

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Fourth Week of July (25th July – 31st July2022)

National /State News

1. Recently which of the following institutes *has developed low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology for converting seawater to potable water?*

- A. **National Institute of Ocean Technology**
- B. National Institute of Oceanography
- C. Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute
- D. National Centre for Ocean Information Services
- E. None of these

- National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) developed indigenous technology for converting seawater to potable water.
- NIOT, an autonomous institute of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, has developed Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology for converting seawater to potable water.
- The maximum capacity of each LTTD plant is of producing 1 Lakh liter of potable water per day.
- The Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology was successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.
- Union Territory Lakshadweep is planning to set up six more LTTD plants. The LTTD technology is suitable for Lakshadweep islands due to the temperature difference of seawater.
- The cost of a desalination plant depends upon different factors such as technology used, location of the plant, etc.

2. Consider the following statement regarding *Shri Amit Shah's two-day visit to Gujarat.*

1. He Inaugurated the *State Level Command and Control Center of Gujarat Police 'Trinetra'* and other modern technical services *under the VISWAS project in Gandhinagar.*
2. He launched the *e-FIR system in Gandhinagar.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister, Shri Amit Shah, on the first day of his two-day visit to Gujarat, today inaugurated the State Level Command and Control Center of Gujarat Police 'Trinetra' and other modern technical services under the VISWAS project in Gandhinagar.
- The e-FIR system will enable citizens to file FIRs online for a vehicle and mobile thefts.
- Through this online service, citizens can file complaints either through the citizen's portal or a mobile application.
- e-FIR service has been linked with the Gujarat state police CCTV command and control center.
- He also flagged off vehicles of the Anti-Human Trafficking Unit at Police Bhawan in Gandhinagar.

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- He also inaugurated the newly built Mid-Day Meal kitchen for students under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Yojana.
- Earlier on the occasion of the dedication of the building of Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to the nation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on March 12.
- The government had set up a national police university named Rashtriya Raksha University by upgrading the Raksha Shakti University which was established by the Government of Gujarat in 2010.

3. Recently in July Government of India directed all Major Ports to exempt all berth hiring and vessel-related charges being currently levied to the Ro-Pax and Passenger Ferries for the next _____ months with immediate effect.

- A. 4 Months
- B. 6 Months**
- C. 8 Months
- D. 10 Months
- E. None of these

- The government of India has directed all Major Ports to exempt all berth hiring and vessel-related charges being currently levied to the Ro-Pax and Passenger Ferries for the next six months with immediate effect.
- The decision has been taken to provide some quick respite to the Port sector from the impact of the Global increase in the price of fuel.

Govt exempts passenger ferries from paying port, vessel charges for 6 months

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 24 JULY

In order to provide some quick respite to the waterways transportation sector from the impact of the global increase in the price of fuels, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has directed all major ports to exempt all berth hiring and vessel related charges being currently levied to the Ro-Pax or passenger ferries for the next six months.

The cost of marine fuel 'Low Sulphur High Flash High-Speed Diesel' has increased from Rs.76,000 per kiloliter to Rs 1.21,000. Similarly, the cost of 'Very Low Sulphur Fuel Oil' has increased from Rs 40,608 per kiloliter to Rs 80,917. It is to be noted here that at the beginning of FY2021-22 the cost of marine fuel used to be 10-15 percent less than retail diesel. Hence, effectively the rise is more than 40 percent.

The ministry has been promoting the Ro-Ro/Ro-Pax/ferry waterway transportation which has lower



emissions compared to other modes of transport. Also, there is a significant time and cost savings compared to the traditional transportation modes.

"Concurrently traffic congestion on road/railways, noise pollution and the accidents on the roads may also get reduced. Such water-based transportation service is an effective measure to lower the logistics costs, reducing travel time and promotion of

coastal shipping on several feasible routes," a Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways statement said on Sunday.

To discuss the impact of high marine fuel prices and GST on ferry operations, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal recently held a meeting with senior officials of the ministry.

Sonowal had also written letters to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, and

Petroleum Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, highlighting the issues and requesting them to extend their support for this sector by reducing taxes and the price of the fuel respectively.

"The rising fuel cost at the international level is now making our local Ro-Pax and Passenger Ferry operations unviable so this exemption of vessel and port-related charges by MoPSW will provide the necessary breather to this sector for the next 6 months. We have also requested MoPNG to consider a reduction in fuel prices and Ministry of Finance to lower the associated taxes on it so as to provide the necessary support to this sector in present circumstances," Sonowal said.

The ministry has also requested all the States to lower their rates of VAT over the diesel used by this sector.

"It is noteworthy that, marine fuel prices inclusive of taxes have cascading effect on the full value chain of Mass Surface Water transport system and ecosystem, the burden of which the ferry operators can-

not pass on to the common public who has the option of using other Government subsidized public transport system of rail or road. These operational hurdles will ultimately act as stumbling block in establishing this budding ecosystem of surface water transportation in the country," the statement added.

The Ro-Pax services implemented by Deendayal Port Authority between Ghogha and Hazira under Sagarmala Programme have reduced travel time from 12 hrs. to 4 hrs. This Ro-Pax ferry service have carried over 78,000 vehicles and more than 2.6 lakh passengers since inception.

Similarly, Maharashtra Maritime Board initiated Ro-Pax ferry service on Mumbai - Mandwa route. Project resulted in saving of around 3 hours of road travel against 45 minutes by sea route. More than 5.5 Lakh passengers have availed this Ro-Pax service and more than 1 lakh vehicles have been transported, the statement added.

- The cost of Marine fuel - Low Sulphur High Flash High-Speed Diesel has increased from 76 thousand rupees per Kiloliter to one lakh 21 thousand rupees per Kilometer.
- The rising fuel cost at the international level is now making the local Ro-Pax and Passenger Ferry operations unviable. Exemption of vessel and port-related charges will provide the necessary breather to this sector for the next six months.

4. National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM), recently seen in news is located in _____.

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- A. Ghaziabad
- B. Mandya
- C. Mumbai
- D. Surat
- E. None of these

- Union Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inspected the newly constructed campus of the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
 - NIUM, Ghaziabad is a satellite Institute of the National Institute of Unani Medicine, Bangaluru, and will be the first of its kind to be established in the northern region of India.
 - The foundation stone for the National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh was laid on 1st March 2019.
 - This Institute will produce high-quality professionals in various streams of Unani Medicine.
 - National Institute of Unani Medicine, Ghaziabad is being constructed at Rs 381 Crores and shall also function as an international collaboration center for global promotion and research in Unani Medicine.
 - This Institute will have 14 departments and will provide PG and Doctoral courses in various disciplines of Unani Medicine.
 - The Institute will also focus on fundamental aspects, drug development, quality control, safety evaluation, and scientific validation of Unani medicine and practices.
 - The Institute will establish Bench Mark standards in Education, Health Care, and Research.
5. Consider the following statement regarding joint theatre commands of tri-services. Which of the statement is incorrect?
1. Plan is of setting up six theatre commands.
 2. The operational control of theatre commands will eventually come under the CDS.
 3. **At present, India has 19 single service commands and only two tri-service commands.**
 4. The two tri-service commands are: Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), and the Strategic Force Command (which handles the nuclear weapons).
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said joint theatre commands of tri-services would be set up to enhance coordination among armed forces.
 - He was speaking during a program organized by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces.
 - Theaterisation is a concept that seeks to integrate the capabilities of the three services - army, air force, and navy – to optimally utilize their resources for wars and operations.
 - The plan under consideration talks about setting up six theatre commands. These are:
 - Air Defence Theatre Command
 - It will control the air defense resources of all three services. It will be tasked with protecting military assets from airborne enemies.

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- *It will be headed by a top three-star Indian Air Force officer based in Prayagraj.*
- *Maritime Theatre Command –*
- *This will be responsible for securing India from seaborne threats.*
- *Headed by a top three-star Indian Navy officer and will be based in Karwar, Karnataka.*
- *Northern Command (Comprising Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh)*
- *Western Command*
- *Eastern Command*
- *Logistics command - to avoid duplication of efforts and resources.*
- *The first phase involves the creation of Air Defence Command and Maritime Theatre Command.*
- *The operational control of theatre commands will eventually come under the CDS.*
- *This would leave the Service chiefs with no direct control over their assets operationally.*
- *The service chiefs will be responsible for raising, training, and sustaining their forces.*
- *Also, as each chief will be a member of the Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) and an expert in his/her domain, his or her input will be necessary for all operational decisions.*
- *At present, India has 17 single service commands and only two tri-service commands.*
- *The 17 single service commands are divided as:*
- *Army – 7 commands; Airforce – 7 commands; Navy – 3 commands*

India to set up joint theatre commands

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JAMMU

Defence minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday announced the setting up of joint theatre commands of the tri-services to enhance coordination among the armed forces.

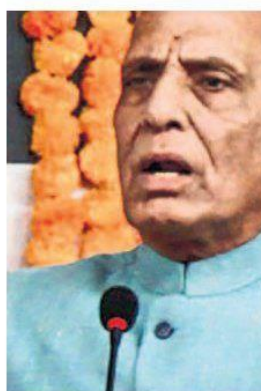
The defence minister also said India is moving quickly from being the world's largest importer of defence equipment to an exporter.

He was speaking at a programme organized by the Jammu Kashmir People's Forum to pay tributes to the martyrs of the Indian Armed Forces.

"Keeping in view (joint operations as seen in Operation Vijay in Kargil), we have decided to set up joint theatre commands (in the country)," Singh said.

Paying tributes to the Kargil martyrs, the defence minister said the country cannot forget their supreme sacrifice to safeguard the country's territorial integrity and sovereignty.

"It is the duty of the society and the people to give their utmost respect to the martyrs and their families," he said. "Whatever support you can



Defence minister Rajnath Singh said India is moving from being the largest importer of arms to an exporter. PTI

offer, do to for their families. It is the responsibility of each citizen."

Referring to defence production, Singh said, "India was the world's largest importer (of defence products). Today, India is not the world's largest importer but is among the top 25 nations engaged in defence exports."

Singh said the country has started defence exports worth ₹13,000 crore and aims to increase it to ₹35,000-₹40,000 crore by 2025-26.

RSS general secretary Dattatreya Hosabale also addressed

the gathering at Gulshan Ground near Jammu University.

Singh is scheduled to hold a special meeting with a select gathering of BJP leaders at the party office in Trikuta Nagar to take stock of the party's preparations for assembly elections.

He will also be briefed about the security situation and political developments.

This is Singh's second visit to Jammu in a little over a month. He visited the region on 17 June on the occasion of the 200th year of the coronation of Maharaja Gulab Singh.

Singh also said India is well-equipped to give a befitting reply to "anyone who casts an evil eye on us" and expressed confidence that the country will emerge victorious in any war.

Pitching for reclaiming Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), Singh said that it is a part of India and will continue to remain part of this country.

"I want to tell you with confidence that if any foreign powers cast an evil eye on us and if there is a war, we will become victorious," Singh said.

He said India had defeated Pakistan in all the wars and after the bitter defeats, Pakistan had engineered proxy wars.

"After tasting defeats in

direct wars of 1965 and 1971, Pakistan adopted the path of proxy war. For over two decades, it has tried to 'bleed India with a thousand cuts'. But, time and again, our brave soldiers have shown that no one can disturb the unity, integrity and sovereignty of India," Singh said, assuring the nation that the armed forces are ready to face all future challenges.

A strong and confident new India is well-equipped to give a befitting reply to anyone who casts an evil eye, he said.

"India has become a strong and confident nation which is well-equipped to protect its people from anyone who tries to cast an evil eye on us," the defence minister said.

Singh said that during the wars with Pakistan and China, the people of Jammu and Kashmir stood by their forces.

"Whether one is Hindu or Muslim, all stood by their forces. We cannot forget," he said.

Paying tributes to the freedom fighters and the armed forces personnel who have laid down their lives since Independence in the service of the nation, Singh stated that it was the spirit of national pride at the core of their values that had protected the unity and integrity of India.

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- The two tri-service commands are Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), and The Strategic Force Command (which handles the nuclear weapons).
 - India has started defense exports worth Rs 13,000 crore and it has fixed a target to increase it to Rs 35,000 to Rs 40,000 crore by 2025-26.
 - The USA was the first country to enforce a theatre command system. Russia and China also follow the theatre command system.
 - 6. Recently in July _____ government will set up National Centre for Disease Control Unit at Rani in the Karmup Metropolitan district.
 - A. Madhya Pradesh
 - B. Uttar Pradesh
 - C. Assam**
 - D. Manipur
 - E. None of these
 - The Assam Minister Keshab Mahanta has said that government will set up National Centre for Disease Control Unit at Rani in the Karmup Metropolitan district.
 - Under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has selected Assam along with four other states for setting up NCDC centers.
 - Apart from Guwahati, the other places are Dehradun, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, and Bengaluru.
 - NCDC centers focus on the research, treatment, and control of infectious diseases, such as Japanese Encephalitis, Malaria, and COVID.
 - The National Centre for Disease Control is an institute under the Indian Directorate General of Health Services, Ministry of Health, and Family Welfare.
 - 7. Consider the following statement regarding PMAY-U 'Housing for All' Mission.
 - 1. A total of 122.69 lakh houses have been sanctioned during the Mission period i.e. till 31 March 2022.
 - 2. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) – 'Housing for All' Mission, since 25.06.2015.
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. Only 1
 - B. Only 2
 - C. Both 1 & 2**
 - D. None of the above
- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) – 'Housing for All' Mission, since 25.06.2015 for giving Central assistance to States / Union Territories (UTs) for providing all-weather pucca houses to all eligible urban beneficiaries.
 - Based on the project proposals submitted by States / UTs, a total of 122.69 lakh houses have been sanctioned during the Mission period i.e. till 31 March 2022.

