inefficient and poor service quality. The ADB project will connect 75,800 households to



the service, providing an uninterrupted water supply to about 370,000 residents across 10 districts.

"The project meets the objectives of the Jal Jeevan Mission, a national flagship program of the Government of India, which aims to provide piped water to all rural households by 2024," ADB Unit Head of Project Administration on Urban Development and Water for South Asia Jude Kohlhase said in a statement.

"The project will upgrade

water supply infrastructure and strengthen institutional capacity to ensure safe, sustainable, and inclusive rural water supply and sanitation services," Kohlhase added.

The project will improve water supply and sanitation services through, among others, the construction of 48 groundwater wells, 80 surface water intake facilities, 109 water treatment plants, 117 pumping stations, and 3,000 kilometres of water distribution pipelines. A pilot faecal sludge management and sanitation programme will also be implemented in Sirmaur District, benefiting 250,000 residents and to determine replicability and guide the design of future projects.

115. Recently In July 2022, RBI prohibited how many cooperative banks from carrying out banking activity due to poor liquidity positions?

- A. **Three**
- B. Four
- C. Five

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- D. Six
 E. None of these

- **RBI prohibited three cooperative banks from carrying out banking activity due to poor liquidity positions.**
- **These banks are Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank and the Raigad Sahakari Bank, both from Maharashtra, and Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank from Karnataka.**
- **The depositors of Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank and Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank are prohibited from withdrawing any money from their savings, current, and other accounts.**
- **However, they are allowed to offset loans against deposits.**
- **However, RBI has permitted Raigad Sahakari Bank depositors to withdraw a maximum of 15,000 rupees from the balance of all savings, current, and other accounts combined.**
- **According to RBI, these instructions have become effective starting on July 19, 2022, for six months.**
- **Further, RBI has made it clear that these instructions do not mean that the licenses of banks have been canceled.**

RBI imposes restrictions on two co-op banks; customers can't withdraw funds

Mumbai: Customers of Karnataka-based Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita and Maharashtra-based Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank will not be able to withdraw funds from their accounts with the RBI imposing restrictions on the lenders.

The restrictions have been imposed on the two cooperative banks by the Reserve Bank of India in wake of their deteriorating financial positions.

The restrictions on Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita, Maski (Karnataka) and Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank, Nashik (Maharashtra) will remain in force for six months, as per two statements issued by the central bank.

In the case of Nashik Zilla Girna Sahakari Bank, the RBI said 99.87 per cent of the depositors are fully covered by the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation



(DICGC) insurance scheme. Also, 99.53 per cent of the depositors of Sri Mallikarjuna Pattana Sahakari Bank Niyamita are fully covered by the DICGC insurance scheme.

"Considering the bank's present liquidity position, no amount from the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account of a depositor, may be allowed to be withdrawn, but are allowed to set off loans

against deposits..." the RBI said in regards to the Karnataka-based bank.

A similar condition has also been imposed on the Maharashtra-based lender.

In wake of the restrictions, the two banks cannot, without prior approval of the RBI grant or renew any loans, make any investment, incur any liability, including borrowal of funds and acceptance of fresh deposits. **PTI**

116. Consider the following statement regarding "Expat Insider Ranking 2022" released by the Internations.

1. Mexico has topped the Expat Insider Rankings for 2022.
2. India has been ranked in 36th position out of the 52 countries on the list.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Mexico has topped the Expat Insider Rankings for 2022, which was released by the InterNations recently, while India has been ranked on 36th position out of the 52 countries on the list, with a high affordability score.**

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- **Indonesia is in the second spot while Taiwan, Portugal, Spain, UAE, Vietnam, Thailand, Australia, and Singapore are also among the top 10 countries' top destinations preferred by ex-pats, as per the InterNations.**
- **The Expat Insider survey is conducted every year by InterNations, a community for expatriates. For the Expat Insider 2022 survey report, 11,970 respondents representing 177 nationalities and living in 181 countries or territories worldwide were asked to evaluate their life abroad.**

117. Consider the following statement regarding RBI regulatory framework for UCBs. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. The expert committee was set up under the Chairmanship of RBI's former Deputy Governor Mr. N S Vishwanathan.
2. RBI has adopted the four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).
3. It stipulates a minimum net worth of two crore rupees for Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district and five crore rupees for all other UCBs.
4. RBI said that the minimum CRAR requirement for Tier 1 banks is retained at the present level of 12%.
5. None of these

CRAR of urban co-operative banks to be hiked

RBI move will strengthen the capital base of those with deposits of ₹100 crore and above and align it with commercial banks'

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 19

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to increase the capital to risk-weighted assets ratio (CRAR) for urban co-operative banks (UCBs) with deposits of ₹100 crore and above under the current capital adequacy framework to 12 per cent to strengthen their capital structure.

This will align UCBs' capital structures with those of commercial banks. Currently, UCBs have been mandated to maintain a minimum CRAR of 9 per cent on an ongoing basis under the Basel-I Framework.

The increase in CRAR requirement, which is based on the recommendations of the Expert Committee on Urban Co-operative Banks (Chairman: NS Vishwanathan, former Deputy Governor, RBI), is reasonable as these UCBs do not have a full capital

charge for market risk and currently maintain no capital charge for operational risk, the central bank said.

As per the data reported by the banks as on March 31, 2021, most UCBs have a CRAR of more than 12 per cent (1,274 banks out of 1,534).

Glide path

Banks that do not meet the revised CRAR will be provided with a glide path of three years to achieve the same in a phased manner—achieve 10 per cent CRAR by the end of FY24; 11 per cent by the end of FY25; and 12 per cent by the end of FY26.

The minimum CRAR requirement for Tier 1 banks (with deposits up to ₹100 crore) has been retained at the present prescription of 9 per cent under the current capital adequacy framework based on Basel I. The RBI has decided to accept the Committee re-



commendation to adopt a simple four-tiered regulatory framework based on deposit size—Tier 1 UCB (up to ₹100 crore); Tier 2 (more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore); Tier 3 (more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore); and Tier 4 (more than ₹10,000 crore)—with differentiated regulatory prescriptions aimed at strengthening the financial soundness of the existing UCBs.

Specifically, a minimum net worth of ₹2 crore for Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district and ₹5 crore for all other UCBs (of all tiers) has been stipulated. The RBI said that this is expected to strengthen the financial resilience of the banks and enhance

their ability to fund their growth.

As per the data reported by UCBs to the RBI as on March 31, 2021, most of the banks already comply with the minimum net worth requirement. The UCBs, which do not meet the requirement, will be provided a glide path of five years with intermediate milestones to facilitate a smooth transition to revised norms.

Automatic route

In order to boost growth opportunities in the sector, the central bank will introduce an automatic route for branch expansion for UCBs which meet the revised Financially Sound and Well Managed (FSWM) criteria and permit them to open new branches of up to 10 per cent of the number of branches as at the end of the previous financial year.

While the branch expansion proposals under the prior approval route will also continue to be examined as hitherto, the process will be simplified to reduce the time taken for granting ap-

provals for opening new branches. In respect of housing loans, RBI has decided to assign the risk weights on the basis of the Loan to Value (LTV) Ratio alone, which would result in capital savings for all tiers of UCBs.

UCBs' revaluation reserves will be considered for inclusion in Tier 1 capital subject to an applicable discount on the lines of scheduled commercial banks.

RBI, however, did not accept the committee's recommendation to relax the target dates for achieving Priority Sector Lending (PSL) and small value loans for UCBs with deposits of over ₹100 crore. A revised Supervisory Action Framework for UCBs will be issued, keeping in view the recommendations.

The committee's recommendations relating to UCBs under RBI's All Inclusive Directions; compulsory amalgamation or reconstruction; withdrawal of guidelines on the constitution of the Board of Management, among others, are under examination.

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- **RBI has issued a revised regulatory framework for UCBs. RBI has issued this framework as per the recommendations of the expert committee set up under the Chairmanship of RBI's former Deputy Governor Mr. N S Vishwanathan.**
- **RBI has adopted the four-tiered regulatory framework for Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs).**
- **The regulatory framework is based on the size of deposits of the banks and their area of operations.**
- **It stipulates a minimum net worth of two crore rupees for Tier 1 UCBs operating in a single district and five crore rupees for all other UCBs.**
- **RBI has introduced an automatic route for branch expansion for UCBs.**
- **It has allowed UCBs to open new branches as per the revised Financially Sound and Well Managed criteria.**
- **In the case of housing loans, RBI has decided to assign the risk weights solely based on the Loan to Value Ratio. This would result in capital savings.**
- **RBI said that the minimum CRAR requirement for Tier 1 banks is retained at the present level of 9%.**
- **For Tier 2, Tier 3, and Tier 4 UCBs, it has been decided to increase the minimum Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio (CRAR) to 12%.**

THE CLASSIFICATION

- Tier 1:** All unit UCBs and salary earner's UCBs (irrespective of deposit size), and all other UCBs having deposits up to ₹100 crore
- Tier 2:** UCBs with deposits more than ₹100 crore and up to ₹1,000 crore
- Tier 3:** UCBs with deposits more than ₹1,000 crore and up to ₹10,000 crore
- Tier 4:** UCBs with deposits more than ₹10,000 crore

118. Recently India's **Gautam Adani has become the fourth richest person in the world. Which of the following is not on the list of the top three richest people as per Forbes?**

- A. Elon Musk
- B. Bill Gates**
- C. Jeff Bezos
- D. Bernard Arnault
- E. None of these

- **India's Gautam Adani has become the fourth richest person in the world, overtaking Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates with a net worth of \$116.4 billion on the Forbes real-**

Adani beats Gates to be 4th richest

Gautam Adani, chairman of Ahmedabad-based Adani group, has surpassed Microsoft Founder Bill Gates to become the fourth-richest person, according to the Forbes list. While Adani has a net worth of \$116.4 billion, Tesla Founder Elon Musk is right up at the top spot with a net worth of \$235.8 billion. Bernard Arnault, chairman and CEO of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, with a net worth of \$157.8 billion, was ranked number two. RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani with a net worth of \$90.1 billion was ranked 10th on the list.



GAUTAM ADANI



BILL GATES



MUKESH AMBANI

THE RICH LIST

Rank	Name	Net worth (\$ bn)
1	Elon Musk (Tesla, SpaceX)	235.8
2	Bernard Arnault & family (LVMH)	156.7
3	Jeff Bezos (Amazon)	148.4
4	Gautam Adani & family (infrastructure, commodities)	116.4
5	Bill Gates (Microsoft)	104.6
6	Larry Ellison (software)	99.7
7	Warren Buffett (Berkshire Hathaway)	99.4
8	Larry Page (Google)	98.3
9	Sergey Brin (Google)	94.5
10	Mukesh Ambani (Reliance Industries)	90.1

Source: Forbes Real-Time Billionaires List

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time billionaires list as of July 21, 2022.

- **Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, is now placed behind Elon Musk, Bernard Arnault & family, and Jeff Bezos. Elon Musk tops the Forbes real-time billionaires list with a net worth of \$235.8 billion, followed by Bernard Arnault & family with a net worth of \$158.0 billion and Jeff Bezos with a net worth of \$148.4 billion.**
- **Bill Gates is ranked fifth on the Forbes real-time billionaires list with a net worth of \$104.6 billion, followed by Larry Ellison with a net worth of \$99.7 billion and Warren Buffet is placed 7th with a net worth of \$99.4 billion. Mukesh Ambani, the second richest person in India, is ranked 10th on the Forbes real-time billionaires list with a net worth of \$90.1 billion.**

119. NITI Aayog has recently signed a Statement of Intent with which of the following for developing the Net Zero GHG emissions roadmap?

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

- **NTPC Ltd signed a Statement of Intent with NITI Aayog for developing the Net Zero GHG emissions roadmap.**
- **The main aim of the agreement is to formalize a framework of cooperation between both parties and to help India in achieving the net zero GHG emissions goal.**
- **After signing the Statement of Intent, NTPC will get the expertise of NITI Aayog’s energy team for emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modeling including the development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047, and 2070.**
- **NTPC will get assistance in establishing the Carbon Management Unit (CMU) and integrating all GHG reduction initiatives under one platform.**
- **NITI Aayog is working on the development of different scenarios/ pathways for achieving Net Zero GHG emissions by 2070.**
- **'Net zero emissions' means establishing an overall balance between greenhouse gas emissions produced**

NITI Aayog to help NTPC frame net-zero carbon emission plan

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 21

NTPC on Thursday said it has signed a Statement of Intent with NITI Aayog to develop its net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions roadmap.

This will pave the way for greening the power sector. The SoI seeks to formalise a framework of cooperation to facilitate NTPC diversify its generation mix to reduce its carbon footprint and support India achieving net zero by 2070, the country’s largest Genco said in a statement. NITI Aayog is working on the development of different scenarios/ pathways for achieving net zero. With 17 per cent of installed generation capacity, NTPC meets around 24 per cent of India’s power requirement, it added.

Carbon management unit
 NITI Aayog will also help the Genco with emissions and energy (portfolio mix) modelling including development of scenarios for 2030, 2037, 2047 and 2070, as well as provide as-

sistance in establishment of Carbon Management Unit (CMU) to integrate GHG reduction initiatives under one umbrella.

NTPC is expanding its footprint in new business areas like green hydrogen, waste-to-energy and e-mobility. India’s largest power producer is also aiming for a 10 per cent reduction in net energy intensity by 2032. The total installed capacity of the company is 69,134.20 MW.

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and greenhouse gas emissions removed from the atmosphere.

- At the 26th Conference of Parties (COP26), Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2070.

120. On 18 July, _____ and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed an agreement to form a joint venture company to meet the power requirements of upcoming projects of IOC refineries.

- A. NTPC
- B. NHPC
- C. BPCL
- D. Ather energy
- E. None of these

- Indian Oil and NTPC formed a joint venture company to meet the power requirements of refineries.
- On 18 July, NTPC and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) signed an agreement to form a joint venture company to meet the power requirements of upcoming projects of IOC refineries.
- Indian Oil is planning to fill the additional power requirement of 650MW by Dec 2024 for its refineries through renewable energy with the help of this joint venture (JV) company.
- NTPC Green Energy Limited (NGEL), a subsidiary of NTPC, will form the JV Company to supply renewable energy to refineries.
- The main purpose is to promote the usage and capacity of renewable energy sources in the country.
- Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC): It is a Maharatna PSU that was formed in 1959. It is the largest commercial oil company in India headquartered in New Delhi.
- NTPC: It is a public sector undertaking involved in electricity generation.
- It is a statutory corporation incorporated under the Companies Act 1956.
- Gurdeep Singh is the current Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC.

121. Consider the following statement regarding **NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness, India's spending on R&D.**

NTPC, IOC ink pact to set up JV

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, July 18

STATE-RUN NTPC AND Indian Oil (IOC) on Monday signed an agreement to set up a 50:50 joint venture (JV) company that will meet the power requirements of IOC's upcoming refinery projects.

"Going forward, NTPC Green Energy (NGEL), a wholly owned subsidiary of NTPC, will form the JV company for supply of RE-RTC (renewable energy – round-the-clock) power to IOC. NGEL will be an umbrella company for consolidating NTPC's total renewable energy businesses," NTPC said in a statement. IOC plans to meet additional power requirement of its refineries using round-the-clock renewable energy to the tune of 650MW by the end of 2024 through the JV.

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1. *India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) is 0.7% of its GDP, the lowest in the world.*
2. *Israel spends 4.5% of its GDP on research development, the highest in the world.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *India's Gross Expenditure on R&D (GERD) is 0.7% of its GDP, the lowest in the world.*
- *According to a study by NITI Aayog and the Institute for Competitiveness, India's spending on R&D has declined from 0.8% of the GDP in 2008–09 to 0.7% in 2017-18.*
- *Brazil, Russia, and China spend 1.2%, 1.1%, and around 2% of their GDP respectively on research development.*
- *The world's average spend on research development is 1.8%. Israel spends 4.5% of its GDP on research development, the highest in the world.*
- *United States, Sweden, and Switzerland spend about 2.9%, 3.2%, and 3.4%, respectively.*
- *India's GERD at \$43 per capita is the lowest in the world. Low spending on research development can lead to the migration of people.*
- *For achieving the goal of a \$5 trillion economy, India's spending on research development should be increased to at least 2% of the GDP.*

121. *Consider the following statement regarding the [World Health Organisation on the health of refugees and migrants](#).*

1. *India received 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021, the top remittance recipient.*
2. *The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants said that today about one in eight people in the world, some one billion, are migrants.*
3. *Top five remittance recipients in current US dollars were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. *Only 1 & 2*
- B. *Only 2 & 3*
- C. ***Only 1 & 3***

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

- **India received 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021, the top remittance recipient, and way ahead of countries like China and Mexico, according to a World Health Organisation report released on Wednesday.**
- **The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants said that today about one in eight people in the world, some one billion, are migrants.**
- **The report by the specialized agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health said that in 2021 the top five remittance recipients in current US dollars were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines, and Egypt.**
- **With USD 87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low- and middle-income countries, as per 2021 estimates, way ahead of China and Mexico's 53 billion dollars, the Philippines (36 billion dollars), and Egypt (33 billion dollars). The United States was the largest source country for remittances in 2020, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and Switzerland. Remittances increase or maintain consumer spending and soften the blow of economic hardship, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic**

Appointment News

122. Recently *Dinesh Gunawardena* took an oath as Prime Minister of _____.

- A. Nepal**
- B. Sri Lanka**
- C. Mauritius**
- D. Bhutan**
- E. None of these**

- **Senior politician *Dinesh Gunawardena* took an oath as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.**
- ***Dinesh Gunawardena* has earlier served as foreign minister and education minister. He was Home Minister in the *Gotabaya Rajapaksa's* government.**

Dinesh Gunawardena sworn in as Sri Lanka PM

Ranil effects no changes in the existing Cabinet

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO
Senior politician and staunch Rajapaksa loyalist *Dinesh Gunawardena* on Friday became the third Prime Minister to lead Sri Lanka in the last three months, amid political turbulence sparked by a worsening economic crisis.