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- Of the sanctioned houses, 101.94 lakh have been grounded for construction; of which 61.15 lakh are completed/delivered to beneficiaries since the inception of the Scheme.
- During the last three years, 33.25 lakh houses have been completed under different verticals of the Scheme.

8. Consider the following statement regarding the **delimitation exercise of municipal wards**.

1. The exact number of councilor seats to be carved out in the delimitation exercise in the national capital has been fixed at 250.
2. The three-member committee is led by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The exact number of councilor seats to be carved out in the delimitation exercise in the national capital has been fixed at 250,
- The need for the delimitation exercise arose after the Central government notified the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which proposed the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations and a reduction in the number of councilor seats to “not more than 250 seats” from the existing 272.
- The order on the exact number of wards comes two weeks after the MHA constituted a three-member committee to conduct the delimitation exercise in the Capital.
- The delimitation committee, which was constituted on July 8, is required to complete the exercise and submit its report within four months from the date of its constitution. The three-member committee is led by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev.
- Section five of the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act specifies that the Centre will have to determine the following: the number of wards, the extent of each ward, which wards will be reserved for Scheduled Castes and women candidates, and how the seats shall be rotated.

Ward delimitation: panel to carve out 250 seats

‘Order issued by MHA, work to be completed in 4 months’

MUNEEF KHAN
NEW DELHI

The exact number of councilor seats to be carved out in the delimitation exercise in the national capital has been fixed at 250, sources familiar with the development told *The Hindu* on Monday.

The sources said the decision was received through an order dated July 22 from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

“Based on this order, we will take data from the 2011 Census, which is authentic as on date, and Geospatial Delhi Limited data is also being considered. The digitised maps used in the previous delimitation exercise in 2016 are also valid and will be relied upon,” said a source.

‘Equal population’

The source added that while the reduction in seats is not huge in number [from 272 to 250], the exercise will have to be conducted to ensure that population of “all wards is equal”. “Let’s see how the committee decides further



The three-member delimitation panel is led by SEC Vijay Dev. • FILE PHOTO

mittee to conduct the delimitation exercise in the Capital. The source added that the MHA’s latest order was much awaited for the work to commence.

The delimitation committee, which was constituted on July 8, is required to complete the exercise and submit its report within four months from the date of its constitution. The three-member committee is led by State Election Commissioner Vijay Dev.

“Employees under the Municipal Corporation of Delhi and the SEC have already been roped in for the exercise. The statutory period of the exercise to be completed, which is four months, has to be taken into consideration,” said the source, adding that meetings will be held soon.

According to the Centre, the formation of the committee is a step in the direction of conducting the civic polls in the Capital, which were previously slated to be held in April.

on this,” the source said.

The need for the delimitation exercise arose after the Central government notified the Delhi Municipal Corporation (Amendment) Act, 2022, which proposed the merger of the three erstwhile municipal corporations and a reduction in the number of councilor seats to “not more than 250 seats” from the existing 272.

The order on the exact number of wards comes two weeks after the MHA constituted a three-member com-

9. Consider the following statement regarding the ‘Ujjwal Bharat- Ujjwal Bhavishi’ festival.

1. Ministry of Power is organizing the ‘Ujjwal Bharat- Ujjwal Bhavishi’ festival.
2. Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047 event will be organized in Pune on 30 July.

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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

- Ministry of Power is organizing the 'Ujjwal Bharat- Ujjwal Bhavishi' festival.
- 'Ujjwal Bharat- Ujjwal Bhavishi' festival is a series of Bijli Mahotsav to celebrate reforms in the power sector.
- Andhra Pradesh is the best state in implementing various Central schemes in the power sector.
- Ujjwal Bharat Ujjwal Bhavishya – Power @2047 event will be organized in Visakhapatnam on 30 July.
- Government through various schemes like Integrated Power Development Scheme, Deendayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Saubhagya Yojana ensure that electricity reaches every corner of the country.
- Indian grid is the world's largest integrated grid with an interregional transfer capacity of 112250 MW.
- Reforms in the power sector are given below:
- 2,950 new sub-stations have been added and 3,950 old substations have been upgraded in recent times.
- As of March 2022, 40 lakh smart meters have been installed under the National Smart Grid Mission (NSGM).
- India's rank in World Bank's Ease of Doing Business – "Getting Electricity" ranking has improved to 22 from 137.
- SCADA control center identifies disruptions in power supply and rectifies issues promptly.

10. Consider the following statement regarding **India's first brain health clinic**.

1. The clinic has been inaugurated under the **Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)** at **Jayanagar General Hospital**.
2. It is a **joint endeavor of Nimhans and the Department of Health and Family Welfare**.
3. **Ajinkya Raahane** is **Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)** ambassador.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Karnataka Health Minister **Dr. K Sudhakar** inaugurated **India's first brain health clinic** in **Bengaluru**.
- The clinic has been inaugurated under the **Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)** at **Jayanagar General Hospital**.
- The clinic has been inaugurated on the occasion of **World Brain Day**.
- **Two more brain health clinics** will open in **Chikkaballapura** and **Kolar** districts.
- **Ka-BHI** was launched in **January** as a **joint endeavor of Nimhans and the Department of Health and Family Welfare**.
- **Cricketer Robin Uthappa** is **Karnataka Brain Health Initiative (Ka-BHI)** ambassador.
- **The National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences (NIMHANS)** is located in **Bangalore**.

11. **Ahmedabad Railway Station at Kalupur** in **Ahmedabad City** will be developed on the theme of _____ in the coming 5 years.

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- A. **Modhera Sun Temple**
- B. Konark Sun Temple
- C. Dahej Sun Temple
- D. Dholera Sun Temple
- E. None of these

- **Ahmedabad Railway Station at Kalupur in Ahmedabad City will be developed on the theme of Modhera Sun Temple in the coming 5 years.**
- **Union Home Minister Amit Shah made this announcement recently on 24 July 2022.**

- **He was addressing a public function to lay the foundation stone for various developmental projects worth Rs 211 crore in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency.**
- **He also announced that 14 lakes in areas of Ahmedabad city and the Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority will be inter-connected.**
- **Modhera Sun Temple:**
- **It is located in Mehsana, Gujarat. It is situated on the bank of the river Pushpavati.**
- **It was built in the 11th century during the Chalukya dynasty in honor of the Sun God.**
- **It is one of the major tourist destinations in North Gujarat.**

12. Recently Union Cabinet approved a Bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002. Competition Act, 2002 replaced the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act of the year _____.

- A. 1967
- B. 1968
- C. **1969**
- D. 1970
- E. None of these

- **Union Cabinet has approved a bill to amend the Competition Act, 2002.**
- **The Competition (Amendment) Bill will introduce changes to the governing structure of the Competition Commission of India (CCI).**

Ahmedabad station to be developed on Modhera Sun temple model: Shah

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR, JULY 24

THE AHMEDABAD Railway Station at Kalupur in Ahmedabad City will be developed on the theme of Modhera Sun Temple in the next five years, Union Home & Cooperation Minister Amit Shah announced Sunday.

The Sabarmati Railway Station will also be developed in a grand manner while providing connectivity to destinations of South India, the Gandhinagar Lok

Sabha MP added.

"Today, along with numerous developmental works done, I guarantee you that our Ahmedabad's railway station, too, will (be developed). You just (wait and) see Ahmedabad Railway Station after five years. (Narendra) Modiji has visualised it, Ahmedabad's railway station will be developed as grand as Modhera Sun Temple," Shah said while addressing a public function to dedicate a sports complex and lay foundation stone for various developmental projects worth Rs

211 crore in Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency from Manipur village in Ahmedabad district. Modhera Sun Temple is located in Mehsana, neighbouring Ahmedabad district. Built in the 11th century during the Chalukya dynasty in honour of the Sun God, it is a major tourist destination in North Gujarat.

He said: "Trains that don't go to South (India) from Sabarmati will also be connected. We are going to make sure that passengers bound for South India get trains from Sabarmati."

Cabinet clears Bill to amend 20-year-old Competition Act

Gireesh Chandra Prasad
gireesh.p@livemint.com

MUMBAI: The Union cabinet led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday cleared a Bill to amend the two-decade-old Competition Act, aiming to reform the competition regulation ecosystem, a person familiar with the development said on condition of anonymity.

The Competition (Amendment) Bill seeks to introduce changes to the governing structure of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and modify the substantive provisions in law to address the needs of new age markets.

The Bill seeks to make competition regulation more robust by addressing regulatory gaps and clarify provisions in the law drawing from CCI's adjudicatory experience.

Mint reported on Sunday that the proposed Bill is set to expand the scope of prohibited anti-competitive agreements to cover new age marketing arrangements which do not squarely fit into conventional



The Bill seeks to make competition regulation more robust **MINT**

supply chain arrangements for which explicit regulatory provisions are given in the law.

The monsoon session of Parliament which commenced on 18 July is packed with a hectic legislative agenda as per the schedule provided by the Parliament. Around 30 bills could come up for discussion including pending ones. These include bills on senior citizens' welfare; for revising scheduled castes and tribes lists in some of the states; and for investor protection in multi-state cooperative societies.

Some of the bills are meant to

recast economic regulations in bankruptcy resolution, special economic zones, energy conservation and mining, and for quick grant of geographical indication status. An email sent to the cabinet secretariat and to the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday seeking comments for the story remained unanswered at the time of publishing. On Wednesday, the cabinet committee on economic affairs approved additional investment of \$1,600 million by BPRL, a subsidiary of BPCL for developing a project in Brazil, an official statement said.

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- It will modify the substantive provisions in the law to address the needs of new age markets.
- It will make competition regulation more robust by addressing regulatory gaps. It will clarify provisions in the existing law.
- Competition Act, 2002: It was passed by the Parliament in the year 2002. President gave assent in January 2003.
- It replaced the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act, of 1969.
- It was amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, and again by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2009.

13. Recently Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to _____ % in 2030 from about 6.3% now.

- A. 15 %
- B. 20 %
- C. 25 %
- D. 10 %
- E. None of these

• The Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Shri Rameswar Teli in a written reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today informed that the Government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in the energy mix to 15% in 2030 from about 6.3% now. To achieve the target, various initiatives have been taken which inter alia include the following:-

- i). Expansion of National Gas Grid to about 33,500 Km from current 21,715 Km.
- ii). Expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network
- iii). Setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals.
- iv). Allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) / Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) in no cut category.
- Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and establishing Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations is part of the development of the CGD network and the same is carried out by the entities authorized by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

Govt proposes to raise natural gas share in energy mix to 15% in 2030: Minister

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 25 JULY

The government has set a target to raise the share of natural gas in energy mix to 15% in 2030 from about 6.3% now, Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli said in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha.

Providing Piped Natural Gas (PNG) connections and establishing of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) stations is part of the development of CGD network and the same is carried out by the entities authorised by Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB).

The minister said the CNG stations and PNG connections are being provided by authorised entities as per timelines prescribed by PNGRB from time to time.



To achieve the target, various initiatives have been taken which inter alia include the following:-

- Expansion of National Gas Grid to about 33,500 Km from current 21,715 Km;
- Expansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) network;
- Setting up of Liquefied Natural Gas Terminals;
- Allocation of domestic gas to Compressed Natural Gas (Transport) / Piped Natural Gas (Domestic) in no cut category;
- Allowing marketing and pricing freedom to gas produced from high pressure/high-temperature areas, deep water & ultra-deepwater, and from coal seams; and Sustainable Alternative Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT) initiatives to promote Bio-CNG.

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- The CNG Stations and PNG connections are being provided by authorized entities as per timelines prescribed by PNGRB from time to time. As on 31.05.2022, a total of 95.21 lakh PNG (Domestic) connections have been provided and 4531 CNG (Transport) stations have been established by the authorized entities.
- After completion of the 11A city gas distribution (CGD) round, 295 Geographical Areas (GAs) have been authorized which inter alia cover 98% of India’s population and 88% of its GAs. As per the Minimum Work Programme, CGD entities authorized up to 11A round, have to provide 12.33 crore PNG connections and establish 17,700 CNG stations by 2030 including in rural and urban areas.

14. Recently In step with the **Agnipath scheme**, the government has initiated project _____ -which is aimed at helping re-establish/rehabilitate Agniveers after they complete their stint in the armed forces.

- A. Punah Sthapan
- B. Punah Parinam
- C. Punah Pariksha
- D. Punah Sngarsh
- E. None of these

Project Punah Sthapan for ‘Dual Recognition’ of Agniveer Skill Set

18 armed forces organisations reach out to skill ministry; 381 ‘internal skills’ lined up for certification

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New Delhi: In step with the Agnipath scheme, the government has initiated project ‘Punah Sthapan’ – which is aimed at helping re-establish/rehabilitate Agniveers after they complete their stint in the armed forces.

Being drawn up by the defence ministry and the armed forces with help from the education ministry and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) among others, the project seeks to ensure ‘dual recognition’ of skills acquired by Agniveers during their training in the armed forces to enhance their employability.

As many as 18 organisations under the armed forces have shown interest in getting dual recognition for their own internal skills qualifications so far, ET has learnt. The first movers are the directorates of the Army, Regiment of Artillery, Armoured Corps, Corps of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering and Corps of Engineers. The four have already submitted over 300 qualifications for approval and alignment with the skilling framework.

So far, the Army has shared more than 280 qualifications – internal training skills – with the MSDE for

Chalking Out

The ‘dual recognition’ will allow retiring Agniveers to earn 50% credits for a Bachelors’ degree course through their armed force skills acquired.

The remaining 50% credits will come through an IGNOU-prescribed syllabus from a basket of courses

Over 40 job roles across sectors are expected to be prepared within the next 2-3 months



TAKING INITIATIVE



Artillery, Armoured Corps, Corps of Electronics & Mechanical Engineering and Corps of Engineers make first move

alignment with the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and for equivalence with the prevalent certificate/diploma/degree regime. In a July 15 meeting of the full Council of the National Council for Vocational Education & Training (NCVET), it was informed that scrutiny and approval process for these qualifications is under process.

The Council was apprised about the project undertaken by the Army to align all their qualifications and

undertake training in NSQF-aligned and approved qualifications.

The NCVET is hand holding the Army for the same.

In March, soon after the Agnipath scheme was announced, 38 Army officers led by a Major General of the Army Training Command were given a detailed briefing on the modalities of re-aligning their existing training and qualifications as per the NSQF norms. The Council was informed. The ‘dual recognition’ en-

visaged under project ‘Punah Sthapan’ will be key to the government’s plans to allow retiring Agniveers to earn 50% credits for a Bachelors’ degree course through their armed force training/work experience/skills acquired. These skills will be subject to their internal assessment in the armed forces.

The remaining 50% credits will come through an IGNOU-prescribed syllabus from a basket of courses – from languages to Economics, History, Political Science, Public Administration, Sociology, Mathematics, Education, Commerce, Tourism, Vocational Studies, Agriculture and Ayurveda, besides ability enhancement courses on Environmental Studies and Communication Skills in English. This IGNOU course will allow multiple exit points – Undergraduate Certificate on successful completion of the first year course, Undergraduate Diploma on successful completion of the first and second year courses, and Degree on completion of all the courses in three years. For those inducted as Agniveers at Class 10 level, the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) is facilitating Class 12 level certification and equivalence. The government is working on skilling requirements for Agniveers at three levels – pre-recruitment, in-service and for post-service release courses.

ENTIRE WORLD IS LOOKING AT INDIA’S YOUTH

CELEBRATING SECOND ANNIVERSARY OF NEP

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- *In step with the Agnipath scheme, the government has initiated the project 'Punah Sthapan' - which is aimed at helping re-establish/rehabilitate Agniveers after they complete their stint in the armed forces.*
 - *Being drawn up by the defense ministry and the armed forces with help from the education ministry and the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) among others, the project seeks to ensure 'dual recognition' of skills acquired by Agniveers during their training in the armed forces to enhance their employability.*
 - *As many as 18 organizations under the armed forces have shown interest in getting the dual recognitions for their own internal skills qualifications so far, say the minutes of the July 13 meeting of the full Council of the National Council of Vocational Education & Training.*
15. Recently _____ state government launched a **Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme** to provide cashless medical facilities to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, pensioners, and their dependents.
- A. **Uttar Pradesh**
 - B. Madhya Pradesh
 - C. Rajasthan
 - D. Haryana
 - E. None of these
- *Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister "Yogi Adityanath" Thursday (21st July 2022) launched a scheme to provide cashless medical facilities to more than 75 lakh people including 22 lakh state government employees, and pensioners and their dependents.*
 - *Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya State Employees Cashless Medical Scheme, eligible people will get cashless medical facilities at government-run institutions, medical colleges, and hospitals without any financial limit.*
 - *Also, cashless medical facilities up to Rs 5 lakh will be available at hospitals impaneled under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme. Launching the scheme at an event here, the CM said a State Health Card would be provided to the eligible employee and pensioners.*
 - *According to an official statement, the CM said that under the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana' Ayushman Bharat, medical insurance coverage up to Rs 5 lakh is being provided to poor families.*
16. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved investment of _____ by **Bharat PetroResources Ltd. (BPRL)**, a wholly owned subsidiary of **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL)** for development of **BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project** in _____.
- A. USD 1500 million, Maldives
 - B. **USD 1600 million, Brazil**
 - C. USD 1200 million, Japan
 - D. USD 800 million, Argentina
 - E. None of these

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- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved an additional investment of USD 1,600 million (about Rs. 12,000 crores) by Bharat PetroResources Ltd. (BPRL), a wholly owned subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) for development of BM-SEAL-11 Concession Project in Brazil.
- The start of production from the BM-SEAL-11 project is expected from 2026-27.
- The CCEA also approved the following:
 - To increase the limit of equity investment by BPCL in BPRL and Authorised Share Capital of the Company from Rs.15,000 crore to Rs.20,000 crore (to be subscribed by BPCL from time to time).
 - To authorize an increase in the limit of equity investment by BPRL International BV in International BV Brasil Petroleo Limitada, through intermediate WOS, to Rs.15,000 crore from the current limit of Rs.5,000 crore is an increase of Rs.10,000 crore.
- BPRL has 40% Participating Interest (PI) in this Concession along with Petrobras, the National oil company of Brazil, as the Operator with 60% Participating Interest.
- BPRL has been associated with the exploration and development of this project in Brazil since 2008.

Cabinet okays \$1.6-b investment by BPCL subsidiary in Brazil

Production from BM-SEAL-11 project is expected to start from 2026-27

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 27

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved an additional investment of \$1.6 billion (about ₹12,000 crore) by Bharat PetroResources (BPRL), a subsidiary of state-run Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL), for development of BM-SEAL-II Concession Project in Brazil.

BPRL has 40 per cent parti-

cipating interest (PI) in this concession along with Petrobras, National oil company of Brazil, as the operator with 60 per cent Participating Interest, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG) said in a statement.

Production from the BM-SEAL-II project is expected to start from 2026-27, it added.

On the rationale behind the investment, MoPNG said it will help strengthen India's energy



security, besides diversifying the country's crude oil supply.

"Indian oil companies have expressed interest in sourcing more crude oil from Brazil. This will strengthen India's foothold in Brazil, which will further open business avenues

in neighbouring Latin American countries. It will also strengthen the bilateral ties between the countries," MoPNG said.

In April this year, India and Brazil, in a joint statement, recognised the importance of robust investment in the Brazilian oil and gas sector by Indian companies and reaffirmed their commitment to safeguard existing investments, while encouraging further bilateral investments. India also expressed interest in sourcing crude oil under long-term special contracts.

17. Consider the following statement regarding the "Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Food Processing Industry".
1. It has an outlay of INR 10,900 crores to be implemented for a period of seven years from 2021-2022 to 2026-27.
 2. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) in March 2021.
 3. The National Year of Millets was celebrated in 2018.

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

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- *Government plans to hold several programs in the country and abroad for popularizing Millets and other Nutri-cereals. Besides, all Ministries/Departments of the Government of India, along with the State Governments, will promote the Nutri-cereals in coordination with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) and Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).*
- *This was stated by the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar while chairing the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare on the subject 'International Year of Millets'.*
- *The government of India had proposed to the United Nations for declaring 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYoM). The proposal of India was supported by 72 countries and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets (IYOM) in March 2021.*
- *As part of the Prime Minister's announcement of Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, the Government, on 31st March 2021, approved a Central Sector Scheme, namely "Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for Food Processing Industry" with an outlay of INR 10,900 crores to be implemented for a period of seven years from 2021-2022 to 2026-27.*
- *The Government has taken several steps to the promotion of Millets. To create domestic and global demand and to provide nutritional food to the people, The National Year of Millets was celebrated in 2018. Because of the nutritional value of the millets, the Government also notified Millets as Nutri-cereals in April 2018, and Millets were included under the POSHAN Mission Abhiyan.*

18. Recently _____ state government **launched 'smart e-beat' system for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling.**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Chattisgarh
- D. **Haryana**
- E. None of these

- *An app-based system for police attendance and real-time monitoring of patrolling by personnel was launched by Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar on Monday in Gurugram.*
- *The CM launched the 'Smart E-Beat' system at an event at the office of the Commissioner of Police and flagged off 119 motorcycle police riders connected with it.*
- *Khattar said this app-based system has been introduced in Gurugram under the 'Smart Policing Initiative' (SPI) and it will help these policemen to mark their attendance and in the monitoring of their rides.*
- *Till now, the policemen deployed at the beat used to mark their attendance manually and there was no system for their monitoring.*

'Smart e-beat' system launched in Gurugram

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GURUGRAM

Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal on Monday launched the 'smart e-beat' system, and flagged off 119 motorcycle riders of the Gurugram police.

Mr. Lal said it is an app-based system which will mark the attendance of the policemen. Till now, the officers, deployed at the beat, used to mark their attendance manually. This is a GIS-based system which would enable more effective monitoring will help track the location of riders.

The new system will cover all 33 police stations located in the urban area of Gurugram, the CM said.

Mr. Lal said the system will be integrated with an emergency response support system in the future.

Gurugram Police Commissioner Kala Ramachandran said the system had proved effective after which it was extended to other parts of the city.

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- *But, this GIS-based system would enable more effective monitoring and the location of riders can be easily tracked.*

19. The **Hattis** is a close-knit community mainly residing in which of the following state?

- A. Haryana
- B. Himachal Pradesh**
- C. Sikkim
- D. Punjab
- E. None of these

How Himachal got RGI nod for ST tag for entire region

Subodh Ghildiyal
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New Delhi: As the Centre moves towards granting Scheduled Tribe status to the entire population (Hattee community) of the trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh, the Registrar General of India (RGI) has surprisingly approved the state's proposal after rejecting it thrice in 1995, 2006 and 2017.

However, interesting is the fact that Himachal attempted a sleight of hand in its fresh report to support its demand. It replaced 'Brahmins' and 'Rajputs' with their local caste names 'Bhat' and 'Khas-Kanet' as part of the umbrella 'Hattee' community. The RGI spotted the tactic employed, and slammed the manoeuvre, but belatedly agreed, in the state's fourth attempt, with its arguments about the tribal characteristics of the population.

Himachal blamed the RGI for incorrectly subsuming 'Rajputs' under 'Hattee'. It said, 'Rajputs' belong to plains (cis-Giri region), while the inhabitants of trans-Giri are 'Khas-Kanet'. It said, "The RGI has misinterpreted inclusion of Brahmins and Rajputs in

Himachal Pradesh, in its fresh report to support its demand for ST status to the entire population of the trans-Giri region, replaced 'Brahmins' and 'Rajputs' with their local caste names 'Bhat' and 'Khas-Kanet' as part of the 'Hattee' community

the Hattee community." An irate Registrar General of India retorted, "The statement that RGI had misinterpreted inclusion of Brahmins and Rajputs in the Hattee community is neither justified nor acceptable. The 2016 study report clearly mentions that Hattee is used for three social groups—Rajput, Brahmin, SCs. This time in 2022 report, the caste names Bhat and Khas-Kanet have been written in place of Brahmin and Rajput. It is to be pointed out that Bhat is traditionally priests and come under Brahmin group. Similarly, Khasa Rajput is one of the section of Khasa caste. Therefore, it is not correct to state that Brahmin and Rajput are not part of the Hattee community."

But the RGI has agreed to the proposal that trans-Giri region be declared an ST area. Once enacted by Parliament, it would grant tribal status to all residents of the said hill pocket —

SCs, OBCs and upper castes. In its fresh report, Himachal strongly argued that trans-Giri is culturally similar to the adjoining Jaunsar region of Uttarakhand which was given ST status in 1967. Listing "upper status social groups" which are "dominant castes", the report said 'Khas-Kanet', who make up 60% of the population, are agriculturists, and 'Bhat' are priests. The report further said that culture and lifestyle of local communities have strong tribal characteristics.

In its assessment, the RGI has noted the traditional prevalence of polyandry in trans-Giri, and the absence of economic specialisation among locals, to draw a common link between trans-Giri and Jaunsar regions across the Himachal-Uttarakhand divide. It has also noted the prevalence of "magico-religious" tribal character.

14/20

- *The Centre is reported to be considering granting "tribal" status to the Trans-Giri region of Himachal Pradesh's Sirmour district.*
- *The demand to declare Trans-Giri a tribal area is old — and is tied up with the demand for Scheduled Tribe (ST) status for the Hatti community which lives in the area.*
- *The Hattis is a close-knit community that takes their name from their traditional occupation of selling home-grown crops, vegetables, meat, and wool at small-town markets known as 'hits'.*
- *Hatti men traditionally don distinctive white headgear on ceremonial occasions.*
- *The Hatti homeland straddles the Himachal-Uttarakhand border in the basin of the Giri and Tons rivers, both tributaries of the Yamuna. The Tons mark the border between the two states, and the Hattis living in the Trans-Giri area in today's Himachal Pradesh and Jaunsar Bawar in Uttarakhand were once part of the royal estate of Sirmour. Jaunsar Bawar was conquered by the British in 1814.*
- *The two Hatti clans, in Trans-Giri and Jaunsar Bawar, have similar traditions, and inter-marriages are common*

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20. . Consider the following statement regarding *PM-Daksh Yojana*.

1. The amount of funds earmarked under the *Yojana* for the year 2022-23 is Rs.84.00 crores.
2. *PM-DAKSH Portal and PM-DAKSH Mobile App* have been launched by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on 07.08.2021.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The amount of funds earmarked under the *Yojana* for the year 2022-23 is Rs.84.00 crores.
- *PM-DAKSH Portal and PM-DAKSH Mobile App* have been launched by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment on 07.08.2021. The URL of the *PM-DAKSH Portal* is “*pmdaksh.dosje.gov.in*” and *Mobile App “PM-DAKSH”* is available on the *Play Store*.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment (*MoSJ&E*), caters to the empowerment of the socially, educationally, and economically marginalized sections of the society including *SCs, OBCs, and De-notified Tribes (DNTs), EBCs, Safai Karamcharies including Waste Pickers*.
- Department modified the existing Scheme of Assistance to skilling for *OBCs/EBCs/DNTs* with the inclusion of *SCs and Safai karamcharis including Waste pickers* and renamed it *PM-DAKSH Yojana as Central Sector Scheme*.
- *SFC* has approved the continuation of this scheme with a target to skill around *2,71,000 SC/OBC/EBC/DNT persons, Safai Karamcharis including Waste Pickers* during 2021-22 to 2025-26 with a budget outlay of *Rs.450.25 crore*.
- The scheme is implemented through three *Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)*, of the Ministry, i.e. *National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), National Backward Classes Finance & Development Corporation (NBCFDC), and National Safai Karamcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKFDC)* for their respective target groups.
- Stipend @ *Rs. 1500 per month for SC and Safai Karamchari candidates and @ Rs. 1000 per month for OBC, EBC, and DNT candidates in case of non- residential short-term and long-term training*.