Mr. Gunawardena and an 18-member "continuity Cabinet" was sworn in on Friday morning, in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, who was elected to the country's top office through a parliamentary vote earlier this week. While most Ministers were part of the last Cabinet under former President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, Mr. Wickremesinghe will hold the Defence and Fi-



New team: President Ranil Wickremesinghe greeting PM *Dinesh Gunawardena* in Colombo on Friday. • REUTERS

nance portfolios. Ali Sabry, who was earlier Justice and Finance Minister, will now head the Foreign Affairs Ministry.
Mr. Gunawardena succeeds Mr. Wickremesinghe, who was hand-picked by Mr. Gotabaya for the job in May, after Mahinda Rajapaksa resigned from the post, amid soaring public outrage against the Rajapaksa clan.

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 8

Soldiers raid protest site

A large military contingent, along with police, raided Galle Face in Colombo early on Friday, where protesters have peacefully agitated for over three months. Nine persons, including protesters, journalists and lawyers, were brutally assaulted by soldiers. ► PAGE 11

With \$87 billion, India top remittance recipient in 2021, says UN report

United Nations: India received 87 billion dollars in remittances in 2021, the top remittance recipient, and way ahead of countries like China and Mexico, according to a World Health Organisation report released on Wednesday.

The first WHO World report on the health of refugees and migrants said that today about one in eight people in the world, some one billion, are migrants.

The report by the specialised agency of the United Nations responsible for international public health said that in 2021 the top five remittance recipients in current US dollars were India, China, Mexico, the Philippines and Egypt.

With USD 87 billion, India was the top remittance recipient among low- and middle-income countries, as per 2021 estimates, way ahead of China and Mexico's 53 billion dollars, the Philippines (36 billion dollars) and Egypt (33 billion dollars). The United States was the largest source country for remittances in 2020, followed by the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Switzerland. Remittances increase or maintain consumer spending and soften the blow of economic hardship, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Remittances are expected to continue growing in 2022, but there are challenges, such as the Covid-19 crisis, which still poses one of the greatest risks to flows to low- and middle-income countries, especially as fiscal stimulus programmes in migrant destination countries cannot continue indefinitely," the report said.

It said remittances are an "important and positive" economic result of migration for migrants themselves and for family and friends remaining in their home countries.

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- *The Prime Minister's post was vacant after the resignation of Wickremesinghe.*
- *He is leader of the Mahajana Eksath Peramuna (MEP) party and a supporter of Gotabaya Rajapaksa.*
- *Ranil Wickremesinghe declared a state of emergency as Sri Lanka's economic crisis further deepened. He also demanded a bailout package from the International Monetary Fund.*

123. Recently In July _____ has been appointed as the new head of the ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) the overseas Investment arm of India's top oil and gas producer oil and natural gas (ongc).

- A. **Ranjith Rath**
- B. **Rajarshi Gupta**
- C. **Shrikant Madhav Vaidya**
- D. **Swapnil Pandey**
- E. **None of these**

Rajarshi Gupta is new managing director of ONGC Videsh



New Delhi: Rajarshi Gupta has taken over as managing director of ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL) with effect from 19 July. In a statement, the ONGC subsidiary said that Gupta was recommended for the position by public enterprise selection board (PESB). Gupta has more than 33 years of wide-ranging experience in supervisory, managerial & strategic planning capacities in domestic and international operations of ONGC and ONGC Videsh. **RITURAJ BARUAH**

- *Rajarshi Gupta became the new Managing Director of ONGC Videsh. Rajarshi Gupta's appointment has come into effect on 19 July.*
- *He has taken place of Alok Gupta, who superannuated as ONGC Videsh's MD in June 2022.*
- *Rajarshi Gupta has vast experience in supervisory, managerial, and strategic planning.*
- *Earlier, he served as executive director - chief of corporate strategy and planning in ONGC.*
- *ONGC Videsh Limited: It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of ONGC.*
- *It is a Miniratna Schedule "A" Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE).*
- *It works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas*
- *Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.*

124. Recently Government has formed a Committee on MSP under the chairmanship of former agriculture secretary **Sanjay Agrawal** and made a provision to include _____ members from Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) in the committee.

- A. **3**

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- B. 4
- C. 5
- D. 6
- E. *None of these*

Govt sets up 29-member committee to make MSP effective

Ex-Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal to head panel; 3 members to be added when farmers' unions propose names

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi, July 18

Eight months after announcing the repeal of farm laws, the Centre has set up a 29-member committee, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, that will look into how to make the Minimum Support Price (MSP) more effective and transparent. It will also suggest measures to promote zero-budget natural farming and crop diversifica-

tion to fulfil the changing needs of the country.

In a notification dated July 12 but posted on the website of the on Monday, the Agriculture Ministry said the panel, to be headed by former Agriculture Secretary Sanjay Agrawal, will suggest measures "to make available MSP to farmers by making the system more effective and transparent." However, there is no mention of the timeframe for



Farmers' unions had ended the year-long protest against farm laws after their repeal and had demanded a legal guarantee for MSP

the panel to submit the report.

Farmers' unions had ended the year-long protest against three farm laws after their repeal and had demanded a

legal guarantee for MSP. The panel will study the practicality of giving more autonomy to the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices and suggest measures to make

MSP more scientific. Other tasks of the panel include reforms to the Agricultural Marketing System to ensure farmers get higher value for their produce.

The panel will also suggest programmes and schemes for value chain development and for area expansion under the Indian Natural Farming System. Besides, mapping of existing cropping patterns in agro-ecological zones of producer and consumer States will be done separately so that a system is worked out to ensure remunerative prices for different crops.

- **The government formed a Committee on MSP under the chairmanship of former agriculture secretary Sanjay Agrawal.**
- **The government has made a provision to include three members from Sanyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) in the committee.**
- **The committee will also suggest ways to promote natural farming, crop diversification, and micro-irrigation scheme.**
- **It will also suggest strategies for making Krishi Vigyan Kendras and other Research and Development institutions knowledge centers.**
- **The committee will also recommend ways to make the system more effective and transparent for providing MSP to farmers.**
- **It will also suggest measures to give more autonomy to Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) and to make it more scientific.**
- **The panel will also suggest measures to strengthen the Agricultural Marketing System.**
- **IFFCO Chairman Dilip Sanghani and CNRI General Secretary Binod Anand are also part of the committee.**
- **NITI Aayog member Ramesh Chand, Agricultural Economists CSC Shekhar from the Indian Institute of Economic Development, and Sukhpal Singh from IIM- Ahmedabad are members of this committee.**

125. Who among the following has been appointed as a **whole-time member of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)?**

- A. **Jayanti Prasad**
- B. **Lalit Modi**
- C. **Ravi Mittal**
- D. **Ashish Kumar Chouhan**

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E. None of these

- Jayanti Prasad has been appointed as a Wholetime Member of the IBBI.
- Prasad has been appointed for five years from the date of assumption of charge (July 5, 2022) or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is the earliest.
- Prasad is a 1986 batch Indian Audit & Accounts Service Officer.
- Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) was established on 1 October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- It is responsible for the implementation of the IBC code.
- It is a unique regulator that regulates a profession as well as the process. Its chairperson is Ravi Mittal.

126. Who among the following has been given the additional charge of the West Bengal Governor?

- A. Assam Governor Jagdish Mukhi
- B. Manipur Governor La. Ganesan**
- C. Tripura Governor Satyadev Narayan Arya
- D. Meghalaya Governor Satya Pal Malik
- E. None of these

- Manipur Governor La. Ganesan has been given the additional charge of the West Bengal Governor.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation.
- National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has nominated Jagdeep Dhankhar as the vice presidential candidate.
- Governor La. Ganesan will discharge the functions of the governor of West Bengal from the date he assumes charge of the office until regular arrangements are made.

127. Recently Vineet Saran, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the BCCI's ethics officer and ombudsman. He has replaced whom among the following?

- A. DK Jain**
- B. Vineet Saran
- C. Uday Lalit
- D. Lalit Modi

La. Ganesan sworn in as Bengal Guv.

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

Manipur Governor La. Ganesan on Monday took charge as the Governor of West Bengal. Mr. Ganesan arrived in the State on Monday and was administered oath by Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court Prakash Srivastava at Raj Bhavan in Kolkata.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Assembly Speaker Biman Banerjee and Trinamool Congress leader in Lok Sabha Sudip Banerjee were present at the swearing in.

Mr. Ganesan had assumed additional responsibility of the State's Governor after the resignation of former Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar. Mr. Dhankhar, who has been made the Vice-President nominee by the National Democratic Alliance, resigned from the post on Sunday. His resignation was accepted by President Ram Nath Kovind. On Monday, Mr. Dhankhar filed his nomination papers for the post of Vice-President.

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E. None of these

- Vineet Saran, a former Supreme Court judge, has been appointed as the BCCI's ethics officer and ombudsman.
- Saran replaced Justice (retd) DK Jain, whose term ended in June 2021.
- 65-year-old Saran served as Chief Justice of Odisha High Court as well as judge in Karnataka and Allahabad High Court.
- Earlier, the BCCI had also announced an increase in the pension for both men and women cricketers who have retired from the game.
- Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI): Current President of BCCI: Sourav Ganguly
- Current Secretary of BCCI: Jay Shah, was established in December 1928.

128. Name the former commander of the Army Training Command, who has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

- A. Raj Shukla
- B. Amardeep Singh Bhinder
- C. Yogesh Kumar Joshi
- D. Manoj Pande
- E. None of these

- Lieutenant General Raj Shukla, a former commander of the Army Training Command, has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- The UPSC organizes civil services examinations for the selection of the country's civil servants.

Former SC judge Vineet Saran appointed BCCI ethics officer

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Former Supreme Court judge Vineet Saran has taken over as the BCCI's ethics officer and ombudsman, filling the dual posts lying vacant for a year.

Saran has succeeded Justice (Retd) D K Jain, whose term ended in June last year.

"Honourable Justice Saran's appointment was made last month," a BCCI official told PTI.

Saran, 65, is a former Chief Justice of Odisha High Court, and also served as a judge in Karnataka and Allahabad High Court.

When contacted, Saran, who calls himself a cricket lover, said: "I took charge last month, but I have not passed any order yet."

BCCI media rights, domestic cricket on Apex Council table

After the IPL windfall, the BCCI Apex Council will prepare the ground for the home season media rights (2023 onwards) and a full-fledged domestic season after two years at its meeting on Thursday.

Majority of the Apex Council meetings have been held virtually over the past two years due to COVID-19, but all members are likely to meet in person at the BCCI headquarters in Mumbai.

The 12-point agenda includes "update on the 2022-2023 domestic season, gradation of umpires and media rights for cricket in India".

Current rights holder Star India had paid Rs 6138.1 crore for the 2018-2023 cycle but the figure is set to go much higher considering the massive gains from the IPL media rights which fetched Rs 48390 crore.

"The media rights will be discussed as well as the upcoming domestic season," a the official said. While the Ranji Trophy could not be held for the first time ever in 2021 due to the pandemic, it returned this year in curtailed form with teams getting to play only three league games. With the COVID-19 situation allowing the BCCI to do away with bubble both for international and domestic games, the domestic season is likely to be a full-fledged one.

INDIA

Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Raj Shukla appointed member, UPSC



The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI JULY 18, 2022 22:17 IST
 UPDATED: JULY 18, 2022 22:17 IST

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The army veteran is a vocal supporter of the Agnipath scheme

Retired Army officer Raj Shukla has been appointed as a member of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC), a statement by the commission said.

The army veteran is a vocal supporter of **Agnipath, the short-term recruitment scheme** in the armed forces that was announced on June 14. On June 20, he said in a tweet, "Agnipath is a scheme of talent maximization and combat

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- **Smita Nagaraj, the senior member of the UPSC, administered him the oath of office and secrecy.**
- **The commission now has a chairman and six members after his appointment, but its sanctioned strength is 10.**
- **Shukla was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal on Republic Day 2021 in appreciation of his remarkable service.**

129. Consider the following statement regarding the new President of Sri Lanka.

- 1. Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected as the ninth President in the election held on 20th July.**
- 2. For the first time in 44 years, Sri Lanka's Parliament had directly elected a President**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Ranil Wickremesinghe has been elected as the ninth President in the election held on 20th July.**
- **A total of 223 MPs voted in the election while two MPs abstained from voting.**
- **Ranil Wickremesinghe received 134 votes while Dullas Alahapperume obtained 82 votes.**
- **Ranil Wickremesinghe was serving as acting President after resignation of Gotabaya Rajapakasa.**
- **For the first time in 44 years, Sri Lanka's Parliament had directly elected a President.**
- **The new president will serve the remaining tenure of Rajapaksa till November 2024.**

Ranil Wickremesinghe elected President of crisis-hit Sri Lanka

In 225-member House, he garners support from 134

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

Six-time Prime Minister and Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe was on Wednesday elected President of Sri Lanka – a post he has coveted but never held in his nearly half-century-long political career – amid an extraordinary political crisis set off by the island nation's painful economic crash.

Mr. Wickremesinghe won 134 votes in the 225-member Parliament in a three-way contest. Dullas Alahapperu-



Taking charge: Ranil Wickremesinghe speaking with soldiers outside the Parliament in Colombo on Wednesday. *AFP

ma, a formerly Rajapaksa-aligned, now independent MP, won 82 votes, despite several Independent lawmakers, the main Opposition, and most minority par-

ties, pledging support to him on Tuesday, a day before voting in a secret ballot. The leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna's candidate Anura Kumara Dissanayake won

three votes. Two MPs from the Tamil National People's Front (TNP) abstained.

"The time for division is over," Mr. Wickremesinghe said in his first remarks after clinching Presidency. He urged all political parties to come together to take the country on the path of economic recovery.

This is the third unlikely elevation this year for Mr. Wickremesinghe, 73, who is the United National Party's sole MP – entering not with an election win, but through the national list, based on the party's vote share in the 2020 general elections.

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130. Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah was appointed as the new Prime Minister of _____.

- A. UAE
- B. Kuwait
- C. Iran
- D. Israel
- E. None of these

- Sheikh Mohammed Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah was appointed as the new Prime Minister of Kuwait.
- His appointment came three months after the resignation of Sheikh Sabah Al-Khaled Hamad Al-Sabah.
- He is the fourth son of Sheikh Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah, who ruled Kuwait from 1965 until 1977.
- Earlier, he served as Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Kuwait.
- Since 1985, 11 Kuwaiti governments have resigned and 16 ministers were relieved from their duties.

131. Recently _____ resigned as President of International Hockey Federation (FIH) and also gave up his membership of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

- A. Narinder Batra
- B. Jay Shah
- C. Raja Randhir Singh
- D. Rajeev Mehta
- E. None of these

- Veteran sports administrator Narinder Batra resigned as President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) and also gave up his membership in the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

First in 44 yrs, Lanka Parliament to directly elect President today

PTI ■ COLOMBO

For the first time in 44 years, Sri Lanka's Parliament will directly elect a President on Wednesday in a triangular contest, with last minute political manoeuvring indicating an edge for Dullas Alahapperuma over Acting President Ranil Wickremesinghe after he received crucial backing from the Opposition parties as well as a majority of lawmakers from his parent party.

Wickremesinghe, Alahapperuma and leftist Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) leader Anura Kumara Dissanayake were proposed by lawmakers on Tuesday as the three candidates for the July 20 presidential election to pick the successor to Gotabaya Rajapaksa after he resigned following a popular uprising against his Government for mismanaging the economy that forced him to flee the country.

A majority of members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) party was in favour of nominating

Alahapperuma, a leader of its breakaway faction, for the post of the President and principal Opposition leader Sajith Premadasa as the Prime Minister, Chairman of the SLPP, GL Peiris, said on Tuesday, ahead of Wednesday's presidential election.

Although analysts here believe that 73-year-old Wickremesinghe is in the lead, the evidence of numbers in the 225-assembly don't necessarily suggest it would be plain sailing. Without the ruling SLPP's backing, Wickremesinghe would be a non-starter as he only has his seat in Parliament to be in the reckoning.

Going back to the original parliamentary composition in August 2020, the SLPP number of 145 had seen reversals with 52 of the lawmakers breaking away. The total of 93 later became 97 with 4 lawmakers returning.

Wickremesinghe needs 16 more votes to cross the magical figure of 113 in the 225-member house.

Detailed report on P8

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- *Batra ceased to be President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) when the Delhi High Court, on May 25, struck down the post of 'Life member' in Hockey India, courtesy of which he had contested the IOA elections and won back in 2017.*
- *The Fédération Internationale de Hockey, commonly known by the acronym FIH, is the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey. Its headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.*

132. Consider the following statement regarding the first Khelo India Fencing Women's League.

1. *1st Khelo India Fencing Women's league is scheduled to start on July 25 at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.*
2. *A total of Rs 1.54 Crore has been sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India over the conduct of the league across the three phases.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The 1st Khelo India Fencing Women's league is scheduled to start on July 25 at the Talkatora Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.*
- *To be held over three phases, the first-of-its-kind national fencing competition for women will take place until July 29.*

Bhavani to be part of first Khelo India FWL

NEW DELHI

The first Khelo India Fencing Women's League (FWL) is scheduled to start on July 25 in New Delhi. To be held over three phases, the national fencing competition for women will take place until July 29. Tokyo Olympian **Bhavani** Devi will take part in the league in the Senior Sabre event, representing Tamil Nadu. ANI

FIH accepts Batra's resignation, set to appoint acting president



INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
LAUSANNE, 18 JULY

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) has accepted the resignation of Narinder Batra and decided to appoint acting president until the FIH congress appoints a person to fill the vacancy.