21. The *Union Cabinet* approved a project for saturation of *4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of _____.*

- A. *Rs. 26,316 Cr*
- B. *Rs. 28,316 Cr*
- C. *Rs. 24,316 Cr*
- D. *Rs. 23,316 Cr*
- E. *None of these*

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- *The Union Cabinet approved a project for saturation of 4G mobile services in uncovered villages across the country at a total cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr.*
 - *The project will provide 4G mobile services in 24,680 uncovered villages in remote and difficult areas. The project has a provision to include 20% additional villages on account of rehabilitation, new settlements, withdrawal of services by existing operators, etc.*
 - *In addition, 6,279 villages having only 2G/3G connectivity shall be upgraded to 4G.*
 - *The project will be executed by BSNL using Atmanirbhar Bharat's 4G technology stack and will be funded through Universal Service Obligation Fund.*
 - *The project cost of Rs. 26,316 Cr includes capex and 5-year opex.*
 - *The project is a significant step toward the vision of the Government to provide mobile connectivity in rural areas.*
 - *Last year Government approved a project for providing 4G mobile services in 7,287 uncovered villages in 44 aspirational districts across 5 states.*
 - *In his Independence Day address in 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave a call for saturation of government schemes.*
22. What is the name of the show produced to commemorate 75 years of India's independence that will also be broadcast on the Doordarshan network?
- A. **Swaraj**
 - B. Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
 - C. Savnidhan
 - D. Swadhinta
 - E. None of these
- *Public broadcaster Prasar Bharati has invited applications from private OTT platforms for exclusive global licensing rights to stream Swaraj, a show produced to commemorate 75 years of India's independence that will also be broadcast on the Doordarshan network.*
 - *The license, lasting three years, will authorize the streaming platform to upload and store the program and stream it for the public whether free of cost or on payment of a subscription with each episode available 48 hours after it airs on the DD network.*
 - *The show, consisting of 75 episodes, has been produced by the television production house Contiloe Pictures. It focuses on the long struggle of Indians against the colonial onslaught, tales of the warriors who had made sacrifices for the country but whose stories of sacrifice could not reach the larger population.*
 - *Each episode of Swaraj is 44-50 minutes long. It has originally been produced in Hindi and will be dubbed in English and nine other languages including Marathi, Odia, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Bengali, Assamese, and Gujarati.*
23. Consider the following statement regarding Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar.
1. The **Union Ministry of Mines** has set up a Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar, a National Award to promote mining across the country.
 2. A total of Rs 18 crore was awarded as prize money to different States.
 3. Jharkhand is the most mineral-rich state of India with almost sixty million tons of different kinds of minerals.

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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 Union Ministry of Mines has set up a Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar, a National Award to promote mining across the country.
- The Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar has been set up to incentivize States that take initiative in the exploration, auction, and operationalization of mineral blocks.
- The Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar will be awarded in three categories of minerals.
- The Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 were conferred during the 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals held on July 12, 2022.
- A total of Rs 18 crore was awarded as prize money to different States.
- Rashtriya Khanij Puraskar Prize Money - First Position- Rs 3 crore, Second Position- Rs 2 crore, Third Position- Rs 1 crore.
- Rs 20 lakh to states where potential mineral blocks are available for auction.
- Rs 20 lakh to states for each successful auction of the mineral block.
- 50 percent reimbursement of Transaction Advisor fee for conducting the auction, subject to a maximum of Rs 5 Lakh for each block that was put up for auction but could not be successfully auctioned.
- The center has released a total of Rs 21.02 crore to states in the above categories during the 6th National Conclave on Mines & Minerals.
- Jharkhand is the most mineral-rich state of India with almost sixty million tons of different kinds of minerals. The state is one of the leading producers of coal, gold, silver, bauxite, kyanite, felspar, iron ore, limestone, uranium, quartz, and dolomite.

24. Consider the following statement regarding National Anti-Doping Bill 2021.

1. The bill provides a statutory framework for the functioning of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory in Education.
2. The Bill proposes to establish the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Lok Sabha passes Anti-Doping Bill, NADA gets power

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NEW DELHI: The Lok Sabha passed the National Anti-Doping Bill on Wednesday to provide more teeth to India's fight against doping in sports. The bill provides the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) wide ranging search, seizure and investigative powers.

Doping has repeatedly blighted India's image as the nation bids to improve its global sporting profile. A 2019 report of the World Anti-Doping Agency placed India (152) third among the nations with most anti-doping rule violations. Only Russia (167) and Italy (157) were worse off. For a long time it was felt a strong legal framework was needed to combat doping in India. There has been spate of Indian doping violations in the run-up to the Birmingham Commonwealth Games too.

The Bill was tabled in Lok Sabha in December and referred to a parliamentary standing committee, which made some suggestions. Some of the amendments have been incorporated while other suggestions will be included when rules and regulations are framed. The Bill provides for reconstituting NADA—it was established as a society—as a statutory body headed by a director general appointed by the central government. A National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports will be established to make recommendations to the government on anti-doping regulations and compliance with international commitments on anti-doping.

Speaking on the Bill in the Lok Sabha, union sports minister Anurag Thakur said the government has taken several steps to

curb doping. He said in the last one year after the suspension of the New Delhi-based National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) was revoked, an awareness campaign was carried out and around 100 anti-doping education awareness workshops was conducted. NDTL's budget has been increased by five times, from Rs 4.5 crore to Rs 21.5 crore.

"The government is collaborating with IIT, National Institute for Pharmaceutical Education and Research, CSIR, National Forensic Science University and all other scientific agencies in the country so that we become world leaders in the coming years for Indian athletes," he said.

The bill provides "legal sanctity to NADA and NDTL". Functions of NADA will include planning, implementing and monitoring anti-doping activities and investigating violations.

As per the Bill, "any anti-doping rule violation may result in disqualification of results including forfeiture of medals, points and prizes, ineligibility to participate in a competition or event for a prescribed period, and financial sanctions."

NADA currently cannot conduct raids if it suspects or has evidence of any doping activity going on in any premises, even at national camps. Once the Bill becomes an Act, NADA will have powers to search and seize. There will be some framework worked into the Bill to ensure this right is exercised judiciously.

For the adjudication process, the appeals panel is already in place. The Bill will now provide for the process to be carried out independently under the Board and will bid to ensure time-bound resolution of cases.

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- *The Lok Sabha on July 27, 2022, passed the National Anti-Doping Bill that seeks to prohibit athletes, support personnel, and other people from engaging in doping in sports.*
- *The bill provides a statutory framework for the functioning of the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory in sports.*
- *The Bill also proposes to establish the National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports. The board will overtake the activities of NADA and issue directions to it.*
- *It will comprise a Chairperson and two members, who will be appointed by the central government.*
- *The National Dope Testing Laboratory will be deemed to be the principal dope testing laboratory. The center may establish more National Dope Testing Laboratories as well.*
- *The bill will support the UNESCO international convention against doping in sports.*
- *The bill prohibits athletes, athlete support personnel, and other persons from getting involved in any doping activities.*
- *Under the new law, violations of anti-doping rules can result in disqualification and a person being barred from participating in a competition or event.*

25. Consider the following statement regarding **Alibag's white onion**.

1. **Alibag's white onion of the Raigad district of Maharashtra got a GI tag.**
2. **The GI for this onion, characterized by its sweetness, has been accepted.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *With its picturesque beaches, Alibag, in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, is one of the popular tourist spots. But, this historic place will be now recognized for Geographical Indication (GI) tagged white onion.*
- *The GI for this onion, characterized by its sweetness, has been accepted. It was published in the government gazette last week.*
- *The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion, which has medicinal qualities and is being cultivated traditionally for a long time.*
- *Farmers in Alibag say white onions are grown here for ages with only traditional and genuine seeds. Locals have acquired knowledge and mastered the skills required for the cultivation of white onion.*

GI tag for Alibag's white onion brings cheer to farmers

RADHESHYAM JADHAV

Pune, July 25

With its picturesque beaches, Alibag, in the Raigad district of Maharashtra, is one of the popular tourist spots. But, this historic place will hereon be recognized for Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged white onion. The GI for this onion, characterised by its sweetness, has been accepted. It was published in the government gazette last week.

"The GI tag gives a unique identity to the white onion, which has medicinal qualities and has being cultivated in a traditional way for a long time. Farmers will directly get benefits as the white onion will get the premium price because of the GI tag," said Ganesh Hingmire, Chairman of Great Mission Group Consultancy (GMGC) who was involved in the process to get the GI tag for Alibag white onion.



The onions are characterised by their sweetness

Farmers in Alibag say white onions have been grown here for ages with only traditional and genuine seeds. Locals have acquired knowledge and mastered the skills required for the cultivation of white onion.

Export potential

Geo-climatic conditions of Alibag make it unique compared to other white onion-producing areas and that is why Alibag white onion has developed a unique taste, flavour, and shape as well, say farmers.

Ganesh Hingmire said the GI tag will help white onion farmers in Alibag to get a bigger export market. "It (GI tag) adds to the export potential, which has helped other produce, such as chiku (Sapodilla) from Gholwad, Keshar mango from Marathwada, and bananas in Jalgaon" he said.

Maharashtra State Onion Producer Farmer Organization members say the government must encourage exports so that farmers don't have to suffer like the last year. Onion exports from Maharashtra declined to 5.8 lakh tonnes during FY22 from 7.9 lakh tonnes during FY21. Farmers and traders in Nashik, the onion hub of Maharashtra, said the wholesale prices in the domestic market were reasonably higher compared to export prices and hence, farmers preferred to sell the produce in the local market.

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- *GI Tag which is an abbreviation of Geographical Indication is a special identity of any region, town, or state. The tag is given on the name of some special products or signs which symbolize the uniqueness of that particular region.*
- *The Geographical Indication came into force on September 15, 2003. In 2004-2005 Darjeeling Tea was given the first GI Tag in India.*
- *In India the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999 came into force w.e.f. September 2003, under which the GI registration is administered.*

26. Consider the following statement regarding the *Deep Ocean mission*.

1. *World's first locomotion trials of the Deep-Sea Mining System have been done in the Central Indian Ocean at depth of 5270 meters.*
2. *Dr. Jitendra Singh launched a first-of-its-kind and state-of-art fully automated buoy-based coastal observation and water quality nowcasting system for the Indian Ocean developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.*
3. *The Deep water Manned Submersible is called Matysa6000 and this mission is called Samudravayuya developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Pune.*

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*

- *Dr. Jitendra Singh presented National Science Awards and lauded India's "Deep Sea" initiatives.*
- *He also complimented the scientists for conducting the world's first locomotion trials of the Deep-Sea Mining System in the Central Indian Ocean at depth of 5270 meters.*
- *Dr. Jitendra Singh today presented National Science Awards and lauded India's "Deep Sea" initiatives.*
- *He also complimented the scientists for conducting the world's first locomotion trials of the Deep-Sea Mining System in the Central Indian Ocean at depth of 5270 meters.*
- *Dr. Jitendra Singh gave away Eight National Awards 2022 including Lifetime Excellence Award, Lady Scientist Award, 2 Young Researcher Awards, and one each in Geo, Polar, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences.*
- *On this occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh launched a first-of-its-kind and state-of-art fully automated buoy-based coastal observation and water quality nowcasting system for the Indian Ocean developed by Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), Hyderabad.*
- *The system includes high-end sensors onboard an automated buoy integrated into a coastal observatory located in Kochi.*

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- Presenting a future blueprint for the Ministry, Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that in the next two years, MoES has ambitious plans to the development of a manned submersible to carry 3 scientists to a depth of 6000 meters in the ocean with a suit of scientific sensors and tools; development of an Integrated Mining System for mining Polymetallic Nodules from 6000 m depth.
- The Deep water Manned Submersible - a small watercraft designed to operate underwater - was developed by the National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai.
- This vehicle is called Matysa6000 and this mission is called Samudravayuya. The vehicle specifications to carry three persons with an operation endurance of 12 hours at 6,000 m depth.
- Referring to the 75-day long coastal clean-up campaign launched by the Ministry on 5th July 2022, which will culminate on "International Coastal Clean-up Day" on 17th September 2022, Dr. Jitendra Singh asked the Ministry officials to mobilize beach savers societies, NGOs, children, and youth forums, corporates, and PRI institutions to raise awareness about "Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar" in the remaining 50 odd days.

27. Consider the following statement regarding SVANidhi Scheme.

1. PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a Special Micro-Credit Facility launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
2. It facilitates collateral-free Working Capital loans of up to Rs 10,000 for one year tenure.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs addressed the 6th meeting of the National Association of Street Vendors of India (NASVI) with the theme "From Encroachers to Self-Employed".
- PM Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) is a Special Micro-Credit Facility launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, for providing affordable loans to street vendors.
- Facilitates collateral-free Working Capital loans of up to Rs 10,000 for one year tenure.
- Interest subsidy on timely/ early repayment @ 7%
- Monthly cash-back incentive on digital transactions up to Rs.100 on undertaking a prescribed number of digital transactions.
- On timely repayment of the first loan, higher loan eligibility of Rs.20,000 and Rs.50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively
- Around 49.48 lakh street vendors have been identified in India.
- Uttar Pradesh has the maximum at 8.49 lakh, followed by Madhya Pradesh at 7.04 lakh.
- Delhi has only 72,457 street vendors.
- No street vendor has been identified in Sikkim.
- PM SVANidhi scheme was launched on 1 June 2020.