Former Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief Narinder Batra on Monday resigned from the post of International Hockey Federation (FIH) president, thus relinquishing all three top posts - IOA chief, International Olympic Committee (IOC) member and FIH head -- he was holding.

"As stipulated in the FIH Statutes (Article 7.4a), the Executive Board shall appoint an acting President to hold office

until the FIH Congress appoints a person to fill the vacancy'. Therefore, a meeting of the EB will be organised as soon as possible," FIH said in a statement. "In accordance with the same article, the next Presidential elections will take place during the upcoming FIH Congress which is planned to be held virtually on 4 and 5 November this year," it added.

"Any details about the Presidential elections process will be confirmed at a later stage."

In a letter to the executive board of the FIH, based in Lausanne, Switzerland, the 65-year-old businessman-cum-sports administrator, said, "Due to personal reasons, I submit my resignation from the post of president, FIH. Thank you for your support and guidance."

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- *Bhavani Devi will be a participant in the league in the Senior category Sabre event. She is representing the State of Tamil Nadu.*
- *A total of Rs 1.54 Crore has been sanctioned by the Sports Authority of India over the conduct of the league across the three phases. The prize money for each phase has been earmarked at Rs 17.10 Lakh.*
- *The Khelo India Fencing Women's League is yet another endeavor by the Khelo India's Sports for Women component, which takes the most necessary steps to power more female participation in a wide array of sports competitions.*

133. Recently *Seif Ahmed has been appointed as the acting president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) following the resignation of India's Narinder Batra. He hails from which of the following country?*

- A. **Egypt**
- B. Turkey
- C. Italy
- D. Iran
- E. None of these

- *Egypt's Seif Ahmed has been appointed as the acting president of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) following the resignation of India's Narinder Batra.*
- *The FIH said that a permanent successor to Batra is due to be elected in November. The appointment of Ahmed was announced following an FIH Executive Board meeting, which officially accepted Batra's resignation.*
- *The Fédération Internationale de Hockey, commonly known by the acronym FIH, is the international governing body of field hockey and indoor field hockey. Its headquarters are in Lausanne, Switzerland.*

134. Recently *Vodafone Idea has appointed _____ as its chief executive officer with effect from August 19, for three years.*

- A. **Akshaya Moondara**
- B. Ravinder Takkar

FIH appoints Egypt's Seif Ahmed as acting president

PTI ■ LAUSANNE

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) on Wednesday appointed Egypt's Seif Ahmed as its acting president following Indian administrator Narinder Batra's resignation from the post.

Batra on Monday resigned as FIH president and also quit as Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chief. He also gave up his International Olympic Committee (IOC) membership which was directly linked with his IOA position.

In a statement, the FIH said its Executive Board has officially accepted Batra's resignation and unanimously appointed Ahmed as its interim chief till fresh elections are held on November 5 during its two-day virtual Congress.

"...The Members of the Executive Board (EB) of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) have officially accepted the resignation of Dr Narinder Dhruv Batra," the world body said.

Batra became president of FIH in 2016 and reclaimed the position last year for a second term till 2024.

"Unanimously appointed FIH EB Member and President of the African Hockey Federation Seif Ahmed (Egypt) as Acting President until the next Presidential elections.

"...The upcoming FIH Congress will be held virtually, as planned, on 4-5 November 2022, with the Presidential election to take place on 5 November 2022." added.

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- C. Vishwajeet Sen
- D. Rajshree Gupta
- E. None of these

- **Vodafone Idea has appointed Akshaya Moondra as its chief executive officer with effect from August 19, for three years.**
- **The appointment comes in the wake of current CEO Ravinder Takkar's three-year tenure coming to an end on August 18.**
- **Takkar, though will continue to be a non-executive and non-independent director of the company post completion of his term as the MD & CEO.**
- **Vodafone Idea Limited is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership.**
- **Vi or Vodafone Idea Limited is an Indian telecom operator with its headquarters based in Mumbai and Gandhinagar.**

135. Recently **Herbert Diess**, has stepped down as the **CEO** Of which of the following?

- A. Hyundai
- B. IBM
- C. **Volkswagen**
- D. Ford
- E. None of these

- **Herbert Diess, the CEO of the German automaker Volkswagen, is stepping down.**
- **The Wolfsburg, Germany-based company said Diess, who took over as CEO in 2018, will depart on September 1 "by mutual consent" with the board. His contract was set to expire in 2025.**
- **Oliver Blume, who is now CEO of Porsche, will succeed Diess. Volkswagen also said the company's chief financial officer, Arno Antlitz, will become the new chief operating officer.**

Volkswagen CEO Diess to step down



Herbert Diess Reuters file

Vienna: Herbert Diess, the Volkswagen chief executive officer whose image had been tarnished in the fallout from the automaker's emissions-cheating scandal, is stepping down.

In a surprise announcement Friday, the Wolfsburg, Germany-based company said Diess will depart September 1 "by mutual consent" with the board. No reason was given for his departure. Oliver Blume, CEO of VW brand Porsche, will succeed Diess.

Diess took over as chief executive in 2018 and his contract was set to expire in 2025. AP

TELCO GETS NEW HEAD Moondra takes over as Voda chief from Takkar

Mumbai, July 22



Ravinder Takkar

Ravinder Takkar has stepped down as the Managing Director and Chief

Executive Officer of cash-strapped Vodafone Idea. Takkar was appointed by the board on August 19, 2019 for three years, and the term ends on August 18.

Akshaya Moondra, currently the Chief Financial Officer, has been appointed the CEO for three years effective August 19.

OUR BUREAU

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- *Volkswagen is a German motor vehicle manufacturer headquartered in Wolfsburg, Lower Saxony, Germany. Founded in 1937.*

136. Recently **Paytm** has appointed _____ as **CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL)**.

- A. **Nakul Jain**
- B. Pramod Rao
- C. Nitin Chugh
- D. DK Jain
- E. None of these

- *Publicly-listed One97 Communications, the parent entity of Paytm, has hired Standard Chartered Bank executive Nakul Jain as CEO of Paytm Payments Services Ltd (PPSL).*
- *Jain earlier served as managing director of private banking, priority banking, deposits, and branch banking at Standard Chartered Bank.*
- *Alongside, Praveen Sharma, the CEO of Paytm Payments Services, has been moved to lead the company's commerce vertical.*
- *Paytm is an Indian mobile payment and financial services company. It was founded in 2000 by Vijay Shekhar Sharma, who is currently the MD & CEO of the company.*

137. Recently who took charge as **Executive Director in SEBI**?

- A. Nakul Jain
- B. **Pramod Rao**
- C. Nitin Chugh
- D. DK Jain
- E. None of these

- *The SEBI appointed Shri Pramod Rao took charge as Executive Director in SEBI on 15.07.2022. He will handle the Department of Debt and Hybrid Securities (DDHS) and Enquiry and Adjudication Department (EAD).*

Pramod Rao takes charge as Sebi ED



PRAMOD RAO, WHO was group general counsel at ICICI Bank and provided strategic oversight to the legal function of the ICICI group, has been appointed as executive director at Sebi from July 15. He will handle

the Department of Debt and Hybrid Securities and Enquiry and Adjudication Department, Sebi said on Tuesday.

Rao is the second senior hire from ICICI Group after Madhabi Puri Buch, who had joined Sebi as a whole time member in 2017 and took over as chairperson on March 1, 2022. Rao's appointment takes the number of EDs to 11. Earlier this year, it had promoted chief general managers Manoj Kumar and Sunil Kumar to EDs. — FE BUREAU

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- *The Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulatory body for the securities and commodity market in India under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was established on 12 April 1988 and given Statutory Powers on 30 January 1992 through the SEBI Act, 1992.*

138. Recently whom among the following has quit HDFC Asset Management Company Chief Investment Officer after 19 years?

- A. Prashant Jain**
- B. DK Kain**
- C. Nakul Jain**
- D. Pramod Rao**
- E. None of these**

- *HDFC Asset Management Company Chief Investment Officer Prashant Jain, one of the leading fund managers in the mutual fund industry, has quit AMC after 19 years.*
- *Jain was responsible for overseeing total assets under management of Rs 4.12 lakh crore as of June 2022. He was directly managing over Rs one lakh crore assets under four equity schemes of HDFC AMC.*
- *Jain started his career with SBI Caps before moving to the 20th Century Mutual Fund, which was sold to Zurich Mutual Fund in 1998. Zurich MF was later acquired by HDFC Mutual Fund in 2003.*

Prashant Jain quits HDFC AMC after 19 years

ASHLEY COUTINHO
Mumbai, July 22

PRASHANT JAIN, executive director and chief investment officer (CIO) at HDFC AMC, on Friday tendered his resignation after spending 19 years at the firm.

One of the world's longest-serving fund managers, Jain was responsible for overseeing assets under management of over ₹4 trillion as the CIO of the fund house and directly managed about ₹1 trillion under four predominantly equity schemes.

Jain has been managing HDFC Flexi Cap fund since June 2003 and HDFC Top 100 since January 2002, according to data tracker Value Research. These schemes have returned 18.3% and 18.7%, respectively. He has also managed HDFC Balanced Advantage Fund (earlier HDFC Prudence Fund) since February 1994. It is one of the largest equity-oriented funds in India with assets of ₹43,079 crore as of June 30 and has returned 17.8% since inception.

ABTech from IIT Kanpur and management graduate from IIM Bangalore, Jain started his career at SBI Mutual Fund in 1993 before moving to Zurich Asset Management, which was



Schemes managed by Prashant Jain



acquired by HDFC Mutual Fund in June 2003.

Continued on Page 2
■ The poster boy of fund management, Page 22

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Days and Obituary News

139. Every year on _____ *International Justice Day* also known as *World Day for International Justice* is celebrated all around the world.

- A. 16th July
- B. 17th July**
- C. 18th July
- D. 19th July
- E. None of these

- *International Justice Day* is also known as *World Day for International Justice*.
- Every year on July 17, people all around the world celebrate this day.
- *The theme of World Day for International Justice 2022* is “*Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment*”.
- It aims to promote international criminal justice for victims of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.
- It is celebrated to mark the anniversary of the adoption of the Rome Statute Treaty on 17 July 1998.
- In 2002, The International Criminal Court was established under the Rome Statute Treaty.
- At the Rome Statute Review Conference in June 2010, July 17 was adopted as International Justice Day.
- International Criminal Court (ICC): It was established in 2002, It is headquartered in The Hague, Netherlands.

140. Every year on _____ India celebrates *National Broadcasting Day*.

- A. 21st July
- B. 22nd July
- C. 23rd July**
- D. 24th July
- E. None of these

- Every year on July 23, India celebrates *National Broadcasting Day*.
- On this day in 1927, the Indian Broadcasting Company (a private company) started the country's first-ever radio broadcast from the Bombay Station.

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- Under British rule, radio broadcasting in India began in 1922, and the Indian Broadcasting Company (IBC) was granted permission to run two radio stations in 1927.
- The IBC dissolved its operations on 1 March 1930 and the government started the Indian State Broadcasting Service (ISBS) on 1 April 1930.
- Eventually, IBC was renamed All India Radio on June 8, 1936.
- Currently, All India Radio (AIR) is the largest radio network in the world, boasting 479 stations all over India.
- The Motto of All India Radio is 'Bahujan Hitay: Bahujan Sukhay' and its objective is to educate, inform and entertain the public.

141. **International Nelson Mandela Day** is observed every year on _____ in the memory of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

- A. 17th July
- B. 18th July**
- C. 19th July
- D. 20th July
- E. None of these

- International Nelson Mandela Day is observed every year on 18 July in the memory of former South African President Nelson Mandela.
- UN General Assembly adopted 18 July as International Nelson Mandela Day in November 2009.
- The theme of International Nelson Mandela Day 2022 is “do what you can with what you have and where you are”.
- Nelson Mandela is also called Gandhi of South Africa. He considered Mahatma Gandhi as his 'political guru' and a 'role model'.
- He led the anti-apartheid movement in South Africa and was released from jail after 27 years on February 11, 1990.
- He was South Africa's first black President from 1994 to 1999.

142. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared **International Chess Day on 20 July** as an international event in which year?

- A. 2016
- B. 2017
- C. 2018
- D. 2019**

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E. None of these

- *Every year, World Chess Day is observed on 20 July. This year too, World Chess Day will be celebrated, on 20 July 2022. World Chess Day is also known as International Chess Day because it is celebrated globally.*
- *The main reason behind International Chess Day is celebrated on 20 July is because on this date the International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in the year 1924.*
- *FIDE counts almost 199 countries as National Chess Federations which are designated as the affiliate members of the organization.*
- *The official declaration of World Chess Day to be observed on 20 July was made by the UN General Assembly on 12 December 2019.*
- *World Chess Day 2022 will be observed with the theme ' Women in Chess.' The purpose is to encourage people to teach girl children how to play chess and make it as common among women as it is among men.*

143. Every Year **Income Tax Day** being observed on _____ .

- A. 23rd July
- B. 24th July**
- C. 25th July
- D. 22nd July
- E. None of these

- *The Income Tax Day or Aaykar Diwas was introduced in 2010 to commemorate 150 years of this tax in India.*
- *The day is celebrated with several outreach programs and events to promote the payment of taxes and educate potential taxpayers that payment of taxes is the duty of citizens. By paying our taxes on time, we can contribute to the country's progress.*
- *The provision of Income Tax was introduced in India on July 24, 1860, by James Wilson to compensate for the losses incurred by the British regime during World War I. The practice continued for years before a formal structure or department was introduced for managing tax collection, in 1922. The Income-tax Act of 1922 introduced a specific nomenclature to various Income-tax authorities.*
- *Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT): It is a statutory body under the Central Revenue Act, 1963. It is the administrative body of the Income Tax department.*
- *It deals with matters related to levy and collection of direct taxes like personal income tax, corporate tax, etc.*
- *CBDT is headed by Chairman and comprises six members. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.*
- *Current Chairperson: Nitin Gupta*

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144. India celebrates **National Flag Day** every year on _____ as the tricolor was adopted as the national flag of India in 1947 on this day.

- A. 21st July
- B. 22nd July**
- C. 23rd July
- D. 20th July
- E. None of these

- India celebrates National Flag Day every year on July 22, 2022. It was on this day that the tricolor was adopted as the national flag of India in 1947.
- The adoption of the national flag of India was the first thing that was discussed when the members of the Indian Constituent Assembly convened in the Constitution Hall in Delhi on July 22, 1947.
- The motion to adopt the tricolor as the national flag of India was put forward by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urged people to hoist the tricolor at their homes between August 13 and August 15 to strengthen the Har Ghar Tiranga Movement.
- The National Flag of India was designed by Indian freedom fighter Pingali Venkayya. In the initial flag design, Venkayya had drawn a spinning wheel instead of the Ashoka Chakra.
- Mahatma Gandhi first proposed a Tricolour flag to the Indian National Congress in 1921. He had proposed the national flag be inscribed with the spinning wheel on the white strip.
- The Tricolour was hoisted for the first-ever time on April 13, 1923, during a procession in Nagpur in protest of the tragic Jallianwala Bagh Massacre.
- The spinning wheel was replaced by the Ashoka Chakra in the national flag of India by the Constituent Assembly committee formed on June 23, 1947.
- The Indian government modified the Indian flag code on January 26, 2002, allowing people to hoist the national flag over their homes and offices.

145. **World Brain Day** is celebrated every year on _____ to increase public awareness and promote advocacy related to brain health.

- A. 20th July
- B. 21st July
- C. 23rd July
- D. 22nd July**
- E. None of these

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- **World Brain Day is celebrated every year on 22 July to increase public awareness and promote advocacy related to brain health.**
- **The theme for World Brain Day 2022 is “Brain Health for all”.**
- **World Brain Day 2022 campaign will focus on five key messages awareness, prevention, education, and access.**
- **World Brain Day was first observed in the year 2014. On 22 July 2022, WFN is hosting the 9th annual World Brain Day.**
- **The World Federation of Neurology (WFN) was set up on 22 July 1957. It is headquartered in London, UK. It is an association of national neurological societies. Wolfgang Grisold is its President.**

146. Bhupinder Singh, who recently passed was associated with which field?

- A. Actor
- B. Singer**
- C. Politician
- D. Dancer
- E. None of these

Singer-guitarist Bhupinder Singh passes away

His numbers like *Dil Dhoondta Hai* have withstood the test of time

ANUJ KUMAR
NEW DELHI

Eminent singer and guitarist Bhupinder Singh, who gave voice to wounded hearts for years, passed away in Mumbai on Monday evening because of multiple health issues, at the age of 82.

Over the years, Mr. Singh's heavy bass voice captured the weariness of the soul like no other. *Dil Dhoondta Hai* *Phir Wahi Fursat Ke Raat Din* (*Mausam*) remains a trusted balm for heartache. The contemplative ghazal *Kabhi Kisi Ko Muqammal Ja-*

han Nahin Milta (*Ahista Ahista*) continues to make a statement on the incompleteness of life. Not just a versatile singer, the guitar pieces he played for Ustad Vilayat Khan in *Kadambari* stand out.

Born in Amritsar, Mr. Singh grew up in Delhi's West Patel Nagar and was introduced to music by his father Natha Singh, who was also a musician.

After learning guitar, he started working as a casual artist with All India Radio under the guidance of compos-



Bhupinder Singh

er Satish Bhatia. It was Bhatia who introduced Mr. Singh to composer Madan Mohan. The latter called Mr. Singh to Mumbai and offered *Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bhulaya Hoga* in *Haqeeqat*. Like most of his numbers, the song has withstood the test of time.

Soon the news of his proficiency with the Hawaiian, Spanish and electric guitars also spread and he became part of the famed R.D. Burman team. The *Dum Maro Dum* riff, emerged from Mr. Singh's instrument.

"When Dev (Anand) sahib narrated the situation and said 'imagine smoke and clouds of heroin', I started playing a tune on my electric guitar, and R.D. said, 'this is it'," Mr. Singh once told this journalist. Mr. Singh followed it up with an equally impactful *Chingari Koi Bhadke* (*Amar Prem*) and *Chura Liya Hai Tumne* (*Yaadon Ki Baarat*) for R.D. again.

Most of his songs live on because they generate the same emotions as they did in the late 1970s. Being a migrant himself, he could identify with the emotional dilemma expressed in *Ek Akela Is Shehar Mein* (*Gharaonda*) or the urge to embrace life in *Zindagi Zindagi Mere Ghar Aana* (*Dooriyan*).

Mr. Singh also struck a chord with Bappi Lahiri when he sang the irresistible ghazal, *Kisi Nazar Ko Tera Intezar Aaj Bhi Hai* (*Aetbaar*) for him.

In the 1980s, he again focussed on p... 14/18
 bums and with his wife, ...
 tali Mukherjee emerged as a force in ghazal singing.

- **Renowned singer Bhupinder Singh passed away at the age of 82 on July 19, 2022.**
- **Bhupinder Singh was a renowned Ghazal singer and some of his best-known songs included *Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bulaya Hoga*, *Naam gum jayega*, *Dil Dhoondta hai*, *Meethe bol bole*, *Ek akela is Shehar Mein*, *Do diwane Shahar mein*, *Karoge yaad to*, *Kabhi kisi ko mukammal among many others*.**
- **He had sung the song *Hoke Majboor Mujhe Usne Bulaya Hoga* with other veteran singers including Manna Dey, Mohammed Rafi, and Talat Mahmood for Chetan Anand's *Haqeeqat*.**

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- **Bhupinder Singh was born in Amritsar, Punjab. He is credited for introducing Spanish guitar, bass, and drums to the ghazal style.**

Sports Award Books News

147. Consider the following statement regarding chess world title 2023.

- 1. Magnus Carlsen will not defend his chess world title in 2023.**
- 2. GM Ding Liren will face Nepomniachtchi for the world championship.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Magnus Carlsen has confirmed that he will not defend his world chess championship title against Russia’s Ian Nepomniachtchi.**
- **31-year-old Carlsen claimed his fifth world chess crown in Dubai in December 2021 with a crushing 7.5-3.5 victory against Nepomniachtchi.**
- **Meanwhile, Nepomniachtchi won the Candidates Tournament in Madrid and earned the right to play for the world title.**
- **With this development, Candidates runner-up GM Ding Liren will face Nepomniachtchi for the world championship.**
- **The International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, commonly referred to by its French acronym FIDE, is an international organization based in Switzerland that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of international chess competitions.**



Carlsen's roll of honour

- 2004** As a 14-year-old beat the great Anatoly Karpov and drew against Garry Kasparov. Became GM soon after
- 2005** At 15, he became the youngest to qualify for the Candidates tournament
- 2010** In January that year, became youngest to rise to FIDE world No 1
- 2011** Opted out of Candidates to find V Anand's challenger, opposing a direct final spot for the champion.
- 2013** Wins Candidates to challenge Anand.
- World Championships**
 - 2013** Beats Anand to become 2nd youngest world champion at 23—Kasparov was youngest.
 - 2014** Beats Anand in rematch to retain world title
 - 2016** Beats Sergey Karjakin of Russia for 3rd world title
 - 2018** Beats Fabiano Caruana of US for 4th world title
 - 2021** Beats Russia's Ian Nepomniachtchi for world title No 5
 - 2022** Announces won't defend FIDE world title

Carlsen will not defend his World Chess title in 2023

Dhiman Sarkar
dhiman@htlive.com

KOLKATA: It's official. Magnus Carlsen and the world chess championship will be like opposite-coloured bishops now. The greatest player in the world said he has other goals to pursue in chess. Such as being the first human to break the 2900 ratings barrier. The five-time world champion had hinted at not playing the long-drawn, best-of-14-game world championship earlier but it was during a podcast on Tuesday that Carlsen said he wouldn't defend his title in 2023. This would be the first time since 1975 when Bobby Fischer forfeited the contest against Anatoly Karpov that a world champion won't defend the title. 1993 was different because defending champion Garry Kasparov had broken away from FIDE to form a rival organisation. In 1946, Alexander Alekhine died when he was champion; Mikhail Botvinnik became the new champion two years later. As per FIDE rules, Ian Nepomniachtchi will now play world No 2 Ding Liren to decide the new world champion. "I've spoken to people in my team, I've

spoken to FIDE, I spoke to Ian as well. The conclusion is very simple: I'm not motivated to play another match," said Carlsen in the first episode of The Magnus Effect hosted by his friend Magnus Barstad. "I don't have a lot to gain, I don't particularly like it and although I'm sure a match would be interesting for historical reasons, I don't have any inclination to play and I will simply not play the match." He did not rule out a comeback but said, "I also wouldn't count on it either." Carlsen, 31, had doubted whether he would defend the crown soon after beating Nepomniachtchi last December. In the podcast he said he had been thinking about it for "probably a year and a half." At the Candidates, which ended on July 5, Carlsen said he had informed FIDE president Arkady Dvorkovitch and director-general Emil Sutovsky of his decision. "It's been an interesting ride since I decided to play the Candidates, which was on kind of a whim," he said. "I decided it could be interesting and ever since the world title has given me a lot and opened a lot of doors, and I'm happy about that."

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148. Recently _____ was crowned African Player of the Year in Rabat for the second time.

- A. Md Salah
- B. Alexendra Poop
- C. Klara Bhul
- D. Sadio Mane**
- E. None of these



Mane chosen African Player-of-the-Year again
RABAT
 Sadio Mane was crowned African Player-of-the-Year here on Thursday for the second time. The Senegal forward first won the honour in 2019. "I am really honoured and highly delighted to receive this award again," Mane said. He won ahead of former Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah of Egypt and L Edouard Mendy. AFP

- **Sadio Mane was crowned African Player of the Year in Rabat for the second time.**
- **The Senegal forward first won the honor in 2019 while he was at Liverpool.**
- **The 30-year-old left the Premier League club last month after signing a three-year deal with Bayern Munich.**
- **It was the second successive continental player of the year award for Mane after the coronavirus pandemic forced the cancellation of the last two editions.**
- **He won ahead of former Liverpool teammate Mohamed Salah from Egypt and fellow Senegal international and Chelsea goalkeeper Edouard Mendy.**

149. The Durand Cup will be played across five venues across three states. Which of the following state is not on the list of venues?

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

Durand Cup Trophy unveiled

Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma unveiled the Durand Cup trophy in a glittering ceremony at Guwahati on Thursday. The 134-year-old iconic Durand Cup football tournament will



be hosted by the state for the very first time. "I thank the Chief Minister for joining this effort at promoting and spreading the love of the game of football

further in the state," Lt Gen Repswal, Chief of Staff, Eastern Command and Chairman Durand Cup Organising Committee, said.

- **In a first, all eleven Indian Super League (ISL) teams will participate in the Durand Cup, the oldest football tournament in Asia as they vie for the first silverware of a longer Indian football season in the tournament's 131st edition.**
- **The Durand Cup also includes five teams from I-League and four from the Indian armed forces.**
- **The Durand Cup will be played across five venues across three states: West Bengal, Assam, and Manipur. The 20 teams are split into four groups of five with six teams enjoying home advantage in the group stage.**

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- *FC Goa who won the competition last season will look to defend their title and start the Carlos Pena era on a winning note.*
- *The first edition of this prestigious tournament was held in 1888 in Shimla as an Army Cup open only to the British Indian Army troops in India but soon it opened up to civilian teams. After independence, the armed forces continue to be a part of this competition which will stage its 131st edition this year.*

150. Consider the following statement regarding **Commonwealth Games (CWG)**.

1. **Women's Cricket, Basketball 3x3, Wheelchair Basketball 3x3, and Para Table Tennis are among the new sports, which have been added to the 2022 edition of the Commonwealth Games (CWG).**
2. **'Perry the Bull' is the mascot of the Commonwealth Games (CWG).**
3. **The 2022 Commonwealth Games, 22nd edition will be held in Birmingham.**

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 22nd edition of the Commonwealth Games 2022 is scheduled to be held in the British city of Birmingham from July 28 to August 8. A total of 72 countries and territories will be participating in the quadrennial event this time.*
- *Women's Cricket, Basketball 3x3, Wheelchair Basketball 3x3, and Para Table Tennis are among the new sports, which have been added to the 2022 edition of the Commonwealth Games (CWG) and will make their debut at the highly anticipated event.*
- *This will be the third time England will be hosting the prestigious event following the London 1934 and Manchester 2002 Games.*
- *Esports would be also included in the CWG 2022 as a demonstration event and there's a high likelihood of it being added to the Games program in future editions.*
- *The inaugural Commonwealth Esports Championship will have separate branding, medals, and organization and will*

Women's T20, Basketball 3x3 make their debut at CWG 2022

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 23 JULY

Women's Cricket, Basketball 3x3, Wheelchair Basketball 3x3 and Para Table Tennis are among the new sports, which have been added to the 2022 edition of Commonwealth Games (CWG) and will making their debut at the highly anticipated event, scheduled to take place in Birmingham between July 28 and August 8. A total of 72 nations are participating in the upcoming CWG. This will be the third time England will be hosting the prestigious event following the London 1934 and Manchester 2002 Games.

In every edition of CWG, organizers and the committee decide about removing and

adding a few sports. This year the Birmingham 2022 organisers decided to drop archery and shooting and have instead included a few new games.

Basketball 3x3:

Making its CWG debut, this format of the sport is up for some fast paced action and the event will be held at the Smithfield site. A 5x5 version of the game was earlier included twice at the Games, in Melbourne 2006 and Gold Coast 2018.

This time, there will be a total of eight Commonwealth nations, who will be taking part in this 3x3 event- the host, top nation in the FIBA 3x3 Federation Rankings from each of the six Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) regions and the highest-ranked nation not already qualified.

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include both men's and women's Dota 2 (Valve), eFootball (KONAMI), and Rocket League (Psyonix) events.

- Perry was revealed as the mascot for the 2022 Birmingham Games. It is the first mascot at any multi-sport event to be brought to life by AR (Augmented Reality). Perry the bull is described as friendly, kind, and cheeky. The mascot, Perry, is inspired by the design of a 10-year-old girl, named Emma Lou from Bolton.



Perry, the 2022 CWG mascot, at the gates of the Buckingham Palace . Reuters

151. Murali Sreeshankar becomes the first Indian to enter the men's long jump final at World Athletics Championships. He hails from which of the following state?

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

- Murali Sreeshankar becomes first Indian to enter men's long jump final at World Athletics Championships
- In the World Athletics Championships, Murali Sreeshankar has become the first Indian to enter the men's long jump final in Oregon, USA. He leapt 8 meters in the qualification round.
- The 23-year-old from Kerala finished second in qualification round Group B and seventh overall.
- The World Athletics Championships is a congregation of over 2000 athletes from 200 countries around the world.
- Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar failed to live up to the expectations as he finished seventh in the finals with his best effort of 7.96m on day two of the World Athletics Championships.

Sreeshankar finishes seventh

Steeplechaser Parul Chaudhary clocks personal best time

SPORTS BUREAU

National record holder M. Sreeshankar finished seventh with 7.96m in the men's long jump final at the World Athletics Championships at Eugene, USA, on Saturday.

The 23-year-old, who has a personal best of 8.36m which came in the Federation Cup at Malappuram in early April, opened his series with 7.96m but could not better it in his other two legal jumps (fourth jump 7.89, sixth 7.83).

Performance-wise, it was the weakest long jump final at the Worlds in nearly 20 years and was packed with surprises.

Switzerland's Simon Ehammer, this year's outdoor world leader with 8.45m, took the bronze with just 8.16m.

China's Asian Games champion Jianan Wang shocked Greece's Olympic gold medalist Miltiadis Tentoglou, who had a consistent series, to grab the gold with a season-best 8.36m in the last round.

Sweden's Thobias Montler (7.81m), last year's Diamond League champion and

China's Asian Games champion Jianan Wang shocked Greece's Olympic gold medalist Miltiadis Tentoglou to grab the long jump gold

Performance-wise, it was the weakest long jump final at the Worlds in nearly 20 years

the indoor Worlds silver medalist in February, and Japan's Asian champion Yuki Hashioka (7.86m), who was sixth in last year's Tokyo Olympic Games, failed to even progress to the top eight.

Parul Chaudhary clocked a personal best 9:38.09s while finishing 12th in her

heat (31st overall) in the women's 3000m steeplechase, but that was not enough to carry her to the final.

Jabir seventh

And M.P. Jabir was seventh in his men's 400m hurdles heat (31st overall out of 35 finishers) and failed to progress to the semifinal.



Best effort: Sreeshankar competes in the long jump final. • AFP

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- *The 2022 World Athletics Championships, the eighteenth edition of the World Athletics Championships, are currently being held at Hayward Field in Eugene, Oregon, United States, from July 15–24, 2022.*
- *The local organizing committee for the World Athletics Championships Oregon22 announced Legend the Bigfoot as the official mascot for this summer’s event.*



152. Recently _____ will be replace Paytm as title sponsor for international cricket at home .

- A. **Mastercard**
- B. Byjus
- C. Unacademy
- D. Rupay
- E. None of these

- *The mobile payments and the financial services company Paytm have expressed to withdraw themselves to remain the BCCI’s official title sponsor till 2023 and in tandem have asked BCCI to transfer the rights to a third party which is none other than the “Mastercard”.*
- *On the other hand, the jersey sponsor and the ed. tech giant, Byju’s have agreed to the extension of their partnership till the end of 2023 which will include the ICC 2023 world cup with a 10 percent increment.*
- *Mastercard Inc. is an American multinational financial services corporation headquartered in the Mastercard International Global Headquarters in Purchase, New York. The Global Operations Headquarters is located in O’Fallon, Missouri, a municipality of St. Charles County, Missouri.*

153. Who is the author of the book titled " *The Light We Carry* " ?

PAYTM BACKS OUT OF BCCI CONTRACT, MASTERCARD NEW TITLE SPONSOR

Rasesh Mandani

rasesh.mandani@htlive.com

MUMBAI: Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)’s long-standing title sponsor for international cricket at home—Paytm is backing out from the deal and will be replaced by Mastercard. Paytm held the rights till the end of 2023. The tripartite deal is similar to how Byju’s took over BCCI jersey rights from Oppo.

“Mastercard will be coming on board on the same terms,” a BCCI official said. Paytm had been shelling out ₹326.8 crore for the four-year cycle commencing October 2019, which translated to ₹3.8 crores per match. The dues of jersey sponsors Byju’s—their contract was recently extended till 2023 ODI WC—amounting to ₹86.21 crore were also discussed.

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- A. Michelle Obama
- B. Donald Trump
- C. Ivanka Trump
- D. Barack Obama
- E. None of these

- Michelle Obama’s 2018 memoir, “Becoming,” was one of the best-selling books of all time, with more than 17 million copies sold worldwide. Now she has a new book coming out this fall.
- The book, called “The Light We Carry,” to be published on Nov. 15, is about staying positive in challenging times.
- The Light We Carry” will include some of Mrs. Obama’s approaches to those challenges, which include taking the high road, and encouragement for readers to work through their fear and find strength in community.
- Like her memoir, “Becoming,” it will be published by Crown, an imprint of Penguin Random House.

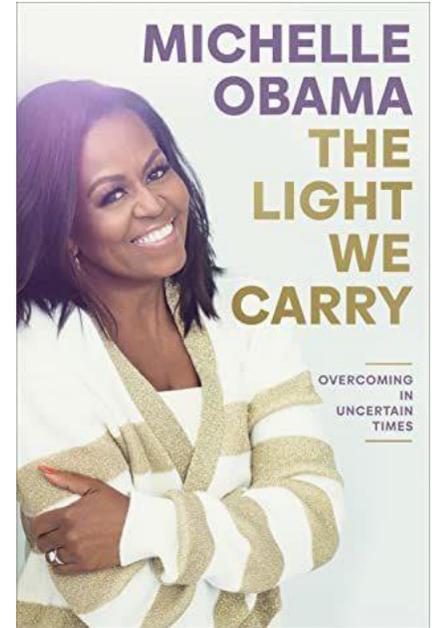
Michelle Obama’s book comes this fall

ASSOCIATED PRESS
NEW YORK

Michelle Obama will have a book out this fall, “The Light We Carry,” in which she reflects upon her experiences and shares insights on navigating an increasingly stressful world.

It is the former United States First Lady’s first new work since the 2018 release of her acclaimed blockbuster “Becoming,” which has sold more than 17 million copies worldwide, surpassing the sales of any memoir by a previous first lady or modern president, including Barack Obama.

Crown will publish the 336-page book on November 15, a first printing of 2.75 million copies for the U.S. and Canada. “The Light We Carry: Overcoming in Uncertain Times” will come out simultaneously in 14 languages and 27 countries, with additional rights deals expected.



154. PV Sindhu has recently won the Women's Single title of the Singapore Open by defeating Wang Zhi Yi. Wang Zhi Yi is a badminton player in which of the following countries?

- A. China
- B. Japan
- C. Singapore
- D. Malaysia
- E. None of these

- PV Sindhu has won the Women's Single title of the Singapore Open.
- PV Sindhu defeated Wang Zhi Yi of China and won her maiden title in Singapore Open.



Moment to cherish: Sindhu has great company in celebrating her triumph. — SINGAPORE BADMINTON ASSOCIATION

Sindhu conquers Singapore

It is the Indian shuttler's third trophy of the 2022 season

SINGAPORE OPEN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

Double Olympic medalist P.V. Sindhu lifted the Singapore Open Super 500 trophy by defeating China's Wang Zhi Yi in an intense women's singles final here on Sunday.