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- Phase 1 of SVANidhi se, Samridhi was launched in January 2021, under which 31 lakh street vendors and their families across 125 cities were covered

28. Consider the following statement regarding **Agriculture Census in the country.**

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the 12th **Agriculture Census in the country.**
- The agriculture **Census is conducted every five years.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers **Narendra Singh Tomar** launched the 11th **Agriculture Census in the country.**

- It will be the first time data collection for agricultural computations will be done on smartphones and tablets.

- Narendra Singh Tomar** has also launched the **Data Collection Portal/App** and released the **Handbook on Operational Guidelines for Census.**

- Agricultural computations will also contribute to the mapping of crops.**

- The agriculture Census is conducted every five years. The fieldwork for the agricultural census will begin in August 2022.
- Agricultural Census provides information on different agricultural parameters such as area of operational holdings, their size, class-wise distribution, land use, tenancy, cropping pattern, etc. at the minute level.
- The use of mobile apps for data collection will accelerate the digitalization of the land record.

29. Recently _____ state government has signed an **MoU with the Koo app** to support the '**One District, One Product**' initiative.

- Uttar Pradesh
- Haryana
- Maharashtra
- Jharkhand
- None of these

Govt starts agricultural census to collect farm-economy data

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NEW DELHI: The Union government on Thursday launched the country's 11th agricultural census, according to a notification. This is an exercise carried out every five years to collect farm-economy data critical for policy-making in a nation where nearly half the population still depends on agriculture for their livelihood.

The agricultural census is the main source of information on a variety of indicators, including the nature of operational land holdings, their size, distribution by class, land-use statistics, tenancy and cropping patterns.

The countrywide census was launched by agriculture minister **Narendra Singh Tomar**, who



Narendra Singh Tomar

said the 11th agricultural census would be a fully digital exercise. The minister also launched a Handbook on Operational Guidelines for Census along with a special data collection portal and an app, which enumerators will use for the first time.

According to the 10th agricultural census (2015-16), small and marginal farmers with less than two hectares of land accounted for 86.2% of all farmers in the

country, but owned just 47.3% of the crop area.

It also showed that the number of small and marginal agricultural land holdings in the country, known as operational holdings, saw a marginal increase in 2015-16 compared to 2010-11. This meant that more people now own smaller parcels of farm land, a key reason for lack of scale in India's farm output.

During the 11th census, for the first time, data collection for agricultural census will be conducted on smart phones and tablets. This will help in faster and accurate enumeration. Most states have digitized land records and surveys, which will further accelerate the collection of agricultural census data, the farm minister said.

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- The state’s Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises and Export Promotion Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Koo App to support Yogi Adityanath’s ambitious “One District, One Product” (ODOP) initiative.
 - Association with Koo is aimed at promoting our ODOP products to a larger audience and driving conversations around ODOP in several regional languages.
 - Following the MoU, Koo will use its platform to spread awareness of and promote ODOP products and content in ten different languages. Koo will also purchase ODOP presents for corporate giving needs.
 - ODOP was introduced by UP Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in 2018 to promote indigenous and specialized products and crafts.
 - Koo is an Indian microblogging and social networking service, based in Bengaluru, India.
30. Consider the following statement regarding new norms of **cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008**.
1. New warnings and images will be displayed on **tobacco products’ packaging from 1 January**.
 2. It said that the first, used in existing packs—**“Tobacco causes painful death”**—will be used with image one on one side of the pack, while **“Tobacco users die young”** will be on display on the other side of a packet with a second image.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Health Ministry released a new set of specified health warnings for all tobacco product packs.
- The new specified health warnings have been issued by amending the Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008.

- The new guidelines will become effective from 1 December 2022.
- After 1 December 2022, all tobacco products pack shall display the Image with the textual Health Warning as ‘TOBACCO CAUSES PAINFUL DEATH’.
- All tobacco products manufactured, imported, or packaged on or after December 1, 2023, shall display an image with the textual health warning ‘TOBACCO USERS DIE YOUNGER’.
- The violation of guidelines is a punishable offense with imprisonment or fine under Section 20 of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act, 2003.

Tobacco, cigarette packs to carry new health warnings

According to govt data, the use of tobacco causes more than 1.3 mn deaths every year

Priyanka Sharma
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NEW DELHI

Tobacco and cigarette packs will display a new health warning from 1 December, the union health ministry said.

According to the recently amended Cigarettes and other Tobacco Products (Packaging and Labelling) Rules, 2008, new warnings and images will be displayed on the packs of all tobacco products.

According to the ministry, two sets of warning messages and images will be used on both sides of the pack: the first, used in existing packs, Tobacco causes painful death, will be used with image one on one side of the pack, and Tobacco users die young will be on display on the other side of a packet with image 2.

The packs will also have a toll-free helpline, Quit Today Call Today (1800-11-2356), in white font on a black background.

The government is seeking to create awareness among smokers and smokeless tobacco users and offering access to counselling services to help them quit.

According to government data, tobacco use causes more than 1.3 million deaths every year.

The new health warnings are a welcome step, said experts.

“It’s a proven fact that the lives of tobacco users are shortened by up to 10 years, as compared to non-tobacco users. When the existing warning Tobacco causes painful death was introduced, I suggested adding the word ‘early’ before ‘painful’ to make the warning more impactful. The warnings play a significant role in helping tobacco users quit the habit, as per the latest GATS 2 report

of 2016-17,” said Dr S.K. Arora, medical superintendent of the Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital and renowned tobacco control expert.

In the second round of the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS-2, 2016-17), conducted for the age group 15 years and above, 61.9% of cigarette and

53.8% of bidi smokers, besides 46.2% of smokeless tobacco users were considering quitting due to the warning label on packets. The number is significantly higher compared to

As per amended Cigarettes & other Tobacco Products Rules, 2008, new warnings & images will be displayed on packs of all tobacco products

the 2009-10 figures.

“Enforcement agencies should ensure tobacco products that do not carry such health warnings shouldn’t be sold in the market; otherwise, the legal provisions become futile,” Dr. Arora of Sanjay Gandhi Memorial Hospital said.

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- Persons involved in the manufacture, production, supply, import, or distribution of Tobacco Products must have to ensure that the packaging contains the required health warnings.

31. Consider the following statement regarding Swadesh Darshan.

- The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) for creating sustainable infrastructure at destinations.
- Till March 2022, 76 projects have been approved for Rs 5,445 crore.
- The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The government revamped the Swadesh Darshan scheme to develop sustainable and responsible destinations.
- The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) for creating sustainable infrastructure at destinations.
- Under Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes, the government provides financial aid to states and Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure.
- The projects under this scheme are approved subject to the availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines, and the submission of detailed project reports.
- Till March 2022, 76 projects have been approved at Rs 5,445 crore.
- The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits.
- Under the Ministry of Tourism, the Government of India launched the PRASAD Scheme in the year 2014-2015. The full form of the PRASAD Scheme is Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spirituality Augmentation Drive.
- The focus of Pilgrimage Rejuvenation And Spirituality Augmentation Drive- PRASAD is on the development and beautification of the identified pilgrimage destinations under the HRIDAY Scheme.

32. Which state government has decided to launch the 'Family Doctor Project' on a pilot basis from August?

Tourism ministry revamps its Swadesh Darshan scheme, aims for sustainable infra

DIVYAA
NEW DELHI, JULY 23

THE MINISTRY of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with an aim to develop sustainable and responsible infrastructure at destinations, said Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy. Giving a written reply in Rajya Sabha to a question by DMK MP M Mohamed Abdulla, Reddy added that the guidelines for SD2.0 have been circulated to the stakeholders.

The Ministry of Tourism, under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive), provides financial assistance to states and Union Territories for the development of tourism infrastructure. The projects under this scheme are sanctioned subject to availability of funds, submission of detailed project reports, adherence to scheme guidelines and utilisation of funds released previously, the minister stated in his reply.

The government had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme in 2014-15 for integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits — Buddhist Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, Eco Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Northeast Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Sufi Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Ramayana Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Wildlife Circuit and Tribal Circuit. As of March 2022, 76 projects have been sanctioned across 15 circuits under this scheme at a cost of Rs 5,445 crore.

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

- *Andhra Pradesh state government has decided to implement the “Family Doctor Project” on a pilot basis in Padmanabham Mandal of Visakhapatnam district. The project is expected to be launched on August 15, 2022. It aims to improve health services, especially among the rural population.*
 - *Under the project, a doctor from Primary Health Centre (PHC) will look after the health needs of people in Ward and Village Sachivalayam and provide patient services for the residents from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 1:30 pm to 4:30 pm.*
33. *Consider the following statement regarding the Airports Authority of India (AAI) UDAN Scheme. Which of the following is correct?*
- A. *Airports Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency has awarded 14 Water Aerodromes under UDAN.*
 - B. *Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency has informed that Rs. 287 crores have been sanctioned for 14 Water Aerodromes*
 - C. *A total of 115 RCS helicopter routes have been awarded under the RCS-UDAN scheme out of which 36 routes have been operationalized.*
 - D. *Both 1 & 3*
 - E. *All of the above***
- *Airports Authority of India (AAI), the implementing agency has awarded 14 Water Aerodromes under UDAN across the country naming (a) Sardar Sarovar Dam (Statue of Unity), Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad (b) Swaraj Dweep (Havelock Island), Shaheed Dweep (Neill Island), Long Island, Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands, (c) Guwahati riverfront and Umrangso Reservoir in Assam (d) Nagarjuna Sagar Dam in Telangana (e) Prakasam Barrage in Andhra Pradesh and (f) Minicoy, Kavaratti, Agatti in Lakshadweep Islands. Out of these Water Aerodromes, Sardar Sarovar Dam (Statue of Unity) and Sabarmati Riverfront, Ahmedabad were operationalized on 31.10.2020.*
 - *The Ministry of Civil Aviation has introduced seaplane operations from water aerodromes under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS)-UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik).*
 - *Airports Authority of India (AAI), the Implementing Agency has informed that Rs. 287 crores have been sanctioned for 14 Water Aerodromes, and an expenditure of Rs 18.73 crore has been incurred so far. State-wise details of Water aerodromes awarded under UDAN and status thereof are attached as Annexure.*
 - *A total of 115 RCS helicopter routes have been awarded under the RCS-UDAN scheme out of which 36 routes have been operationalized. As per provisions in the UDAN scheme, helicopter operations are permissible only in priority areas viz.*
 - *Further, M/s Pawan Hans Limited (PHL) has been awarded 70 routes by AAI under RCS UDAN.*
 - *28 seaplane routes connecting 14 water aerodromes and 115 RCS helicopter routes have been awarded.*

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34. Recently Cabinet approved a *Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRD&PR) and the University of Reading (UoR)* which is the following country for collaborating in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries?

- A. **United Kingdom**
- B. United State Of America
- C. UAE
- D. Japan
- E. None of these

- *The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, was apprised of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the National Institute of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (NIRDPR) and the University of Reading (UoR), United Kingdom (UK) for collaboration in the field of agriculture and rural development in developing countries.*
- *This MoU will help NIRDPR faculty in acquiring and widening their knowledge and develop an international professional network in agriculture, nutrition, and rural development.*
- *Both the institutes together can bring a considerable amount of research expertise in agricultural economics, rural development, livelihoods, and nutrition studies that are required for the emerging inter-disciplinary area of research and capacity building.*
- *NIRDPR has been involved with the University of Reading in various research activities in the field of rural development like improvement of nutrition assessment by measuring energy expenditure, use of wearable accelerometric and sensor-based devices in agricultural livelihoods research in low and middle-income countries, and also in the area of Women and Child Development.*

35. Recently _____ state government launched the "Koottu" program, initiated by the state police's Cyberdome aiming to spread awareness on cyber safety among the kids and students in the schools in the state.

- A. **Kerala**
- B. Mizoram
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Madhya Pradesh
- E. None of these

- *Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan said the state government is moving ahead with steps to achieve complete digital literacy to make people especially children aware of traps and threats in cyberspace.*
- *The Chief Minister was speaking at Cotton Hills Girls Higher Secondary School here, after inaugurating the "Koottu" program, initiated by the state police's Cyberdome aiming to spread awareness on cyber safety among the kids and students in the schools in the state.*

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- The "Kootu" program is a joint initiative of Bachpan Bachao Andolan (BBA) and the state government to stop rising incidents of online child pornography and online crimes against children.
- As digital technology and online systems are now an integral part of day-to-day life, it is very important to have clear knowledge about all aspects of the digital world.

36. **Bonalu festival recently seen in the news was celebrated in which of the following state?**

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

Bonalu days



Watchful eyes: Devotees dressed as Potharaju (brother of Goddess Kali) dancing as part of the Bonalu celebration in Hyderabad on Sunday. Women carry bonam, the traditional offering of pots of rice for the goddess, during the festival. +G. RAMAKRISHNA

- The Bonalu festival is underway in Telangana's capital Hyderabad this year. Temples of Yellamma, Mahankali, and other forms of Adishakti are newly painted and decorated for memorable state festival celebrations.
- Bonalu festival is an ancient cultural tradition of celebrating various forms of Adishakti in the region of Telangana. During this festival, devotees pay tributes to local forms of Adishakti such as Yellamma, Pochamma, and Maisamma for safeguarding them and protecting them from evil.
- This tribute is offered in the form of a Bonam, a contraction of the Sanskrit word Bhojanam which means food or feast.