In an error-filled clash, Sindhu managed to stay strong in the key moments to come up trumps against the 22-year-old Wang. The final score read 21-9, 11-21, 21-15.

Sindhu came into the match with a 1-0 head-to-head, having beaten the Chinese in their only meeting at the All England this year.

Fighting the drift With the drift in the ball making life difficult for the shuttlers, Sindhu managed to limit unforced errors and keep her nerve to emerge victorious.

After losing the first two points, Sindhu played some superb angled returns, and produced winner after winner to stay ahead all the way.

I am very happy because after a long time coming here to Singapore and winning this means a lot to me.

Playing against the drift allowed the Indian to go for her aces even as Wang hit wide and long.

The second game, however, turned into a forgettable affair for Sindhu as Wang, now on the better side of the court, displayed her prowess. The Chinese was soon up 11-3 after Sindhu repeatedly sent the shuttle long.

Sindhu tried to use the spinning net shot and use the gears on the court, but points eluded her. Wang grabbed a massive 10 game-points and converted on the second attempt.

The match came alive in the decider. While Wang seemed charged up initially, Sindhu was patient and marked up a five-point advantage at the interval with a superb cross-court smash from the deep forehand corner.

Back to the better side after the final change of ends, Wang reduced the deficit to 11-12. Sindhu, however, held on even as Wang played some superb drops and hold-and-disguise pushes.

Sindhu soon was on five match-points and threw her arms up in celebration as Wang hit long.

Glinting wins title Later, Indonesia's Anthony Ginting ended his two-year title drought by beating Japan's Kodai Naraoka 23-21, 21-17 in the men's final.

ANI adds

President, PM's kudos President Ram Nath Kovind and Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated Sindhu on her victory.

"I congratulate @pvstndh but on winning her first ever Singapore Open title. She has yet again demonstrated her exceptional sporting talent and achieved success. It is a proud moment for the country and will also give inspiration to upcoming players," tweeted Modi.

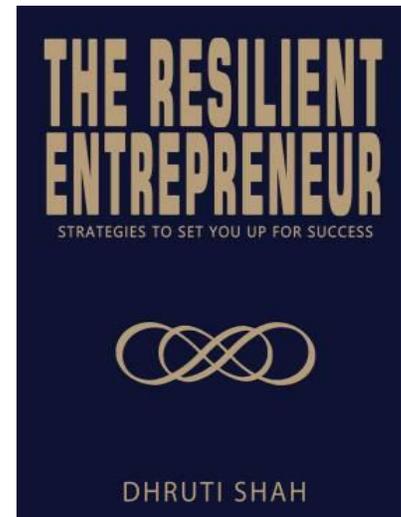
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- *This is her third title this year. She earlier won Korea Open and Swiss Open.*
- *PV Sindhu won the first Super 500 title of her career when she defeated Wang Zhi Yi of China.*

155. Who is the author of the book titled “The Resilient Entrepreneur”?

- A. Swati Sinha
- B. Dhruvi Shah**
- C. Raajshree Gupta
- D. Sonam Raj
- E. None of these

- *The Resilient Entrepreneur written by Dhruvi Shah was launched globally in the presence of entrepreneurs from Singapore, India, and the United States.*
- *The book is published by Ocean Reeve Publishing. The book will be available at bookstores everywhere, and online on Amazon, Flipkart, and book zone. in.*
- *The catalogue of this book is available in the National Library of Australia.*



156. *Diya Mirza and Afroz Sha have been presented the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for the year 2021 by the Governor of which state?*

- A. Madhya Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Telangana
- D. Maharashtra**
- E. None of these

- *Maharashtra Governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari presented the Mother Teresa Memorial Award for 2021 to actor and*

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UN Goodwill Ambassador for Environment Dia Mirza and 'UN Champion of the Earth' awardee Afroz Shah.

- *The awards instituted by the Harmony Foundation were presented to Dia Mirza and Afroz Shah in recognition of their outstanding work for the protection of the environment.*
- *Mr. Afroz Shah was awarded for his impeccable and seminal efforts to lead one of the world's largest beach clean-up movements in India that have inspired people around the world.*

157. Consider the following statement regarding the 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games.

- 1. The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States.**
- 2. Los Angeles has previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The 2028 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games will be hosted in Los Angeles, United States.*
- *The opening ceremony for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics will take place on July 14, 2028, and continue till July 30.*
- *However, Los Angeles has previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932.*
- *The LA28 Games will feature more than 3,000 hours of live sport across 800 events in more than 40 sports.*
- *It must be noted that the 2024 Summer Olympic Games will be held in Paris, France.*



Los Angeles Olympics to begin July 14, 2028

AP ■ LOS ANGELES

The 2028 Los Angeles Olympics kicked off a six-year countdown with the announcement of the dates for the Games' return to the city.

The opening ceremony will be July 14. Competition will run through July 30. The Paralympic Games will be Aug. 15-27.

"This milestone makes the games real for every athlete actively training for their LA28 dream and the fans who follow the journey," said LA chief athlete officer Janet Evans, a five-time Olympic medalist swimmer.

Los Angeles previously hosted the Olympics in 1984 and 1932.

International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach was on hand for the announcement. He visited future venues and met with LA28 leadership.

"I have been really impressed by the progress and creativity of the LA28 team," Bach said.

"They are using the power of the Olympic Games to inspire young people to get involved in sport."

The Games will use existing stadiums and venues across the region. The organizing committee said 15,000 athletes are expected to compete in both the Olympic and Paralympic games.

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158. Consider the following statement regarding the 68th National Film Awards.

1. Madhya Pradesh won the Most Film-Friendly State award.
2. Best Actor award has gone to Ajay Devhan for *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* and Suriya for *Soorarai Pottru*.
3. Aparna Balamurali has won the Best Actor Female award for *Soorarai Pottru*.

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 68th National Film Awards Best Actor award has gone to Ajay Devhan for *Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior* and Suriya for *Soorarai Pottru*, while Aparna Balamurali won the Best Actor Female award for *Soorarai Pottru*. *Soorarai Pottru*, written and directed by Sudha Kongara, has won the Best Feature Film Award as well at the 68th National Film Awards.
- The 68th National Film Award for Best Director has been awarded to Sachy posthumously for the 2020 Malayalam film *Ayyappanum Koshiyum*.

Soorarai Pottru, Tanhaji win big at National Film Awards

Suriya shares Best Actor award with Ajay Devgn; Aparna Balamurali named Best Actress

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 22

Tamil drama film *Soorarai Pottru* won big at the 68th edition of the National Film Awards for the year 2020.

The Suriya-starrer, directed by Sudha Kongara, bagged the coveted Best Feature Film, Best Actor and Best Actress awards.

Actor Suriya shared the Best Actor award with Ajay Devgn. *Soorarai Pottru*'s leading lady Aparna Balamurali walked



A still from Ajay Devgn-starrer *Tanhaji*



Flying high *Soorarai Potru*, starring Suriya and Aparna Balamurali, was loosely based on the life of Air Deccan's Capt Gopinath

away with the Best Actress Award. The movie – loosely based on the life of Air Deccan founder Capt Gopinath – also bagged Best Music Direction (Background Score) and Best Screenplay (Original) awards.

The Tamil drama film had a direct digital release on Amazon Prime Video after operations of cinemas in the country were disrupted due to the first pandemic wave.

Recognition for Tanhaji Devgn bagged the Best Actor award for his film *Tanhaji: The*

award for feisty tribal folk singer Nanchamma.

The Best Male Playback Singer award went to Rahul Deshpande for *Mi Vasanttrao* (Marathi). *Testimony of Ana* (Dangi), produced and directed by Sachin Dheeraj Mundigonda, was adjudged the Best Non-Feature Film. Madhya Pradesh won the Most Film Friendly State Award, while Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh got Special Mention.

A difficult year

Congratulating the winners, Information & Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur said that 2020 was a particularly difficult year for the movie industry due to the Covid pandemic yet the nominations consisted of great works.

The jury comprised eminent film makers and personalities from across the Indian cine-world, the statement added. While Vipul Shah was Chairperson of Feature Film Jury, Chitrartha Singh was Chairperson of the Non-feature Jury.

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- **The 68th National Film Award for Best Music Direction has gone to Vishal Bhardwaj for '1232 Kilometers Mareng To Wahin Jaakar' and Best film on Social Issues to 'Justice Delayed but Delivered' & Three Sisters.**
- **Best Hindi film - Toolsidas Junior**
- **Best Feature Film - Soorarai Pottru**
- **Best Popular Film - Tanhaji: The Unsung Warrior**
- **Best Non-Feature Film - Testimony of Ana**
- **Best Music Direction - Vishal Bhardwaj ('1232 Kilometers Mareng To Wahin Jaakar')**
- **Best film on Social Issues award - 'Justice Delayed but Delivered' and 'Three Sisters'**
- **Best Female Playback Singer - Nanchamma (film: AK Ayyappanum Koshiyum)**
- **Best Male Playback Singer - Rahul Deshpande (Film: Mi Vasantrao)**

159. Consider the following statement regarding **FIH Women's Hockey World Cup 2022**.

1. The **Netherlands retained the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup in style by beating Argentina 3-1 in the final.**
2. **India Finish 9th at FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 after a 3-1 Win over Japan.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **The Netherlands retained the FIH Women's Hockey World Cup in style by beating Argentina 3-1 in the final.**
- **Heading into the fifteenth edition of the World Cup, the Netherlands were the reigning champions and had won more women's World Cups than any other nation.**
- **The Netherlands has now won nine out of the fifteen FIH Women's Hockey World Cup titles which have been contested so far.**
- **With the victory over Argentina in 2022, the Netherlands has won nine Hockey World Cup titles.**
- **India Finish 9th at FIH Hockey Women's World Cup 2022 after a 3-1 Win over Japan**

Indian women finish ninth

Navneet scores two in the 3-1 comeback win over Japan

HOCKEY WC

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 TERASSA (SPAIN)
 Navneet Kaur scored a brace as the Indian women's hockey team beat Japan 3-1 to finish ninth in the FIH World Cup here on Wednesday.

Navneet scored two field goals in the 30th and 45th minutes, while Deep Grace Ekka sounded the board, from a set piece in the 38th minute, in the classification match here. Japan's goal had come from the stick of Yu Asai in the 20th minute.

After a close tussle in the first five minutes, India got a big chance to take the lead but Vandana Katariya's effort from close range was saved by Japanese goalkeeper Eika Nakamura.

India made a good start in the second quarter and got a couple of chances within a span of two minutes but goals eluded the Savita-led side.

Japan took the lead in the



On target: Navneet slotted in two field goals. •FIH

20th minute when Yu Asai converted a penalty corner.

India drew parity at the stroke of the half time when Navneet found the board from a field effort.

India started on the front foot after the change of ends and earned its sixth penalty corner of the match but that also was wasted.

India got another penalty corner and Ekka scored to

hand her side the lead eight minutes into the second half.

In the third quarter, Sharmila Devi's goal was disallowed as the ball hit her body before Navneet made it a two-goal at the end of 16/18

The results:
 India 3 (Navneet Kaur 30, 45, Deep Grace Ekka 30) bt Japan 1 (Yu Asai 20).

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- *Indian women’s hockey team picked up a 3-1 win over Japan in the 9-12th placings match of the FIH Hockey Women’s World Cup Spain & Netherlands 2022 at Estadi Olímpic de Terrassa, Spain.*



160. Recently _____ has been selected as the host city for the 2025 World Athletics Championships, a day before this year’s event begins in Eugene, Oregon a year later than planned due to COVID-19.

- A. Osaka
- B. Hongzhou
- C. Tokyo**
- D. Birmingham
- E. None of these

- *Tokyo, the capital city of Japan will host the 2025 World Athletics Championships.*
- *This was decided by the World Athletics Council during its meeting in Oregon, United States on July 14, 2022.*
- *The 2024 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Medulin and Pula in Croatia and the 2026 World Athletics Cross Country Championships will be held in Tallahassee, Florida.*

161. The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced that China will host the postponed _____ edition of the Asian Games in Hangzhou in September 2023.

- A. 18th
- B. 20th
- C. 19th**
- D. 21st

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E. None of these

- **The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) announced on July 19, 2022, that China will host the postponed 19th edition of the Asian Games in September 2023.**
- **The Asian Games will be held in Hangzhou, China from September 23- October 8, 2023. The new dates were chosen to avoid "conflict with other major international sporting events".**
- **The Asian Games edition was originally scheduled to be held in Hangzhou from September 10-25, 2022. The Games were postponed by the OCA Executive Board (EB) on May 6, 2022.**
- **Hangzhou is around 200 kilometers from China's largest city Shanghai, which was under a months-long lockdown at the beginning of the year.**

China to host Asian Games in Sept 2023

AGENCIES
 BEIJING, 19 JULY

The 2022 Asian Games, which were postponed due to the prevailing Covid-19 situation in China, will now take place in Hangzhou from September 23 to October 8, 2023.

The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) took the decision on the new dates on Tuesday in Kuwait.

A statement issued by OCA and confirmed by Chinese news agency Xinhua said, "The 19th Asian Games was originally planned to be held in Hangzhou from 10th to 25th of September 2022, however due to the COVID 19 global pandemic the Games were postponed by the OCA Executive Board (EB) on 6th



of May 2022 and a 'Task Force' was created by the EB to finalise the new dates for the Games.

"The Task Force over the last two months held various discussions with the Chinese Olympic Committee, Hangzhou Asian Games Organising Committee (HAGOC) and other stakeholders to find a window for the Games which did not conflict with other major international sporting events. The recommended dates by the Task Force were duly approved by the OCA EB

(Executive Board)," said the statement.

"The OCA thanks HAGOC, the Chinese Olympic Committee, as well as the Governments at all levels for their hard work in preparing for the Games during the pandemic and ensuring they can take place next year. The OCA would also like to express its appreciation for the patience shown by the National Olympic Committees and International Federation/Asian Federations and other stakeholders," it added.

The OCA said it is looking forward to celebrating the "best Asian Games ever in Hangzhou in September 2023." Interestingly, the 2024 Paris Olympic Games will take place less than 10 months after the Asian Games

162. Recently the owners of the Indian Premier League have bought all six franchises of _____ new T20 league.

- A. Australia
- B. UAE
- C. South Africa**
- D. West Indies
- E. None of these

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GOING GLOBAL: INDIAN PREMIER LEAGUE TEAMS WIN ALL FRANCHISES IN SOUTH AFRICA

IPL team owners score a ‘six’ in SA’s T20 league

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, July 20

WHEN THE INDIAN Premier League (IPL) was launched in 2008, connoisseurs of the game wrote it off as plain “entertainment”. Fourteen years on, the Twenty20 league, which counts Bollywood actors and industrialists among franchise owners, is a phenomenon in its own right with almost every team owner now looking at the “property” as a “model” for a globally scalable business.

In the most recent step in this direction, IPL team owners have scooped up all six franchises of South Africa’s new domestic T20 league, scheduled to get underway in January next year. Mumbai Indians, Chennai

This time for Africa: WHO GOT WHAT



Super Kings, Lucknow Super Giants, Sunrisers Hyderabad, Rajasthan Royals and Delhi Capitals were the giant killers.

Reliance Industries, which owns IPL’s most successful team Mumbai Indians, bought the Newlands franchise of the league; JSW Sports, which owns Delhi Capitals, bagged Pretoria, while the owners of Chennai Super Kings purchased the Johannesburg franchise. CSK CEO KS Viswanathan said: “We have been evaluating new opportunities across the globe over the past few years. We felt this T20 league in South Africa will be highly competitive and it is a great opportunity for us to give back to the sport. It would also help us spot new talent.”

Among others, the owners of Rajasthan Royals have picked up

the Paarl franchise; the Sun TV Group, which owns the Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) franchise, has snapped up the Gqeberha (formerly Port Elizabeth) franchise. The RP Sanjeev Goenka group has successfully bid for Durban after buying the Lucknow Super Giants (LSG) franchise last year for a staggering ₹7,090 crore.

“The format of the IPL is such it’s not one country’s game, it’s gone past that, which is also the reason for its immense popularity. Plus the franchisees are flush with funds so they have the wherewithal to invest in a new league/ country,” said Amit Adarkar, CEO, Ipsos India. “On the other hand, South Africa is a potentially big consumer market and it has a huge Indian diaspora. Put the two together and it’s a tremendous business opportunity for franchisees and brands to ‘expand’ their market,” he added.

“What we are seeing is a form of real estate grab,” said Rediffusion managing director Sandeep Goyal. “We in India play only one game unlike the US or even Australia or New Zealand. So we feel we own that real estate and we must grab more of that real estate wherever available. At the end of the day ... the costs and overheads are low and the returns are huge.”

Continued on Page 12

- **The owners of the Indian Premier League have bought all six franchises of South Africa's new T20 league. This was informed by Cricket South Africa (CSA) on July 20, 2022.**
- **While Reliance Industries Limited, which owns Mumbai Indians have bought the Newlands franchise of the SA T20 league, the CSK owners have purchased the Johannesburg franchise and Delhi Capitals owners have bought Pretoria.**
- **Lucknow Super Giants owners have bought Durba, Sunrisers Hyderabad owners have bought Gqeberha, and Rajasthan Royals owners have bought Paarl franchises.**

163. Consider the following books that were released in July on the president. Which of the following is not on the list?