37. Recently Union Home Minister **Amit Shah inaugurated the National Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security in**

- A. Chandigarh**
- B. Delhi
- C. Mumbai
- D. Pune
- E. None of these

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated the National Conference on Drug Trafficking and National Security.
- The Chief Ministers of Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, and Punjab and the Administrator of Chandigarh participated in the conference.

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- Officers from the Border Security Force, National Investigation Agency, and Narcotics Control Bureau also participated in the conference.
- On 1 June, NCB started the drug disposal campaign and disposed of over 51,217 kg of narcotics till 29 July.
- On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence, Narcotics Control Bureau has taken the pledge to destroy 75,000 kg of drugs.
- Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 prohibit a person from the production/manufacturing/cultivation, and consumption of any narcotic drug.
- Narcotics Control Bureau is responsible for tracking illegal drug trafficking and the implementation of international drug laws. Satya Narayan Pradhan is the Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

38. Recently _____ state government issued an Order to implement the **first phase of the "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme"** in 1,545 government primary schools.

- A. Punjab
- B. Haryana
- C. **Tamil Nadu**
- D. Telangana
- E. None of these

- On July 27, the Tamil Nadu government issued an Order to implement the first phase of the "Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme" in 1,545 government primary schools.
- At a total cost of 33.56 crores, the program will provide benefits to more than 1.14 lakh students from Classes I to V throughout the State from 2022 to 23.
- Each student will be provided with 150-500 grams of cooked breakfast food.
- K. Kamaraj, the then-chief minister of Madras State (which was renamed Tamil Nadu in 1967), introduced the mid-day meals scheme in 1957.
- Mr. Stalin also launched a physical and mental health awareness campaign for school students.

39. Recently _____ state government is set to launch the **first online auto-taxi service by a State Government.**

- A. **Kerala**

TAMIL NADU

Tamil Nadu rolls out 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' at 1,545 government primary schools to benefit 1.14 lakh children



The Hindu Bureau

CHENNAI JULY 27, 2022 14:00 IST
UPDATED: JULY 27, 2022 23:52 IST

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Representational image only. | Photo Credit: The Hindu

Under the scheme, breakfast would be provided to students up to Class V in these government schools on "all working days," a G.O. issued by Chief Secretary V. Irai Anbu said.

The Tamil Nadu government on July 27 issued an Order to implement the first phase of the 'Chief Minister's Breakfast Scheme' at 1,545 government primary schools to benefit more than 1.14 lakh children in Classes I-V across the State during 2022-23, at a total cost of ₹33.56 crore.



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

- Kerala is set to launch what it claims to be the first online auto-taxi service by a State Government on the first day of the Malayalam month of Chingam (August 17).
- Styled Kerala Savaari, it is being rolled out under the auspices of the Labour Department and draws on the model of the existing private cab aggregators.
- It will initially roll out within the Thiruvananthapuram City Corporation limits.
- The minister released the Malayalam and English logo for the Kerala Savaari service.
- Over and above rates recognized by the government, a service charge of eight percent would be levied under the new service against the existing 20-30 percent charged by private cab aggregators.

40. Recently PM Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for numerous Sabar Dairy projects worth 1,000 crore rupees in which state?

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Gujarat
- E. None of these

- PM Modi has inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for numerous Sabar Dairy projects worth 1,000 crore rupees at Gadhoda Chowki in Sabarkantha, Gujarat.
- These projects will enhance the income of local farmers and milk producers.
- Mr. Modi inaugurated the Powder Plant at Sabar Dairy, which has a 120-tonne-per-day capacity and costs more than 300 crore rupees.
- PM also inaugurated the Aseptic Milk Packaging Plant at Sabar Dairy, which has a capacity of 3 lakh liters per day and a total investment of around 125 crore rupees.
- Mr. Modi laid the foundation stone of the Sabar Cheese and Whey Drying Plant Project, with an estimated outlay of around 600 crore rupees.
- This is Gujarat's third cheese plant, and it will be operational by 2024.

First Govt-owned online auto-taxi service to roll out in Kerala in August

BL Thiruvananthapuram Bureau | Thiruvananthapuram, July 28 | Updated On: Jul 28, 2022



Kerala is set to launch the first online auto-taxi service on the first day of the Malayalam month of Chingam (August 17). | Photo Credit: K Ragesh

500 autorickshaws to be inducted initially into service, says Kerala Labour minister

Kerala is set to launch what it claims to be the first online auto-taxi service by a State Government on the first day of the Malayalam month of Chingam (August 17). Styled Kerala Savaari, it is being rolled out under the auspices of the

Labour Department, and draws on the model of the existing private cab aggregators.

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41. Consider the following statement regarding *National Education Policy 2020*.

1. The NEP 2020 was drafted based on the recommendations of a panel led by former ISRO chief Kasturirangan.
2. The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2040.
3. It has a design of "5+3+3+4".

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- To mark the completion of two years of the launch of National Education Policy 2020, the Union Home Minister recently launched a slew of initiatives related to education and skill development.
- At the event, the Home Minister stated that the promotion of regional languages is essential to unlocking the full potential of Indian talent.
- A NEP is a comprehensive framework to guide the development of education in the country.
- The first education policy came in 1968 on the recommendation of the Education Commission, headed by D S Kothari.
- The second education policy came in 1986, which was replaced by the third education policy - NEP 2020.
- The NEP 2020 was drafted based on the recommendations of a panel led by former ISRO chief Kasturirangan.
- The policy aims to transform India's education system by 2040
- Overhauling the curriculum, easier Board exams, a reduction in the syllabus to retain core essentials, and thrust on experiential learning and critical thinking.
- "5+3+3+4" design (instead of 10+2 structure), which corresponds to the age groups 3-8 years (foundational stage), 8-11 (preparatory), 11-14 (middle) and 14-18 (secondary).
- The launched initiatives are given below:
 - **75 Bharateeya games in schools: Bharateeya games will be introduced in schools through the PT teachers. It will help in promoting traditional sports in schools.**
 - **Kalashala initiative in 750 schools: It will promote and support local arts and introduce various art forms to school children through lecture demonstrations by visiting artists.**
 - **IKS-MIC program for technology demonstration: It will promote the development of products and India's traditional knowledge systems.**
 - **Setting up of virtual labs: 750 virtual labs in science and mathematics, and 75 skilling e-labs will be established.**
 - **Public Consultation Survey for NCF: Public Consultation survey in 23 languages will be conducted to seek input and suggestions for the development of the NCF.**
 - **National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement (NISHTHA): ECCE: This is to prepare an initial cadre of high-quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Teachers in Anganwadis.**
 - **Vidya Amrit Portal: It is a Digital Project to scale up the micro-improvements taking place in school education in different parts of the country.**

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42. Recently *Election Commission of India* announced that those over the age of _____ can now apply in advance to be enrolled in the voters' list.
- A. 14
 B. 15
 C. 16
 D. 17
 E. None of these

17+ can apply for Voter ID cards in advance, says EC

Deeksha Bhardwaj
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: People over the age of 17 years can apply in advance to enrol as voters when they turn 18, the Election Commission (EC) announced on Thursday. Their names will appear on the rolls in the quarter following their 18th birthday – a change made possible by the quarterly updation of electoral rolls.

"17+ year-old youngsters can now apply in advance for having their names enrolled in voter's list and not necessarily have to await the prerequisite criterion of attaining the age of 18 years on

1st January of a year," the commission said in a statement.

The statement said the commission led by chief election commissioner (CEC) Rajiv Kumar and election commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey directed the chief electoral officers and electoral registration officers of all states to work out technology-enabled solutions to make it possible for young people to file advance applications with reference to three qualifying dates, April 1, July 1 and October 1, in addition to January 1.

Since the electoral roll was previously updated only on January 1, people who celebrated

THE POLL PANEL HAS ALSO BEGUN PROCESS OF LINKING AADHAAR NUMBERS WITH THE ELECTORAL ROLL DATA

their 18th birthday in the course of the year had to perforce wait for the following year to enrol, thereby missing out on the opportunity to vote till then.

"For the current round of annual revision of electoral roll, 2023, any citizen attaining the

age of 18 years by April 1, July 1 and October 1 of 2023 can also submit an advance application for registration as a voter from the date of draft publication of electoral roll," statement said.

In 2021, 14,526,678 (14.5 million) voters in the age between 18 and 19 were added to the list, while in 2022, till July 25, a total of 1,736,181 voters in this age bracket have been inducted, people familiar with the matter said.

The commission has identified areas where the number of voters was less than its estimates and directed booth-level workers to undertake extensive awareness programmes to bring in

new voters.

The commission has also begun process of linking Aadhaar numbers with Electoral Roll data. "(A) provision has been made in the modified registration forms to seek Aadhaar details of electors. However, no application for inclusion of name in electoral roll shall be denied and no entries shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish Aadhaar Number... it is voluntary," the statement added.

Advance applications can be submitted on or after November 9, the date on which the draft roll will be published.

- **The Election Commission of India recently announced that those over the age of 17 can now apply in advance to be enrolled in the voters' list.**
- **They do not have to wait until they reach the age of 18 on January 1 of each year.**
- **With this announcement, ECI has begun the process of incorporating the changes announced by the govt recently regarding electoral reforms.**
- **Persons entitled to vote in an election are those who are registered as voters under the provisions of the Indian Constitution and the Representation of the People Act (RPA), 1950.**
- **As per the Indian Constitution (under Article 326), all Indian citizens above the age of 18 years who have registered themselves as voters are eligible to vote.**
- **The new voters who complete 18 years on April 1, July 1, and October 1 of any given year, and not just January 1, will be eligible for enrolling as voters.**
- **Earlier, the revision of electoral rolls was done about January 1st.**
- **The Representation of the People Act allowed voter registration for those who have attained the age of 18 only once.**
- **Only those who have attained the age of 18 years as of January 1 of that year or before are eligible to be enrolled in the voters' list.**

43. Recently spending on '*Har Ghar Tiranga*' campaign declared CSR activity under _____ schedule of Companies Act 2013.
- A. Schedule 4
 B. Schedule 7
 C. Schedule 2
 D. Schedule 6
 E. None of these

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- Spending on the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign declared CSR activity under the Companies Act.
- Corporate Affairs Ministry has said that companies can spend their Corporate Social Responsibility CSR funds for activities related to the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.
- The Ministry said spending of CSR funds for the activities related to this campaign such as mass scale production and supply of the national flag, outreach and amplification efforts, and other related activities are eligible CSR activities under Schedule VII of the Companies Act of promotion of education relating to culture.
- Under the Companies Act, 2013, a certain class of profitable companies are required to shell out at least two percent of their three-year annual average net profit towards CSR activities.
- Har Ghar Tiranga campaign is being organized by the Government as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to encourage people to bring home the national flag and hoist it to mark the 75th year of India's independence.

Har Ghar Tiranga spend will be considered CSR: Ministry

KR SRIVATS
New Delhi, July 27

The Corporate Affairs Ministry has clarified that spending towards the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign will be considered Corporate Social Responsibility under the Company law.

The campaign to encourage the hoisting of the tricolour, national flag, in every home is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to mark the 75th year of independence.

"It is clarified that spending of CSR funds for the activities related to this campaign, such as mass scale production and supply of the National Flag, outreach and amplification efforts and other related activities, are eligible CSR activities under item no (ii) of Schedule VII of the Companies Act 2013

pertaining to the promotion of education relating to culture," said an MCA circular.

The Centre has encouraged Indians to hoist the national flag in their homes from August 13-15.

The Companies Act 2013 requires companies with a net worth of at least ₹500 crore or turnover of ₹1,000 crore or net profit of ₹5 crore in the preceding three years to spend 2 per cent of the average net profit on CSR activities.

Post Offices to supply flags
Meanwhile, as part of the campaign, over 1.6 lakh post offices will begin making flags available to citizens from August 1.

The government is also looking at devising protocols for collection, recycling and disposal of flags.

44. Recently Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth ₹28,000 crores, which included swarm drones, carbines, and bulletproof jackets. Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) is headed by?

- A. Home Minister
- B. Prime Minister
- C. Defence Minister
- D. Cabinet Secretary
- E. None of these

DAC clears ₹28,700-crore shopping list for drones, carbines through domestic firms

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 26

The Defence Acquisition Council on Tuesday gave nod to procurement proposals of the armed forces for swarm drones, bullet proof jackets and carbines amounting to ₹28,732 crore.

The DAC meeting, under the chairmanship of Defence minister Rajnath Singh, approved the proposals for acquisition through indigenous companies to give a boost to AtmaNirbharta in the defence sector.

Considering the demand for enhanced protection against the threat of enemy snipers to troops deployed along the Line of Control and in close combat operations in counter-terrorism scenarios, the DAC accorded Acceptance of Necessity



Defence panel clears the purchases through indigenous firms to boost AtmaNirbharta

(AoN) for bullet proof jackets with the Indian Standard BIS VI level of protection, the MoD stated. The BIS standards spell out the performance requirements of bullet proof jackets which can sustain 6 threat levels (from level 1 to 6), including the 7.62 x 39 mm hard steel core bullet of the AK47.

Similarly, to combat the current complex paradigm of conventional and hybrid

warfare and counter-terrorism at the LAC and Western Borders, the DAC gave AoN for the induction of approximately 4 lakh close-quarter battle carbines for the services, the ministry stated.

Realising the future warfare demands for extensive use of drones, also witnessed in the recent Russia-Ukraine conflict, the ministry has decided to augment the Indian Army's capability in modern warfare. Accordingly, AoN for procurement of autonomous surveillance and armed drone swarms has been accorded by the DAC under the Buy (Indian-IDD) category.

Indigenous gas turbine

The Navy's proposal was also cleared by the DAC on procurement of an upgraded

1,250KW capacity Marine Gas Turbine Generator for power generation application onboard the Kolkata class of ships through Indian industry, the MoD informed.

This will give a major boost to the indigenous manufacturing of gas turbine generators. The DAC gave the go ahead for the procurement of 14 Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for the Indian Coast Guard under the Buy (Indian-IDD) with 60 per cent Indigenous Content (IC).

This category refers to the procurement of products from an Indian vendor that have been indigenously designed, developed, and manufactured with a minimum of 50 per cent IC on a cost basis of the total contract value.

- The Defence Ministry on July 26, 2022, approved the procurement of military equipment and weapons worth ₹28,000 crores, which included swarm drones, carbines, and bulletproof jackets.
- The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

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- Among the proposals approved by DAC in the meeting are three proposals of the Indian Army, viz. Guided Extended Range Rocket Ammunition, Area Denial Munition Type I, and Infantry Combat Vehicle – Command have been designed and developed by DRDO.
 - The DAC also approved the Navy's proposal to procure an upgraded 1250KW capacity Marine Gas Turbine Generator for power generation application onboard the Kolkata class of ships through the Indian Industry.
 - The approval of the new procurement proposals came amid India's over two-year-long border row with China in eastern Ladakh.
45. Which of the following union ministry is implementing Suryamitra Skill Development Programme through the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram since Financial Year 2015-16?
- A. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - B. Ministry of Finance
 - C. Ministry of Power
 - D. Ministry Of Defence
 - E. None of these
- Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is implementing the Suryamitra Skill Development Programme through the National Institute of Solar Energy, Gurugram since Financial Year 2015-16.
 - The objective is to train the youth of age over 18 years as solar PV technicians for the installation, operation, and maintenance of solar power projects.
 - Up to June 2022, a total of 51331 candidates have benefited from the skill development training provided under the Suryamitra program, out of which 26967 candidates gained employment.
 - The National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), an autonomous institution of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), is the apex National R&D institution in the field of Solar Energy.
 - NISE is organizing "Suryamitra" skill development programs in collaboration with State Nodal Agencies, at various locations across the country.
 - As part of the Suryamitra program, NISE has developed a GPS-based mobile Application (known as Suryamitra Mobile APP) which allows the services of trained "Suryamitras" to the various end users of Solar applications across India at their doorsteps.
46. Consider the following statement regarding District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs).
1. PM Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in Gandhinagar.
 2. The National Legal Services Authority hosted the first-ever national-level meeting of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at Vigyan Bhawan.

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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

- On July 30, PM Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the first All India District Legal Services Authorities Meet in New Delhi.
- The National Legal Services Authority organized the first-ever national-level meeting of District Legal Services Authorities (DLSAs) at Vigyan Bhawan.
- The meeting considered the creation of an integrated process to bring about uniformity and synchronization in DLSA.
- There are 676 District Legal Services Authorities throughout the country.
- A District Judge is the head of the DLSAs and acts as chairman of the authority.
- Various legal aid and awareness programs are implemented by the National Legal Services Authority, through DLSA and State Legal Services Authorities.
- DLSAs also contribute to reducing the burden on the courts by regulating the Lok Adalats conducted by NALSA.

47. Recently _____ state government **launched 'Meri Girdawari - Mera Adhikar'**, for farmers to enter their crop information through the state Kisan App.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Delhi
- E. None of these

- On July 28, 2022, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said that in 'Meri Girdawari - Mera Adhikar', farmers will now be able to enter their crop information through the MP Kisan App.
- This information will be used for crop loss, Minimum Support Price Scheme, Bhavantar Yojana, Kisan Credit Card, and Agriculture Loan.
- Farmers can register their crop information from August 1 to August 15, 2022. This information of the farmer will be verified by Artificial Intelligence and Patwari.
- In 'Meri Girdawari- Mera Adhikar', the farmer has been provided with the facility that he can register himself by registering the crop information on the MP Kisan App from his farm itself.

48. According to a report titled "**The Annual Review of State Laws, 2021**" _____ got first place in 2021, with its **House sitting for 61 days**, the highest for any State.

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- A. Kerala
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of these

Kerala tops in holding Assembly sittings in 2021

Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Delhi met for less than 10 days

T. RAMAKRISHNAN
CHENNAI

Kerala, which slipped to the eighth slot in holding Assembly sittings during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, returned to the top spot in 2021, with its House sitting for 61 days, the highest in the country.

The State's showing was impressive as 2021 saw the more virulent second wave of the pandemic. In fact, between 2016 and 2019, it remained at the top with an average of 53 days.

144 ordinances

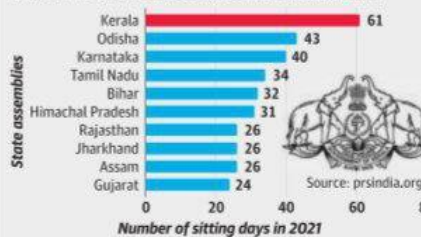
Despite enjoying the record of having the highest number of sittings in 2021, Kerala (where the Left Democratic

Front is in power since May 2016) had promulgated 144 ordinances, also the highest in the country. Governments promulgate ordinances, which are required to take immediate action on any matter, during the intervening period of two sessions.

Making the findings in its study on the functioning of State Assemblies for 2021, the PRS Legislative Research (PRS), a New Delhi-based think tank, states that for the year in question, Odisha followed Kerala with 43 sitting days; Karnataka 40, and Tamil Nadu 34 days. But for the top three States, the average number of sittings of State legislatures would have been far lower than the present fi-

Counting the sittings

The chart shows the State Assemblies which sat for more than 20 sessions in 2021. Kerala recorded the most such sittings last year followed by Odisha and Karnataka



gure of 21 days.

Of the 28 State Assemblies and one Union Territory's legislature, 17 met for less than 20 days. Of them, five – Andhra Pradesh, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Delhi – met for less than 10 days. The figures for Uttar Pradesh, Ma-

nipur and Punjab were 17, 16 and 11, respectively.

The National Commission to Review the Working of the Constitution (2000-02), headed by former Chief Justice of India M.N. Venkatachaliah, had prescribed that the Houses of State (/Union

causes painful death.

Territory) legislatures with less than 70 members, for example, Puducherry, should meet for at least 50 days a year and other Houses (Tamil Nadu), at least 90 days. (Ten fall under the first category; 20 under the second).

The Presiding Officers' conference, held in Gandhinagar in January 2016, suggested State legislatures hold a minimum of 60 days of sittings in a year. Between 2016 and 2021, the PRS points out, 23 State Assemblies met for an average of 25 days.

As for the ordinance route, which should be, according to the Supreme Court, used under exceptional circumstances, 21 out of 28 States promulgated ordinances last year.

Andhra Pradesh with 20 ordinances and Maharashtra with 15 followed Kerala.

- **Recently, a report titled "The Annual Review of State Laws, 2021" was released by PRS Legislative Research.**
- **As per the report, Kerala got first place in 2021, with its House sitting for 61 days, the highest for any State.**
- **Kerala had also promulgated 144 ordinances, the highest in the country last year.**
- **States such as Manipur, Odisha, Punjab, and Uttar Pradesh have laid down a minimum number of sitting days through the Rules of Procedure, varying from 40 days in Punjab to 90 days in Uttar Pradesh.**
- **In 2005, Karnataka even came out with a law — the Karnataka Conduct of Government Business in the State Legislature Act — with the stipulation of a minimum of 60 days.**

49. As per the **Ministry of Textiles** _____ **craft villages have been taken under the 'Linking Textile with Tourism' program, benefitting around 1,000 artisans to promote craft and tourism at a single location.**

- A. 8
- B. 7
- C. 6
- D. 5
- E. None of these

- **Eight craft villages have been taken under the 'Linking Textile with Tourism' program, benefitting around 1,000 artisans to promote craft and tourism at a single location, the Ministry of Textiles said in a release.**

Eight craft villages under programme to promote textiles with tourism

To promote craft and tourism at a single location, eight craft villages have been taken under the 'linking textile with tourism' programme, benefitting around 1,000 artisans, a release said on Friday.

--Agencies

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- Under the program, major tourist places are being linked with handicraft clusters and infrastructure supports combined with soft interventions, the release added.
- The craft villages are located at Raghurajpur (Odisha), Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Vadaj (Gujarat), Naini (Uttar Pradesh), Aneundi (Karnataka), Mahabalipuram (Tamil Nadu), Taj Ganj (Uttar Pradesh), Amer (Rajasthan).

50. For which purpose, is GOI to promote the 'Heal by India' initiative?

- A. To provide food to the vulnerable section of the society
- B. To enhance educational institutions in the health sector and generate jobs in the same**
- C. To enhance Insurance penetration in the country
- D. To finance small business owners
- E. None of these

- With India emerging as a medical tourism hub, the Government is all set to launch a mega plan, 'Heal In India and Heal by India' to help the medical professionals avail of huge opportunities offered by the sector in domestic and abroad markets.
- This is part of India's health vision for the next 25 years, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's idea, which has been framed after intense deliberations.
- Under the plan 'Heal in India', the services of the best doctors will be utilized for the treatment of foreigners who are coming in large numbers to the country.
- Sources in the Ministry said that the new initiative developed under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission is likely to be announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15.

51. Recently _____ state government has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to prevent migration and trafficking of women since a lot of movement of people takes place between the two states.

- A. Punjab
- B. West Bengal**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Haryana
- E. None of these

- The West Bengal government has inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Maharashtra government to prevent

Centre all set to launch 'Heal in India and Heal by India'

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

The Government is all set to launch a mega plan, 'Heal In India and Heal by India' that aims to help the medical professionals exploit the immense potential offered by the sector.

"This is part of India's health vision for the next 25 years, as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which has been framed after intense deliberations," Union Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya said here on Saturday while delivering the presidential address at the 4th foundation day cum 21st convocation day of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Medical Sciences (ABVIMS) and Dr Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital.

Sources in the Ministry said that the new initiative developed under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, is likely to be announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on August 15.

Mandaviya said that under the plan 'Heal in India', services of best doctors will be utilised for the treatment of foreigners who are coming in large num-



bers in the country. "We have the best doctors and an affordable and quality healthcare system. It will provide a huge health opportunity to health professionals under the 'Heal in India' plan. Similarly, under the 'Heal by India plan', we have a unique vision of how to provide opportunity to our doctors at the global level where they are in huge demand," said the Minister.

A total of 172 medical students of batch 2018-2021 received their degrees and certificates followed by 24 students who received gold medals with certificates of merit and another 6 students who received certification of merit.

WB-MAHA MOU TO END WOMEN TRAFFICKING

Kolkata: The West Bengal Government has inked a MoU with Maharashtra Government to prevent migration and trafficking of women since a lot of movement of people takes place between the two States.

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migration and trafficking of women since a lot of movement of people takes place between the two states.

- West Bengal Women and Child Development and Social Welfare Minister Dr. Shashi Panja said to help save children from being trafficked and falling prey to other forms of cyber abuse, the state is telling students and heads of colleges and universities to build awareness about the online menace of cyberbullying, trafficking and other forms of abuses among the students.
- The minister said that since 2013, the state government's primary focus has been on the prevention of trafficking along with the rehabilitation of the rescued girls and women.

52. Recently _____ state launched 'Mahtari Nyay Rath' for women's rights awareness to educate the state's women about their constitutional rights and laws.

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

- On July 28, 2022, Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel flagged off the 'Mukhya Mantri Mahtari Nyaya Rath' from his residence complex on the occasion of 'Hareli'. The Nyaya Rath will make women aware of their rights and laws.
- On the initiative of the Chhattisgarh State Commission for Women, this Nyaya Rath Yatra has been launched to make the women of the state aware of their constitutional rights and laws and to build confidence in them.
- The Mukhya Mantri Mahtari Nyay Rath Yatra will be conducted through the State Commission for Women. The rath will travel from village to village in all the districts to make people aware of the legal provisions and their constitutional rights through short films, messages, and brochures.

53. The population of senior citizens, as per Census 2011, was approximately _____ amounting to 8.6% of the total population in the country.

- A. 10.38 Cr
- B. 12.48 Cr
- C. 15.68 Cr
- D. 9.56 Cr
- E. None of these

- The population of senior citizens, as per Census 2011, was approximately 10.38 crore, amounting to 8.6% of the total population in the country.

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- *The National Policy on Older Persons, 1999, which is presently in force, envisages State support to ensure financial and food security, health care, shelter, protection, and other needs of older persons to improve the quality of their lives.*
- *Under the Umbrella Scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment is implementing various welfare schemes for improving the living standard of senior citizens.*
- *The Umbrella Scheme of Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana, being run by the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, has the vision to create a society where senior citizens live a healthy, happy, empowered, dignified and self-reliant life along with strong social and inter-generational bonding.*
- *The Ministry has set up the National Helpline for Senior Citizens for a senior citizen to address the grievance of the elders. The helpline has been launched across the country and has been dedicated to the Nation by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on the occasion of the International Day for Older Persons i.e. on 01st October 2021. The Elder line offers services to senior citizens through toll-free number 14567.*
- *National Award for Senior Citizens 'Vayoshreshtha Sammans' is conferred to eminent and outstanding institutions or organizations and individuals from different categories.*
- *The portal allows bringing people together by virtual matching of preferences by providing the Senior Citizens a platform to connect with the private enterprises for certain positions. For this, the Ministry dedicated the SACRED portal (<http://sacred.dosje.gov.in>) to the Nation on 01.10.2021.*

54. Consider the following statement regarding Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G).

1. *Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016*
2. *To assist eligible rural households with an overall target to construct 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities by March 2024.*
3. *Under PMAY-G, to date, 2.44 crore houses have been sanctioned by the states/UTs and 1.89 crores have been completed as on 21.07.2022.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *To achieve the target of "Housing for All" in rural areas, the Ministry of Rural Development is implementing Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana- Gramin (PMAY-G) with effect from 1st April 2016 to assist eligible rural households with an overall target to construct 2.95 crore pucca houses with basic amenities by March 2024. The Government is committed to providing funds for achieving the targets as per the guidelines of the Scheme.*
- *Under PMAY-G, out of the total targets allocated to the States/UTs to date, 2.44 crore houses have been sanctioned by the states/UTs and 1.89 crores have been completed as on 21.07.2022.*
- *Puducherry & Telengana are not implementing PMAY-G.*

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- The cost of unit assistance is shared between Central and State Governments in the ratio of 60:40 in plain areas and 90:10 for North Eastern and hilly states.
- The minimum size of the house has been increased to 25 sq. mt (from 20sq.mt) with a hygienic cooking space.
- The unit assistance has been increased from Rs. 70,000 to Rs. 1.20 lakh in plain and from Rs. 75,000 to Rs. 1.30 lakh in hilly states.