- A. Moods, Moments, and Memories
- B. The First Citizen
- C. Interpreting Geometries – Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan
- D. President: The Leader
- E. None of these

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- **Books highlighting some of the rarest photographs of President Ram Nath Kovind and former presidents of the country will be released during a function at Rashtrapati Bhavan on July 24**
- **Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will release three books during the function that will be attended by outgoing President Kovind, President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi among others.**
- **Two books -- ‘Moods, Moments and Memories...’, that has a visual history of former presidents of India from 1950-2017, and the other titled ‘The First Citizen’, has a pictorial record of President Kovind’s term.**
- **The third book ‘Interpreting Geometries – Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan’, is a unique repository of flooring patterns designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the abode of the Viceroy of India in 1912 (a project that lasted until 1929).**
- **Kovind, who was sworn in as the 14th President of India on July 25, 2017, completes his five-year term on Sunday. Droupadi Murmu will be sworn in as the 15th President of the Republic.**

164. Who among the following won the gold medal in the men’s skeet event at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, South Korea?

- A. Rahul Srivastava
- B. Lakshya Sen
- C. Mairaj Ahmad Khan**
- D. Pranav Prashant Desai
- E. None of these

- **In Shooting, Mairaj Ahmad Khan won the gold medal in the men’s skeet event at the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, South Korea.**
- **Mairaj Ahmad Khan has become the first Indian shooter to win**

Books on ex-Presidents, Kovind to be out today

Less formal aspects to be highlighted

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

Books highlighting some of the rarest photographs of President Ram Nath Kovind and former Presidents will be released during a function at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Sunday, an official said on Saturday.

Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur will release three books.

Mr. Kovind, President-elect Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be present, the official said.

Visual history

Moods, Moments and Memories is a visual history of former Presidents from 1950 to 2017, and *The First Citizen* has pictorial record of President Kovind’s term, he said.

Interpreting Geometries – Flooring of Rashtrapati Bhavan is a unique repository of flooring patterns designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for the abode of the Viceroy of India in 1912 (a project that lasted until 1929).

Mr. Kovind, who was sworn in as the 14th President of India on July 25, 2017, completes his five-year term on Sunday. Droupadi Murmu will be sworn in as the 15th President on Monday.

President Kovind, in his

efforts to further open up the Rashtrapati Bhavan to the people of India, wishes to share the visual history of the building with them, and the publication *Moods, Moments and Memories...* is a part of that mission, the official said.

“The photo archive offers such glimpses of the former presidents that make them more human, and enrich their portrayal in the nation’s collective memory; these are chapters in a pictorial history, capturing myriad moods, moments and memories of the presidency,” reads the introduction of the book.

The images bring out less-known aspects of the Presidential persona that take a back seat on ceremonial occasions, it said.

Informal facets

“When we think of past Presidents, images that come to mind are from ceremonial functions. That is of course the most important facet of their role, but there are bound to be other facets, for example, spending quality time with family, playing golf or reading in the library. Thus came the idea of exploring the less formal aspects of our former Presidents,” said the Delhi-based journalist Ashish Upendra Mehta, who did research and photo selection for the books.

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the gold medal in the men’s skeet event at ISSF World Cup.

- **South Korea’s Minsu Kim won the silver medal while Ben Llewellyn of Great Britain won the bronze medal.**
- **India also won a bronze in the women’s 50m rifle 3 positions team event.**
- **Anjum Moudgil won individual silver. She combined Sift Kaur Samra and Ashi Chouksey to win the bronze medal.**

Mairaj Khan wins historic skeet gold

ISSF WORLD CUP

PTI / Changwon

Veteran Indian shooter **Mairaj Ahmed Khan** on Monday created history by winning the country’s first-ever ISSF World Cup gold medal in men’s skeet.

In the 40-shot final, the 46-year-old from Uttar Pradesh shot 37 to finish ahead of Korea’s Minsu Kim (36) and Britain’s Ben Llewellyn (26), who won the silver and bronze respectively.

The shooter shot 119/125 over two days of qualifying before coming through in a five-way shoot-off en route his maiden individual gold.

The two-time Olympian, who is the oldest member of the Indian contingent in Changwon this year, had won a silver at the 2016 World Cup in Rio de Janeiro.

Earlier in the day, the trio of



Anjum Moudgil, Ashi Chouksey, and Sift Kaur Samra won bronze in the women’s 50m rifle 3P team event.

The Indians outplayed the Austrian team of Sheileen Waibel, Nadine Ungerank, and Rebecca Koeck 16-6 in the bronze medal match to comfortably secure a podium finish.

But the day undoubtedly belonged to Khan. After finishing with 119, he found himself vying for two final qualification spots along with four others, including two-time Olympic medalist Abdullah Al Rashidi of Kuwait.

When Shotaro Toguchi of Japan missed his eighth shoot-off shot, he was assured of a top-eight spot.

In the ranking round he was up against German Sven Korte, Korean Minki Cho and Cypriot Nicolas Vasilou for another round of 30 targets. He topped the round with 27 hits as Sven followed him to the medal round with 25 hits.

In other results, Vijayveer Sidhu made the ranking round but failed to advance to the medal rounds while Anish and Sameer could not cross the first hurdle in the men’s 25m rapid fire pistol.

It, Mumbai-400 021. Tel: 69028000. Advt. Dept. 69028026. E-mail: mail@ipj.co.in • OFFICE: Indore: 3/54, Press Complex, A. B. Road, Indore-sportation charges Rs. 2.00 only. Managing Editor: Giridharlal Lakhota. Editor: S. S. DHAWAN. Reg. No. MCS/048/2021-23; RNI N

165. Consider the following statement regarding the 36th National games.

1. **Indian Olympic Association, Gujarat Government, and Gujarat Olympic Association signed MOU to launch the logo of the 36th National games.**
2. **The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced that the National Games Gujarat 2022, will see a total of 36 sports with the theme ‘Sports for Unity’.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Gujarat chief minister Bhupendra Patel launched the logo of the 36th National games along with the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) between the Indian Olympic Association, Gujarat Government, and Gujarat Olympic Association.**
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s Statue of Unity and Gir’s Asiatic lion can**

Thirty-six sports in National Games

The 36th edition will be held in Gujarat from September

GENERAL

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT KOLKATA

The 36th National Games, to be held across six cities in Gujarat from September 27 to October 10, will have 36 disciplines including indigenous sports mallakhamba and yogasana.

According to a release on Wednesday, the Games will have the following disciplines: aquatics, archery, athletics, badminton, basketball, boxing, canoeing and kayaking, cycling, fencing, football, gymnastics, golf, handball, hockey, judo,

kabaddi, kho-kho, lawn bowl, mallakhamba, netball, roller skating, rowing, rugby 7s, shooting, soft ball, soft tennis, squash, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, triathlon, volleyball, weightlifting, wrestling, wushu and yoga-sana. There were 33 sports on the roster of the 35th Games in Kerala in 2015.

The Games, which will be held in Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar, will witness the participation of 28 States and eight Union Territories and will seek to promote the theme, ‘Sports for Unity.’

“These are going to be the

- Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot and Bhavnagar will host the events

best-ever National Games by far. The Gujarat Government, their State Olympic Association and other officials are already working day and night to make the Games a spectacle for the fans. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) will stand steadfastly by them to ensure proper coordination in technical matters and sharing of experience and expertise,” said IOA secretary-general Rajeev Mehta.

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be seen in the logo of the National Games. The Games, covering 6 cities- Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar, will take place from September 27 to October 10 in Gujarat.

- *Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel’s Statue of Unity and Gir’s Asiatic lion can be seen in the logo of the National Games. The Games, covering 6 cities- Gandhinagar, Ahmedabad, Surat, Vadodara, Rajkot, and Bhavnagar, will take place from September 27 to October 10 in Gujarat.*
- *In the previous 35th Games in Kerala, there were 33 sports on the roster. In another first and continuing with the country’s push towards promoting indigenous sports as seen in the recently concluded Khelo India Youth Games, Mallakhamba and Yogasana have been included in the schedule.*

166. Recently _____ *became the youngest Indian to breach the 2700-mark and the third youngest --- after Wei Yi and Alireza Firouzja---* to achieve the feat.

- A. R Praggnanandhaa
- B. D. Gukesh**
- C. Nihal Sarin
- D. Arjun Erigaisi
- E. None of these

- *Dommaraju Gukesh became only the sixth Indian to cross the 2700-rating barrier, on Saturday. He is now the youngest Indian Grandmaster ever to be rated above 2700 in chess.*
- *D Gukesh, India’s youngest Grandmaster, is in the middle of a golden run. The 16-year-old has already pocketed four titles this year and on*

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Saturday night, Gukesh crossed the 2700 ELO barrier in live ratings after registering a superb win over Vietnam GM Le Quang Liam at the Biel Chess Festival.

- **Gukesh is the youngest Indian to breach the 2700-mark and the third youngest --- after Wei Yi and Alireza Firouzja--- to achieve the feat.**
- **The other Indians to be rated above 2700 in chess before Gukesh includes former World Champion Viswanathan Anand, Pentala Harikrishna, Vidit Gujarathi, Krishnan Sasikiran, and Baskaran Adhiban.**
- **Wei Yi went past the 2700-mark at 15 years, 7 months, and 29 days while Alireza did so at the age of 16 years, 1 month, and 11 days. Gukesh has done it in 16 years, 1 month, and 17 days.**

Super Grandmaster at sweet 16

D. Gukesh has been on a winning spree, capturing four tournament titles this year and reaching No.32 in the world chess rankings based on live ELO ratings



D. Gukesh, the 16-year-old Grandmaster from Chennai, became only the sixth Indian to reach and cross the coveted 2700 ELO ratings mark in chess. Following his victory against GM Le Quang Liam from Vietnam, in the Biel Chess Festival (Classic) in Switzerland on July 16, to take his point tally to 2.5 in 3 games, the young GM's Live ELO ratings went up to 2703.9. Only two other players – China's Wei Yi (who is some months before turning 16) and Iranian-born French player Alireza Firouzja – achieved this earlier than the 16 years and nearly two months-old Gukesh. World champion Magnus Carlsen had attained a FIDE rating of 2700 when he was 16 and a half years old. Note that this is a live rating; FIDE updates its ratings list every month and Gukesh would have to avoid setbacks for his live rating to stay above 2700 in the games he will have to play in the next 15 days. By Srinivasan Ramani, Rebecca Rose Varghese and Sonikka Loganathan

Child prodigies The table shows the top 10 players who crossed the 2700 mark and the age at which they crossed the mark

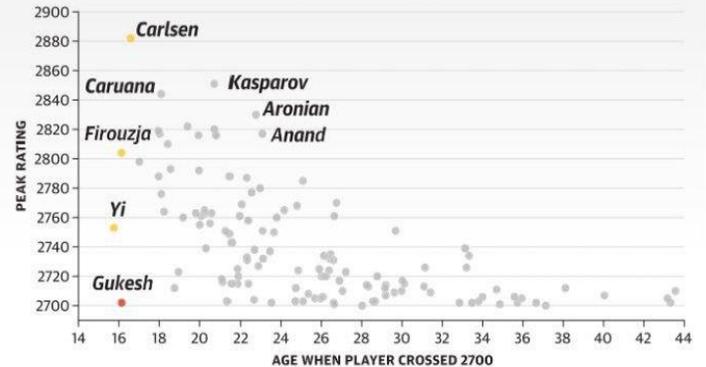
Player	Age when they reached 2700
Wei Yi	15.8
Alireza Firouzja	16.1
D Gukesh	16.1
Magnus Carlsen	16.6
Anish Giri	17.0
Maxime Lagrave	18.0
Sergey Karjakin	18.0
Vladimir Kramnik	18.0
Fabiano Caruana	18.1
Richárd Rapport	18.1

The elite among Indians Only five other Indian GMs have crossed the 2700 ELO threshold apart from Gukesh

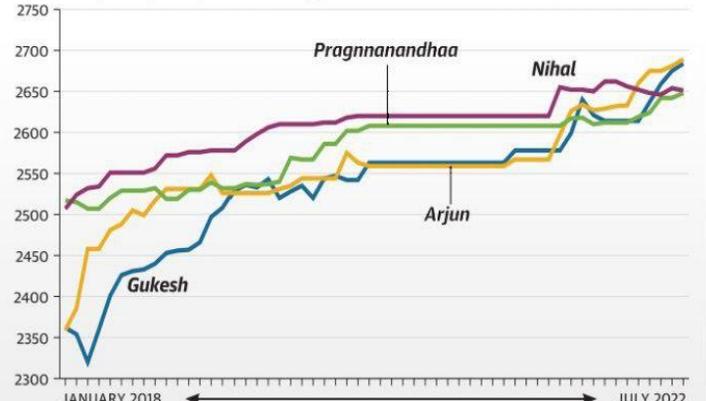
Player	Age when they reached 2700
V Anand	23.1
P Harikrishna	26.8
Vidit Gujrathi	22.9
K Sasikiran	26.0
B Adhiban	26.6
D Gukesh	16.1

Anand's current rating is 2756 (peak: 2817), Hari (2720, 2770), Vidit (2714, 2727), Sasi (2638, 2720), Adhiban (2598, 2701)

Rising early | The scatter plot shows the age of the chess players when they reached the 2700 mark and their peak rating. The earlier they cross the mark, the higher their peak rating. Carlsen, for instance, reached the 2700 mark when he was 16.59 years and has the highest peak rating of 2882



Road to the top | The chart shows the trajectory of the ratings of four select GMs from 2018 until the present. Gukesh and Arjun have been on a faster upward trajectory compared to Praggnanandhaa and Nihal in recent months



167. Consider the following match the column. which of the following is matched incorrectly?
 A. Ben Stokes - England

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- B. Tamim Iqbal - Bangladesh**
- C. Denesh Ramdin - Sri Lanka**
- D. Lendl Simmons - West Indies**
- E. None of these**

+ Simmons retires



SIMMONS. ■ FILE PHOTO

ANI
ST. JOHN'S (ANTIGUA)
 West Indies opener Lendl Simmons announced his retirement from international cricket on Monday.
 In eight Tests for West Indies, Simmons scored 278 runs at 17.37.
 In ODIs, he has represented WI in 68 matches, scoring 1,958 runs at 31.58, with two centuries and 16 half-centuries. In 68 T20Is, he scored 1,527 runs at 26.78.

TAMIM RETIRES FROM T20IS

PTI ■ GUYANA

Bangladesh ODI captain Tamim Iqbal has announced his retirement from T20 Internationals following his side's 50-over series win against the West Indies.
 "Please consider me retired from T20Is from today. Thank you everyone," Tamim wrote on his official Facebook page. He played his last T20I in March 2020. The 33-year-old has played 78 T20Is, scoring 1758 runs at 24.08.
 In January, Tamim had taken a six month break from the shortest format but he did feature in a domestic tournament during that period.
 Tamim is one of the best openers to have come out of Bangladesh, having scored 5082 runs in Tests and 7943 runs in ODIs.

Stokes Bids Adieu to ODIs

England's World Cup hero to retire from 50-over cricket after today's match against South Africa

Steve Douglas

England Test captain Ben Stokes is retiring from one-day internationals because of what he describes as an "unsustainable" cricket schedule, ending a career in the 50-over format that peaked with winning the World Cup in 2019.
 Stokes, whose final ODI will be against South Africa on Tuesday, said he remains fully committed to Twenty20 internationals as well as the Test captaincy.
 "The 50-over game will no longer be part of the punishing schedule of a 31-year-old superstar all-rounder who had a break from the sport last year for mental-health reasons and appears intent on managing his workload to maximize his career. "As hard as a decision as this was to come to, it's not as hard dealing with the fact I can't give my teammates 100% of myself in this format anymore," Stokes said. "The England shirt deserves nothing less from anyone who wears it."
 "Three formats are just unsustainable for me now. Not only do I feel that my body is letting me down because of the schedule and what is expected of us, but I also feel that I am taking the place of another player who can give (ODI captain) Jos (Buttler) and the rest of the team their all"
BEN STOKES
 (England ODI captain) Jos (Buttler) and the rest of the team their all."
 The match against South Africa will be Stokes' 105th ODI for England and comes at



the Riverside ground at Chester-le-Street, the home of his county team Durham.

Stokes' defining performance in ODIs came in the 2019 World Cup final at Lord's, when he scored 84 not out as England tied New Zealand's score and then eight more runs in the deciding super over. The teams also were tied after the super over and England won on boundary countback.
 In three years since, Stokes has played just nine more ODIs. Stokes had scores of 0,

BEN STOKES

ODI Record

BATTING

MAT	INNS	RUNS	HS	AVE	SR	100	50
104	89	2,919	102*	39.44	95.26	3	21

BOWLING

MAT	INNS	WKTS	BB	AVE	ECON	SR	5w
104	87	74	5/61	41.79	6.02	41.6	1

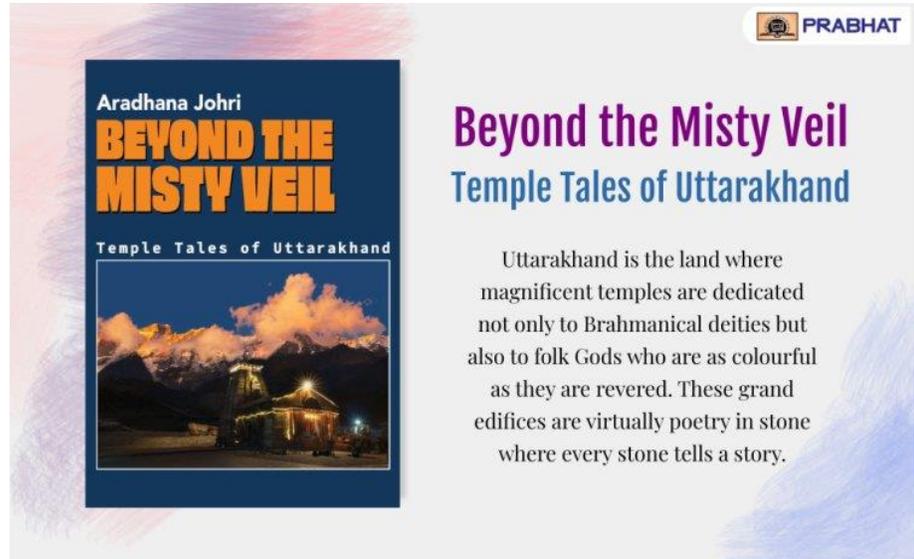
21 and 27 in an ODI series against India this month that England lost 2-1.
 "I will give everything I have to test cricket," Stokes said, "and now, with this decision, I feel I can also give my total commitment to the T20 format."
 England's congested schedule of summer internationals will see the team play seven tests and 12 limited-overs internationals, before heading out to tour Pakistan less than a week later.
 Stokes has hit 2,919 runs and taken 74 wickets since making his ODI debut in 2011, becoming the star of the England team that dominated the 50-over game from 2015-19. **AP**

- **Ben Stokes has announced retirement from ODI cricket.**
- **He is an English cricketer. He is the captain of the England Test team.**
- **He played his last ODI against South Africa on 19 July 2022. He plays for the England Twenty20 International (T20I) team.**
- **Denesh Ramdin has announced retirement from international cricket. He used to play for the West Indies. He will continue to play in franchise cricket**
- **Lendl Simmons has announced retirement from all forms of international cricket. He used to play for the West Indies.**

168. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released a book titled "Beyond The Misty Veil" on the temples of Uttarakhand. It has been authored by which among the following?

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- A. **Aradhana Johri**
- B. **SK Jain**
- C. **Vineet Saran**
- D. **Puneet Sharma**
- E. **None of these**



Beyond the Misty Veil
Temple Tales of Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand is the land where magnificent temples are dedicated not only to Brahmanical deities but also to folk Gods who are as colourful as they are revered. These grand edifices are virtually poetry in stone where every stone tells a story.

- **Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama released a book titled “Beyond The Misty Veil” on the temples of Uttarakhand.**
- **The book titled “Beyond the Misty Veil”, contains over 300 pages on the Hindu temples in the state, and is written by former IAS officer Aradhana Johri who had earlier served as the Nainital District Magistrate (DM).**
- **The book talks about the temples of Uttarakhand, their significance, and the tales associated with them.**

Book on temples of Uttarakhand released

An authentic introduction to ancient temples, says CM Pushkar Singh Dhama

STAFF REPORTER
 DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a special book in

Dehradun on Tuesday showcasing the significance of the temples in the State and the stories associated with them.

Written by Aradhana Johri, *Beyond the Misty Veil - Temple Tales of Uttarakhand* also aims to promote temple tourism in the State.

Ms. Johri, a former IAS officer, has given details of the temples, some of which are

very well-known, while others are tucked away for the pilgrims/tourists to discover.

Mr. Dhama said the book was an authentic introduction to ancient temples which are nothing less than poetry in stone.

Science Technology Defence And Environment

169. What is **INS Sindhudhvaj**, recently seen in the news?

- A. **Indian Navy’s Kilo-class submarine**
- B. **Nuclear-powered aircraft carrier**
- C. **Stealth destroyer**
- D. **Nuclear powered icebreaker**
- E. **None of these**

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- **The Navy’s Kilo-class submarine *INS Sindhudhvaj* was decommissioned from service at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service. With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.**
- **She had many firsts to her credit, including operationalization of the indigenised sonar *USHUS*, indigenised satellite communication system *Rukmani* and *MSS*, inertial navigation system, and indigenised torpedo fire control system, the Navy said.**

ty Christian community, but MP Shashi Tharoor. nister S. Jaishankar would the economic crisis-hit is t

Navy decommissions *Sindhudhvaj*

The Kilo class submarine, acquired from Russia, had been in service for 35 years

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Navy’s Kilo class submarine *INS Sindhudhvaj* was decommissioned from service on Saturday at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service. With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.

“The traditional ceremony was conducted at sunset, with an overcast sky adding to the solemnity of the occasion when the Decommissioning Pennant was lowered and the submarine was paid off after a glorious patrol of 35 years,” the Navy said in a statement on Sunday. The event was attended by 15 of the former Commanding Officers, including Commander S.P. Singh (Retd.), the Commissioning CO, and 26 Commissioning crew veterans.



Final adieu: The traditional decommissioning ceremony held by the Indian Navy on Saturday. **• SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT**

The decommissioning of the submarine had been delayed by about a year.

Many firsts

“She had many a firsts to her credit, including operationalisation of the indigenised sonar *USHUS*, indigenised satellite communication system *Rukmani* and *MSS*, iner-

tial navigation system and indigenised torpedo fire control system,” the Navy said. She also successfully undertook mating and personnel transfer with Deep Submergence Rescue Vessel and was the only submarine to be awarded Chief of Naval Staff (CNS) rolling trophy for Innovation by Prime Minis-

ter Narendra Modi, it stated. Commissioned into the Navy in June 1987, *Sindhudhvaj*, was one of the 10 Kilo class submarines India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000. Of these, *Sindhurakshak* was lost in an accident in Mumbai harbour in August 2013, while *Sindhuvir* was transferred to Myanmar in 2020, making it the Southeast Asian nation’s first underwater platform.

The Navy’s sub-surface fleet now includes seven Russian Kilo class submarines, four German HDW submarines, four French Scorpene submarines and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine *Arihant*. The last two of the Scorpene class submarines are in various stages of trials and outfitting.

- **Commissioned into the Navy in June 1987, *Sindhudhvaj*, was one of the 10 Kilo-class submarines India acquired from Russia between 1986 and 2000. Of these, *Sindhurakshak* was lost in an accident in Mumbai harbor in August 2013, while *Sindhuvir* was transferred to Myanmar in 2020, making it the Southeast Asian nation’s first underwater platform.**
- **The Navy’s sub-surface fleet now includes seven Russian Kilo-class submarines, four German HDW submarines, four French Scorpene submarines, and the indigenous nuclear ballistic missile submarine *Arihant*. The last two of the Scorpene class submarines are in various stages of trials and outfitting.**

170. Recently as per Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh _____ in-orbit operational communication satellites have been transferred from the Government of India to M/s. New Space India Ltd (NSIL), a CPSE under the Department of Space.

- A. 10**
- B. 8**
- C. 9**
- D. 7**
- E. None of these**

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- *Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said, 10 (Ten) in-orbit operational communication satellites have been transferred from the Government of India to M/s. New Space India Ltd (NSIL), a CPSE under the Department of Space.*
- *Communication satellites viz. GSAT-8, GSAT-10, GSAT-12R (CMS-01), GSAT-14, GSAT-15, GSAT-16, GSAT-17, GSAT-18, GSAT-30, and GSAT-31 have been transferred at a written down value of Rs 4697.60 crores against the issue of equity to Government of India, with 01.04.2021 as the effective date of transfer.*
- *The Board of NSIL is authorized to price the transponder capacity as per the global trends. NSIL shall carry out the activities related to offering and allocation of capacity, as per the guidelines to be adopted by its Board.*
- *The transfer of operational satellites is part of the Space Sector reforms, aimed at strengthening the role of NSIL to enhance the nation's share in the global space economy.*
- *The Minister also informed that the Government has taken several steps to increase India's share in the global space market, through the reforms undertaken in 2020, which seek to augment the space sector in the country with greater participation of Non-Governmental Entities (NGEs).*
- *The Indian National Space Promotion & Authorization Centre [IN-SPACe] has been created as a single window agency to promote, handhold, and authorize the activities of NGEs in the sector, thus providing them with a level playing field.*

171. A **new census workstation** has been inaugurated at which IIT?

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Delhi**
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Madras
- E. None of these

- *Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Dr. Vivek Joshi inaugurated the Census Data Workstation at the Economics Lab of the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences of IIT Delhi.*
- *It will facilitate access to census microdata for academicians and researchers.*
- *It will provide information about the data collected during the Census operations.*
- *Directorate of Census Operations, Delhi, and IIT Delhi has also signed an agreement.*
- *IIT Delhi will research census data and census operations.*
- *The potential use of advanced data science, machine learning, and AI techniques in the digital census was also discussed.*
- *Note: India's first digital census would be completed by 2024.*
- *The new census would be automatically updated after each birth and death in the country.*

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172. What is the name of India's first drone that can carry a human payload of up to 130 kg that was unveiled during the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi?

- A. Shaktisali
- B. Varuna**
- C. Indra
- D. Helina
- E. None of these

- **India's first drone that can carry a human payload of up to 130 kg has been unveiled during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi.**
- **'Varuna' is a pilot-less drone that has been developed by the Indian startup Sagar Defence Engineering.**
- **It can carry one person and has four auto-pilot modes. It can fly for 25-35 minutes with a range of 25km.**
- **Its landing and taking-off technology have been developed in association with the Indian Navy DSR.**
- **It can be used for inter-ship transfer of material and personnel. Varuna sea trials will begin in the next three months.**

173. Recently NASA's James Webb detects water in the atmosphere of a puffy gas giant planet. What is the name of the planet?

- A. WASP-96 b**
- B. CoRoT 7b
- C. Kepler-10b
- D. SMSCS 0723
- E. None of these

Hunt for the extra-terrestrial

Located around 1,150 light-years from Earth, WASP-96b is an exoplanet (a planet that orbits another star) orbiting a star named WASP-96. The planet has a mass half that of Jupiter and goes around the central star every 3.4 days. The light from the central star will pass through the planet's atmosphere when its edge is in the line of sight of the Earth. The molecules present in the atmosphere will first absorb the light entering the atmosphere. Then it would be remitted. By comparing the star's spectrum and the starlight passing through the planet's atmosphere, astronomers can discern the molecular composition. The spectroscopic observation of JWST reveals, for example, that there is a considerable amount of water vapour in the WASP-96 b's atmosphere.

With blistering heat, WASP-96 is unlikely to host life; However, astronomers will use the same technique to examine other exo-planets, particularly those in the habitable zone of the central star. Finding water vapour, hydrocarbons, methane, and other atmospheric elements could indirectly indicate life.

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- *James Webb Space Telescope has detected water along with clouds and haze in the atmosphere of the WASP-96 b planet.*
- *WASP-96 b is a hot and puffy gas giant exoplanet in the Milky Way. It is located about 1,150 light-years away in the southern-sky constellation Phoenix.*
- *WASP-96 b’s diameter is 1.2 times greater than Jupiter while its mass is less than Jupiter.*
- *On June 21, Webb's Near-Infrared Imager and Slitless Spectrograph (NIRISS) observed light emanating from the planet for 6.4 hours.*
- *The light curve has provided information about the properties of the planet like its existence, size, and orbit of the planet.*
- *The spectrum of WASP-96 b is the most detailed near-infrared transmission spectrum of an exoplanet atmosphere.*
- *Scientists will use the spectrum to determine the amount of water vapor in the atmosphere of the planet.*

174. How old was the *world's oldest known male giant panda An*, who died recently?

- A. 31 years
- B. 35 years**
- C. 43 years
- D. 26 years
- E. None of these

{ HONG KONG MOURNS }

A superstar bids adieu: An An, iconic giant panda, euthanised after being in poor health



An An at the Ocean Park in Hong Kong.

REUTERS

HONG KONG: An An — the world’s oldest male giant panda under human care — has been euthanized because of his deteriorating health, Hong Kong’s Ocean Park said on Thursday.

Veterinarians decided to help the 35-year-old panda — who was 105 in human years — to end his life because his activity levels and food intake had decreased severely, a statement from the amusement park said.

Ten days before his death, An An had stopped taking in solid food, drinking only water and electrolyte beverages.

An An lived most of his life at Ocean Park after he and a female panda were gifted to Hong Kong by China in 1999. The female panda, Jia Jia, died in 2016 at age 38, making her the oldest-ever panda in captivity.

“An An has brought us fond memories with numerous heartwarming moments. His cleverness and playfulness will be dearly missed,” Paulo Pong, chairman of Ocean Park Corporation, said in a statement. An An had high blood pressure, a common condition among geriatric pandas.

AGENCIES



An An at Ocean Park in Hong Kong in 2020

HONG KONG

An An, world’s oldest giant male Panda, dies at 35

Hong Kong: An An, a bamboo-eating resident of Hong Kong’s Ocean Park who was known for his feisty, playful nature and who had the distinction of being the world’s oldest giant male panda in captivity, died on Thursday after experiencing health problems. He was 35 — or 105 in human years. The death, by euthanasia, was announced by the park on its Facebook page. The panda had struggled for weeks with food intake and physical activity, leading park officials, veterinarians and the China Conservation and Research Center for the Giant Panda to put him down. In the last few days of his life, An An was refusing solid foods and becoming more sedentary, officials said.

NYT

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- *The world's oldest male giant panda, An An, passed away at the age of 35 years on July 20, 2022. The panda's age was equivalent to the human age of 105 years.*
- *The giant panda's health was showing steady deterioration over the past few weeks, with his food intake declining. He finally stopped eating and had to be euthanized.*
- *He had lived in Ocean Park, an marine and animal facility and Hong Kong theme park since 1999.*
- *The world's oldest female giant panda was Jia Jia, who died in 2016 at the age of 38 years.*

175. Recently ISRO's *Satish Dhawan Space Centre* launched 'Space on Wheels' in _____.

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

- *ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre has launched 'Space on Wheels' in Tripura.*
- *'Space on Wheels' is a mobile exhibition carrying the models of launch vehicles, satellites, etc,*
- *'Space on Wheels' includes models of the first two launch pads, the Chandrayaan-1 Mission, and the Indian Mars orbiter mission – Mangalyaan.*
- *It also includes models of technological applications like Indian remote sensing applications, and the Indian regional navigation satellite.*
- *'Human Spaceflight Expo' is being organized at Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium from 22 July.*
- *Satish Dhawan Space Centre is a rocket launch center operated by ISRO. It is located in Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.*

176. Consider the following statement regarding *Kolkata Underwater Metro Line*.

1. . *The tunnel corridor is built 33 meters below the riverbed and will connect Kolkata to Howrah.*
2. *This East-West Metro Project will be 16.6 km long and 520 meters will be under the river bed.*
3. *The project is being done by a Government enterprise Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRCL).*

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- This unique and special Kolkata Underwater Metro Line is currently under construction and will be functional by the year 2023. This East-West Metro Project will be 16.6 km long and 520 meters will be under the river bed. The tunnel corridor is built 33 meters below the riverbed and will connect Kolkata to Howrah.
- East-West Metro Tunnel's length is 10.8 km and its width is 5.5 meters. A 520m stretch of the tracks will go through a tunnel under the Hooghly River. The roof of the tunnel would be about 30 meters from the ground level and will connect Kolkata to Howrah.
- The construction of the Kolkata East-West Metro line is a 16.6 km route that will have six-station each in underground and elevated portions, and the project is being done by a Government enterprise Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation (KMRCL).

FOOLPROOF TUNNELS & WATERPROOF TRAINS

16.3km East-West Metro has India's first underwater Metro tunnel

13 M

13 M

15 M

TUNNEL

Expected to be operational next year, Kolkata's East-West Metro corridor will have India's first underwater train

Trains will ply 13m below water and 13m below the clay

April To July 2017 River tunnelling completed

Twin tunnels each 520m long, run under the river

► Kolkata Metro's east-west corridor, 39km long with 17 stations planned, opened in 2020. Currently operational between Salt Lake and Phoolbagan, it will connect Teghoria with Howrah by going underneath the Hooghly

► It will connect railway terminals Howrah and Sealdah and business districts BBD Bagh and Salt Lake Sector V





Tunnel boring machines are named for good luck. For Kolkata Metro, they were Rachna, Prerna, Urvi & Chandi

► Not a drop of water can enter the river tunnels. Hydrophilic gaskets are installed between tunnel concrete. If water seeps, gaskets will open up

► When fully operational, trains will cruise at 80kmph through the corridor. It will take less than 60 seconds to cross the river tunnels and 6 minutes to cover Howrah Maidan-Esplanade

16.1m

Distance between the two tunnels

5.55m

Diameter of each tunnel

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- According to the officials, 80 percent of the Howrah Metro station project is completed and expected to be delivered soon in 2023. However, KMRCL has provided all safety measures and facilities in the project.
- The project was awarded in 2009 with a total cost of around Rs 4900 crore for 14 km, also due to the delay of the project caused by the extension of the track length cost double, approx Rs 8600 crore. Further the project is being completed under the Indian Railways and shall span from the Salt Lake Stadium to Howrah.
- Japan International Cooperation Agency has lent around INR 41.6 billion while the Indian Railway Board is expected to provide around INR 20 crore over two years towards the completion of the project.

177. According to the **ministry of tourism data** _____ is India's top-grossing monument .

A. Taj Mahal

B. Sun Temple

C. Red Fort

D. Mamallapuram Temple

E. None of these

- The Taj Mahal continued to be the most visited monument in India, raking in over ₹25 crore in FY22, despite a 73% decrease in revenue compared to FY20 (nearly ₹97 crore) due to COVID-related restrictions.
- Earnings from the Taj Mahal were over five times that of Delhi's Red Fort and ten times that of Mamallapuram monuments in Tamil Nadu and the Sun Temple in Bhubaneswar each.
- The chart shows revenue earned by centrally-protected monuments in FY22. The Taj Mahal collected over ₹25 crores, the highest among 144 monuments protected under the ASI. According to official data, the Taj Mahal attracts about 7-8 million visitors annually, with more than 0.8 million from overseas. The Taj Mahal's entry ticket to locals is ₹50 and for foreigners, it is ₹1,100. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that the Taj earns ₹40 crore from locals and ₹110 crore from foreign tourists
- Source: Lok Sabha, Ministry of Tourism

DATA POINT

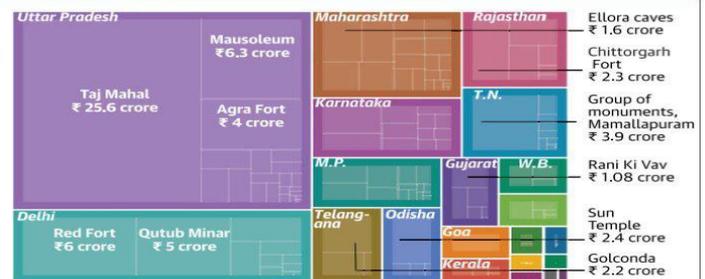
The Taj Mahal continued to be the most visited monument in India, raking in over ₹25 crore in FY22, despite a 73% decrease in revenue compared to FY20 (nearly ₹97 crore) due to COVID-related restrictions. Earnings from the Taj Mahal were over five times that of Delhi's Red Fort and ten times that of Mamallapuram monuments in Tamil Nadu and the Sun Temple in Bhubaneswar each. Given the relatively

Taj Mahal: the top-grossing monument



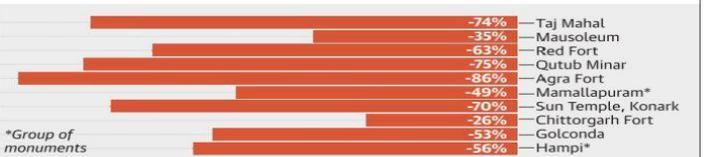
higher ticket prices for foreign visitors, they make up a larger share of the Taj's earnings. Due to COVID-related restrictions, foreign tourist arrivals had crashed to just about one lakh in 2021 from over nine lakh visitors before the pandemic. However, by May 2022, foreign tourist arrivals have improved to over four lakh, exhibiting consistent increase from the pandemic lows. By **Jasmin Nihalani and Vignesh Radhakrishnan**

Most visited | The chart shows revenue earned by centrally-protected monuments in FY22. The Taj Mahal collected over ₹25 crore, the highest among 144 monuments protected under the ASI. According to official data, the Taj Mahal attracts about 7-8 million visitors annually, with more than 0.8 million from overseas. The Taj Mahal's entry ticket to locals is ₹50 and for foreigners, it is ₹1,100. A back-of-the-envelope calculation shows that the Taj earns ₹40 crore from locals and ₹110 crore from foreign tourists



Pandemic impact

The chart shows the decline in revenue (in % of the top ten highest grossing monuments in FY22 compared to FY20. In seven of the ten monuments, revenue declined by over 50% due to COVID-related restrictions



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178. Recently a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and the Indian Navy on 23 Jul 22 in the Andaman Sea. Which Indian offshore patrol vessel took part in the exercise?

- A. **INS Sukanya**
- B. INS Satpura
- C. INS Vikramaditya
- D. INS Vishakapatnam
- E. None of these

- A Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) was conducted between Japan Maritime Self Defense Force and the Indian Navy on 23 Jul 22 in the Andaman Sea.
- INS Sukanya, an offshore patrol vessel, and JS Samidare, a Murasame class destroyer, undertook various exercises including seamanship activities, aircraft operations, and tactical maneuvers as part of the operational interaction.
- The two countries have been carrying out regular exercises in IOR towards reinforcing maritime association. The exercise was aimed at enhancing interoperability and streamlining seamanship and communication procedures.
- This exercise is part of the ongoing efforts between the two navies toward ensuring safe and secure international shipping and trade in the Indian Ocean Region.

179. Recently _____ Launched NIRMAN Accelerator Programme to Support Agri & Healthcare Startups .

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. **IIT Kanpur**
- C. IIT Madras

NIIF Acquires Stake in J&K Tunnel Road

Our Bureau

New Delhi: National Investment and Infrastructure Fund Limited (NIIFL) has acquired equity in Navayuga Quazigund Expressway Private Limited (NQEPL). A statement said the transaction was conducted through the NIIF Master Fund at an enterprise value



The deal was conducted through the NIIF Master Fund at around \$380 million

of about ₹3,036 crore (\$380 million). This operational tunnel road in Jammu and Kashmir will be managed by the NIIF Master Fund's proprietary roads platform, Athaang Infrastructure. The acquisition expands the fund's road portfolio and diversifies its asset base, said the statement.

The fund also holds the Devanahalli Tollway in Bengaluru and the Dichpally Tollway in Telangana. "The fund is in various stages of acquiring a few other strategic road assets. In addition to the road sector platform, NIIF Master Fund has also anchored platforms in ports and logistics, renewables, data centres, and energy smart meters sectors," said the NIIFL.

|||||

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- D. IIT Ropar
- E. None of these

- **The Startup Incubation and Innovation Centre, IIT Kanpur's technology business incubator, is launching the NIRMAN Accelerator Programme, which is supported by the Government of India's Department of Science and Technology.**
- **Under the program, 15 start-ups will be chosen and allowed to accelerate their product's journey from lab to market. The top performing start-ups from the cohort of 15 will receive a cash prize of up to Rs 10 lakhs.**

180. Consider the following statement regarding **China's Second Space Station Module**.

1. China has successfully launched the **second space module to its permanent space station named the Wentian laboratory module.**
2. First space module **Tianhe** was launched in April'2021.
3. Third module, **Mengtian**, is expected to be launched in October.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **China has successfully launched the second space module to its permanent space station.**
- **The 23-tonne Wentian laboratory module ("Quest for the Heavens") launched on the rocket, the Long March 5B, from the Wenchang Space Launch Center on the southern island of Hainan.**

China launches second space station module

Wentian to host space for experiments, serve as short-term living quarters

REUTERS
BEIJING

China on Sunday launched the second of three modules to its permanent space station, in one of the final missions needed to complete the orbiting outpost by year's end.

A live feed on state broadcaster CCTV showed the 23-tonne Wentian ("Quest for the Heavens") laboratory module launching on the back of China's most powerful rocket, the Long March 5B, at 2:22 p.m. (0622 GMT) from the Wenchang Space Launch Centre on the southern island of Hainan.

Space agency staff, seen on the live feed observing the progress of the launch from a control room, cheered and applauded



A Long March-5B Y3 rocket, carrying the Wentian lab module. *REUTERS

when the Wentian separated from the rocket about 10 minutes after the launch.

'Complete success'

The launch was "a complete success", CCTV reported shortly after.

China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main living quarters, in the first of 11 crewed and uncrewed missions in the undertaking.

The Wentian lab module, 17.9 m long, will provide space for experiments, along with the other lab module yet to be launched – Mengtian ("Dreaming of the Heavens").

Wentian features an airlock cabin that is to be the main exit-entry point for extravehicular activities when the station is completed.

It will also serve as short-term living quarters for astronauts during crew rotations on the station, which is designed for long-term accommodation of just three

astronauts.

Mengtian is expected to be launched in October and, like Wentian, is to dock with Tianhe, forming a T-shaped structure.

'Source of pride'

The completion of the structure, about a fifth of the International Space Station (ISS) by mass, is a source of pride among ordinary Chinese people and will cap President Xi Jinping's 10 years as leader of China's ruling Communist Party.

On board the space station are Shenzhou-14 mission commander Chen Dong and team mates Liu Yang and Cai Xuzhe. They are slated to return to Earth in December with the arrival of the Shenzhou-15 crew.

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- *The Wentian lab module will enable astronauts to carry out scientific experiments, along with the other lab module.*
- *This is the second of the three space modules required for its permanent space station.*
- *The first space module Tianhe was launched in April'2021. The third module, Mengtian, is expected to be launched in October and, like Wentian, is to dock with Tianhe, forming a T-shaped structure.*
- *China began constructing the space station in April 2021 with the launch of the Tianhe module, the main living quarters, in the first of 11 crewed and uncrewed missions in the undertaking.*
- *The Wentian lab module, 17.9 meters long, will be where astronauts can carry out scientific experiments, along with the other lab module yet to be launched - Mengtian ("Dreaming of the Heavens").*

181 Air Force Day Parade this year will be held in _____.

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

- *Indian Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari said that the IAF will hold the Parade at different locations in the country on Air Force Day.*
- *Air Force Day is celebrated on 8 October every year.*
- *Air Force Day Parade this year will be held in Chandigarh.*

The Indian Air Force has decided to celebrate this year's annual Air Force Day parade and flypast in Chandigarh instead of the Hindan Air Base in Delhi NCR, where it was being held for many years.

India Air Force Day: Parade, flypast to move to Chandigarh from Delhi NCR

SNS & AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 16 JULY

In line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiatives to take major events and festivities out of the national capital region to different parts of the country, the Indian Air Force has decided to celebrate this year's annual Air Force Day parade and flypast in Chandigarh instead of the Hindan Air Base in Delhi NCR, where it was being held for past many years.

"This year, the Indian Air Force has decided that the major Air Force Day festivities on October 8 like the flypast and parade would be held in Chandigarh. The idea is that more and more people should watch the air show and people from all parts of the coun-



try should see what their Air Force is and know its capabilities," senior government officials told ANI. The IAF chief Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari has also issued instructions that the force must involve the maximum possible people in the celebrations.

The flypast is being planned

to be held over the famous Sukhna lake in the city where a large number of people, from not just Chandigarh but adjoining cities, can come and witness the combat aircraft such as the Rafale, Su-30 and Mirage 2000 fly along with the aerobatic display teams like the Suryakirans and the Sarang perform.

The IAF leadership also felt that the flypast should not be confined to the air base in Chandigarh as only a limited number of people would be able to view it due to restrictions inside the military bases, the officials said.

In the last eight years, the Prime Minister has started hosting foreign dignitaries in different cities like Ahmedabad and Chennai while many events like the military exhibition Defexpo are being held in different states.

As per the plans, from now on, the IAF would also celebrate Air Force Day in different parts of the country.

"Almost the same set of people witness the parade every year at the Hindan Air Base and shifting it to places outside the national capital region would

ensure more number of youth see the Air Force in action and get inspired to join it," the officials said.

For many decades, the Indian Air Force used to hold the parade and flypast at the Palam Air Base but shifted it to the Hindan Air Base in 2006. The Indian Air Force is also taking the Agnipath recruitment scheme to different corners of the country as IAF officials are meeting with students in different cities to explain the scheme to them.

IAF Chief VR Chaudhari has also visited multiple air bases to educate and inform the men in his force about the scheme so that they can further guide the aspirants to join the force. He has till now covered more than 20 bases of the force in this regard.

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- The flypast is being planned to be held over the famous Sukhna lake in the city where a large number of people, from not just Chandigarh but adjoining cities, can come and witness the combat aircraft such as the Rafale, Su-30 and Mirage 2000 fly along with the aerobatic display teams like the Suryakirans and the Sarang perform.
- For many decades, the Indian Air Force used to hold the parade and flypast at the Palam Air Base but shifted it to the Hindan Air Base in 2006.

182. Recently in July what is the name of an aircraft carrier that caught fire during a planned sortie for the conduct of sea trials off Karwar in Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka.

- A. INS Satpura
- B. INS Sanyukta
- C. **INS Vikramaditya**
- D. INS Vishakapatnam
- E. None of these

- A major fire broke out on board India's only aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya. The fire accident took place during a planned sortie for the conduct of sea trials off Karwar in the Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka.
- The fire was brought under control by the warship's crew using fire-fighting systems.
- The \$2.3 billion aircraft carrier came to India from Russia in January 2014. It was inducted into the Indian Navy in November 2013 in north Russia's Severodvinsk and is now based in Karnataka's Karwar. The air wing consists of MiG 29K fighter jets and Kamov helicopters and it is the costliest single weapon platform India has ever bought.

183. Recently Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have together signed _____ memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with industries representing investments worth ₹21,904 crores.

- A. 75
- B. 80
- C. 50
- D. **111**
- E. None of these

Fire incident reported aboard aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya

YOGESH NAIK,
MUMBAI, JULY 20

INDIA'S ONLY aircraft carrier *INS Vikramaditya* caught fire during a planned sortie for conduct of sea trials off Karwar in Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka on Wednesday.

Vikramaditya is based in Karwar.

A naval spokesperson said, "The fire was brought under control by the ship's crew using on-board systems. No casualties have been reported. A board of inquiry has been ordered to investigate the incident." He said that the warship is still off the coast and is yet to be brought into the harbour.

Sources in the Indian Navy said the warship was still in deep sea and will be brought to harbour on Thursday. The exact quantum of damage is yet to be known.

Vikramaditya will be out of use for some months and will require repairs, said sources.

"This incident is a shocker to us and we were all elated to get our second aircraft carrier *INS Vikrant* commissioned by August 15 in Kochi at the hands of Prime Minister Narendra Modi," said a Naval officer who did wish to be named.

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UP, TN defence corridors sign 111 MoUs; to attract investments worth ₹21,904 crore

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 22

Two defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have together signed 111 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with industries representing investments worth ₹21,904 crore, the Defence Ministry said in Parliament on Friday. Of that, investments totalling to ₹4,943 crore have already been made in the two defence corridors.

"Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), has signed 69 agreements with industry with potential investment of ₹10,545 crore. Actual investment of ₹1,767 crore has been made by the industries in UPDIC," Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said in a written reply



to a query raised by Shanmuga Sundaram K and other MPs in Lok Sabha.

Projects in Tamil Nadu

Similarly, Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Authority (TIDCO), the nodal agency for Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), has got investment plans of ₹11,359 crore through MoUs with 42 industries with actual investment ₹3,176 crore coming in so far, he said.

State governments have their own aerospace and defence policy to offer support to investors through various incentives, and com-

panies have the autonomy to engage manpower as per their functional requirement, the minister said.

Nodes coming up

The government has set a target of attracting investment of about ₹10,000 crore in each corridor. UP Defence Industrial Corridor would spread around six nodes – Aligarh, Agra, Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur and Lucknow – have been identified. While five nodes – Chennai, Coimbatore, Hosur, Salem and Tiruchi – have been identified for TN Defence Industrial Corridor.

According to the Defence ministry, the nodes were selected on the basis of high potential for creation of end-to-end ecosystem for aerospace and defence sector development covering design, engineering and manufacturing.

- **Two defense corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have together signed 111 memoranda of understanding (MoUs) with industries representing investments worth ₹21,904 crores, the Defence Ministry said in Parliament. Of that, investments totaling ₹4,943 crores have already been made in the two defense corridors.**
- **Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), the nodal agency for Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UPDIC), has signed 69 agreements with industry with a potential investment of ₹10,545 crores. An actual investment of ₹1,767 crores has been made by the industries in UPDIC.**
- **Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Authority (TIDCO), the nodal agency for Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (TNDIC), has arranged investment worth ₹11,359 crores through MoUs with 42 industries. Actual investment of ₹3,176 crores that has been made by the industries in TNDIC**
- **The government has set a target of attracting investment of about ₹10,000 crores in each corridor.**

184. Recently **Samantha Cristoforetti** of _____ became the **first European woman to conduct a spacewalk outside International Space Station.**

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

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- *Italian Samantha Cristoforetti became the first European woman astronaut to embark on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station.*
- *Cristoforetti was joined by Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev on the spacewalk.*
- *Cristoforetti, a 45-year-old European Space Agency astronaut and former Italian air force pilot, arrived for her second tour on the ISS in April.*
- *She holds the record for the longest stay in space by a woman after spending 199 days in orbit in 2014 and 2015.*
- *The ISS space station has long symbolized closer ties between Russia and the US in the aftermath of the Cold War.*
- *The International Space Station is the largest modular space station currently in low Earth orbit. It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: NASA, Roscosmos, JAXA, ESA, and CSA.*

Italian first European woman on spacewalk outside ISS

Italian Samantha Cristoforetti became the first European woman astronaut to embark on a spacewalk outside the International Space Station on Thursday. Nasa footage showed. Cristoforetti was joined by Russian cosmonaut Oleg Artemyev on the spacewalk which began just before 1500 GMT, with the pair expected to spend six and half hours over 400km above Earth.



Italy's Samantha Cristoforetti teamed up with Oleg Artemyev of Russia to work on the International Space Station's newest robot arm, in a rare spacewalking show of unity as tensions over Ukraine continued to ricochet back home

Among their tasks is work on a Europe-made robotic arm which just a week ago became embroiled in tensions between Russia and the West over Moscow's war in Ukraine. Last week the head of Russian space agency Roscosmos Dmitry Rogozin, furious at the European Space Agency's decision to cut ties with Moscow on a Mars rover mission, told cosmonauts on the ISS to stop using the European Robo-

tic Arm. But President Vladimir Putin dismissed Rogozin as Roscosmos chief on Friday, and hours later Washington and Moscow said they would renew flights together to the ISS. On Thursday, the spacewalkers will continue setting up the robot arm, which was installed a few months ago after being launched into orbit in July 2021. AFP

185. Recently *Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)* signed a contract worth _____ crore with the Ministry of Defence for the supply of Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare systems (IAC MOD C) for surface ships of the Indian Army.

- A. Rs 150 Cr
- B. Rs 250 Cr
- C. Rs 400 Cr
- D. Rs 350 Cr
- E. None of these

- *Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has signed a contract worth ₹250 crores with the Ministry of Defence for the supply of Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare systems (IAC MOD C) for surface ships of the Indian Army.*
- *The indigenously developed IAC MOD C by BEL in association with DRDO would be able to compute fire control solutions and facilitate the firing of ASW weapons such as Torpedoes and Rockets. It can also help the fire control system customize requirements for small ships and large configurations of ships.*

BEL signs Rs 250-cr contract with govt

Bengaluru/New Delhi: Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) yesterday signed a contract with the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, worth around Rs. 250 crores, towards supply of nine Integrated ASW Complex (IAC MOD 'C') Systems. IAC MOD 'C' is an Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) system for all surface ships of the Indian Navy.

IAC MOD 'C' computes Fire Control Solutions and facilitates firing of ASW weapons such as

Torpedoes and Rockets. The fire control system can be customised to meet the requirements of any platform of interest — from small ships to large ships configuration. In addition, the system facilitates counter measure capability for incoming torpedoes through decoy launching system. IAC MOD C has been indigenously developed by BEL in association with DRDO, in accordance with the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's vision of an 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', a self-reliant nation.