55. Consider the following statement regarding the **Goddess Bhuvaneshwari statue**.

1. For the first time in the **history of Karnataka**, a 30-ft bronze statue of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari was installed.
2. The project which is estimated to cost ₹2 Crore, is located on half-acre land at Kalagrama in the Jnanabharathi campus in Bengaluru.
3. The statue will stand atop a 10-foot grand platform that will be installed by the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy.

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

- For the first time in the history of Karnataka, a 30-ft bronze statue of Goddess Bhuvaneshwari, considered to be the reigning deity of Kannada identity will be installed by the Karnataka government in Bengaluru.
- This is the first time that the mammoth statue dedicated to the goddess is being installed under the aegis of the state government.
- The statue project has been approved by Kannada and Culture Minister V Sunil Kumar.
- The project which is estimated to cost ₹2 Crore, is located on half-acre land at Kalagrama in the Jnanabharathi campus in Bengaluru.
- The statue will stand atop a 10-foot grand platform that will be installed by the Karnataka Shilpakala Academy.
- Its design will be as per expert advice and will bear elements depicting the state's cultural glory.
- The statue project will be flagged off by Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai in November, the first day of which is celebrated as 'Kannada Rajyotsava' (state formation day).
- The state government plans to promote the Kalagrama as a tourist destination once the statue comes up at the site.
- Notably, a 108-ft statue of Bengaluru founder Kempegowda is also being installed by the state government. Kempegowda was a 16th-century chieftain under the Vijayanagara Empire. The statue which is expected to be ready by this year is located on a 23-acre space near the Kempegowda International Airport at Devanahalli.

56. Consider the following statement regarding **Ramsar Sites in India**.

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1. The Ramsar convention is an intergovernmental environmental treaty that was established by UNESCO on February 2, 1971.
2. The convention got its name from Ramsar city in Iran on the Caspian Sea.
3. The Ramsar convention came into force in 1975.

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 Ramsar Convention is an intergovernmental environmental treaty that was established by UNESCO on February 2, 1971.
- The convention got its name from Ramsar city in Iran on the Caspian Sea, where the treaty was signed. The Ramsar convention came into force in 1975.
- It provides for international cooperation and national action regarding the conservation of wetlands and sustainable use of their resources.
- The Ramsar convention identifies wetlands of international importance across the globe, especially those that are home to diverse biodiversity.
- As per the Ramsar Convention on wetlands report, the wetlands are disappearing three times faster than forests, with 35% of the wetlands lost from 1970-2015.

India adds five more Ramsar sites

Three of them are in Tamil Nadu and one each is in Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India has added five more Ramsar sites, or wetlands of international importance, bringing the number of such sites in the country to 54, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Tuesday. "Delighted to inform that 5 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance," Mr. Yadav tweeted.

These are the Karikili Bird Sanctuary, Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest and Pichavaram Mangrove in Tamil Nadu, the Sakhya Sagar in Madhya Pradesh and the Pala Wetlands in Mizoram.

India's Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq.km – around 10% of the total wetland area in the country – across 18 States. No other South Asian country has as many sites, though this has much to do with India's geographical breadth and tropical diversity. The U.K. (175) and Mexico (142) – smaller countries than India – have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area with 1,48,000 sq.km under the Convention protection.

Being designated a Ramsar site does not necessarily



Vital sinks: A view of the Pallikaranai marshland in Chennai. ■ K. PICHUMANI

invite extra international funds, but the States – and the Centre – must ensure that these tracts of land are conserved and spared from encroachment. Acquiring this label also helps with a locale's tourism potential and its international visibility. Until 1981, India had 41 Ramsar sites, though the past decade has seen the sharpest rise – 13 – in designating new sites.

Wetlands, according to the Environment Ministry, are an "area of marsh, fen, peatland or water; whether natural or artificial, perma-

nent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing, fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres, but does not include river channels, paddy fields, human-made water bodies/tanks specifically constructed for drinking water purposes and structures specifically constructed for aquaculture, salt production, recreation and irrigation purposes."

To be Ramsar site, however, it must meet at least one of nine criteria as defined by

the Ramsar Convention of 1961, such as supporting vulnerable, endangered, or critically endangered species or threatened ecological communities or, if it regularly supports 20,000 or more waterbirds or, is an important source of food for fishes, spawning ground, nursery and/or migration path on which fish stocks are dependent upon.

The National Wetland Inventory and Assessment compiled by the ISRO estimates India's wetlands to span around 1,52,600 square kilometres.

57. Consider the following match the column and identify is matched correctly in respect with new Ramsar sites of India.
 - A. Karikili Bird Sanctuary: Mizoram
 - B. Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest: Madhya Pradesh
 - C. Pichavaram Mangrove: Tamil Nadu
 - D. Pala wetland: Madhya Pradesh
 - E. Sakhya Sagar: Mizoram
 - F. None of these

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- India has designated five new Ramsar sites, wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, also known as The Convention on Wetlands.
- The new Ramsar sites in India include three wetlands in Tamil Nadu, one in Mizoram, and one in Madhya Pradesh.
- This takes the total number of Ramsar Sites in India to 54. Earlier, the number of Ramsar sites in India stood at 49.
- **1. Karikili Bird Sanctuary: Karikili Bird Sanctuary is a 61.21-hectare protected area located in the Kancheepuram District of Tamil Nadu. The sanctuary is about 75 km from Chennai, south of Chengalpattu.**
- **2. Pallikaranai Marsh Reserve Forest: Pallikaranai wetland is a freshwater marsh located in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. It is the only surviving wetland ecosystem of the city and among the few and last remaining natural wetlands of South India.**
- **3. Pichavaram Mangrove: Pichavaram mangrove is located in a village near Chidambaram in the Cuddalore District of Tamil Nadu. The mangrove is one of the largest mangrove forests in India, covering 1100 hectares.**
- **4. Pala wetland: The Pala wetland is the largest natural wetland in Mizoram. The renowned landmark is surrounded by green woodlands and is home to the rich diversity of animal species including a range of animals and birds.**
- **5. Sakhya Sagar: Sakhya Sagar Lake is an integral part of the beautiful ecology of the Madhav National Park in Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh.**
- The main aim of the Ramsar wetlands in India is to develop and maintain an international network of wetlands that are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and sustaining human life.
- On the occasion of World Wetlands Day on 2 February, India added Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary in Gujarat and Bakhira Wildlife Sanctuary in Uttar Pradesh to the list of Ramsar sites in India.
- Before the addition of Bakhira and Khijadia Wildlife Sanctuary, Uttar Pradesh's Haiderpur wetland made it to the list of Indian wetlands of international importance.
- India's Ramsar wetlands are spread over 11,000 sq. km — around 10% of the total wetland area in the country — across 18 States. No other South Asian country has as many sites, though this has much to do with India's geographical breadth and tropical diversity.
- The U.K. (175) and Mexico (142) — smaller countries than India — have the most Ramsar sites, whereas Bolivia spans the largest area with 1,48,000 sq. km under the Convention protection.

58. Consider the following statement regarding the 'DIKSHA' Platform.

1. 'DIKSHA' (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) has QR-coded textbooks and various specialized e-Contents for classes 1-12 in 33 languages.
2. Along with NCERT, CBSE, and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS) 35 states and UTs have their vertical on 'DIKSHA'.
3. As of 14 July, total learning sessions on 'Diksha' reached over 495 crores. A total of 6,477 Energized Textbooks have been developed by states/UTs and NCERT.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- **DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) has been formally launched by the Hon'ble Vice President of India on 5th September 2017. It is a National Teacher Platform that is currently being used by teachers and students across the nation to provide school education through distance mode.**
- **'DIKSHA' (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) has QR-coded textbooks and various specialized e-Contents for classes 1-12 in 33 languages.**
- **Along with NCERT, CBSE, and the National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), 35 states and UTs have their vertical on 'DIKSHA'.**
- **As of 14 July, total learning sessions on 'Diksha' reached over 495 crores. A total of 6,477 Energized Textbooks have been developed by states/UTs and NCERT.**
- **DIKSHA provides several online courses to develop the skills of the teachers and school heads. 15 Crore enrolments have been made in different courses on DIKSHA.**
- **More than 47 lakh teachers have received the benefits of NISHTHA and Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses through the DIKSHA Platform.**
- **PM e-Vidya initiative help students of rural and educationally backward districts through the DIKSHA platform.**
- **DIKSHA is a national platform for school education. It is an initiative of the National Council of Educational Research and Training.**

59. **In the run-up to the country's celebration of its 75th Independence _____ state announced that thousands of schoolkids will come together in the capital on August 4 to set the world record of creating the largest human flag.**

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

- **To celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal announced that children from the national Capital will make the world's largest 'Tiranga' in the city, a move aimed at setting a world record.**
- **The program will be held on August 4, in Burari Grounds, where 50,000 students from Delhi Government-run schools will set the world record for the largest human flag.**
- **In an online briefing, Kejriwal lamented that several nations have witnessed rapid growth and surpassed India in the last 75 years.**

Delhi to set world record for largest human flag on Aug 4

Let's make India greatest nation in world together, says Kejriwal

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

To celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal on Thursday announced that children from the national Capital will make the world's largest 'Tiranga' in the city, a move aimed at setting a world-record.

The program will be held on August 4, in Burari Grounds, where 50,000 students from Delhi Government-run schools will set the world record for the largest human flag. In an online briefing, Kejriwal lamented that several nations have witnessed rapid growth and surpassed India in the last 75 years. "It has been 75 years since Independence, so many countries surpassed us in these years. Why were we left behind? God has blessed India



with an abundance of rivers, mineral ores, mountains, herbs, crops, oceans and seas. Indians are the smartest and most hardworking people in the world. So, why do we lag behind?" he asked.

"If we leave the country at the mercy of these leaders and their parties, then we'll stay behind the world for another 75 years," he added.

Kejriwal urged "130 crore Indians" to come together and take a pledge to make the country the greatest and the strongest in the world. "Seventy five years ago, when the whole country came together, we drove the British out. Today, we all have to come together again to make India

the greatest country in the world," he said. He emphasised that it has to be a collective effort and expressed confidence that the days of India becoming the "best country" in the world are not far.

"Can India lead the world, some people ask me? Why not, is how I respond! I need to ask everyone, what do you think? Why can't India rise to become the world's greatest country? However, to accomplish this, we must all work together," he stressed. He said the participation of entrepreneurs, farmers, industrialists, labourers, members of the service class, doctors, engineers and lawyers is needed to realise the dream.

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60. Consider the following statement regarding *Gujarat semiconductor policy*.

1. The state government will set up the *Gujarat State Electronics Mission (GSEM)* to function as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy.
2. The state government will provide *additional assistance of 40% of the capital assistance from the Union government*.
3. The state government is expected to set up *Dahej Semicon City at the Dahej Special Investment Region (SIR) near Ahmedabad*.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Gujarat announces Semiconductor Policy, offers incentives for investment

PTI ■ AHMEDABAD

The Gujarat Government on Wednesday announced a dedicated policy to attract new investment in the semiconductor sector by offering incentives and subsidies to start operations in the State.

Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel unveiled the 'Gujarat Semiconductor Policy', will remain

in force till 2027, state Science and Technology Minister Jitu Vaghani said in a statement.

Under the policy, the state government will set up 'Dholera Semicon City' near Ahmedabad where eligible projects will be given subsidy for setting up manufacturing units, the release said.

Gujarat has now become the first state in the country to have a dedicated policy for the semicon-

ductor and display production sector, the minister claimed.

"The policy has been designed in line with the Centre's India Semiconductor Mission.

We expect that our policy would generate two lakh new jobs in the semiconductor sector during the next five years in the state," Vaghani said.

Under the policy, the state government will set up 'Dholera

Semicon City' in the Dholera Special Investment Region near Ahmedabad.

At the facility, eligible projects will be given 75 per cent subsidy on purchase of first 200 acres of land for setting up manufacturing units.

The eligible projects will be provided good quality water at the rate of Rs 12 per cubic meter for the first five years, the release said.

- To encourage local manufacturing of semiconductors and create two lakh jobs over the next five years, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel unveiled the state's Semiconductor Policy 2022-27.
- The policy, designed in line with the Union government's India Semiconductor Mission (ISM), offers a slew of incentives and subsidies to attract investment in the semiconductor manufacturing sector.
- An outlay of Rs 76,000 crore has also been allocated by the Union government.
- The state government will set up the Gujarat State Electronics Mission (GSEM) to function as the nodal agency for the implementation of the policy.
- The state government will provide additional assistance of 40% of the capital assistance from the Union government.
- As part of the policy, the state government is expected to set up Dholera Semicon City in the Dholera Special Investment Region (SIR) near Ahmedabad.
- Eligible projects will get a 75% subsidy on the purchase of the first 200 acres of land for manufacturing units.

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- Additional land required for FAB projects or upstream/downstream ecosystems, or other projects approved by ISM, shall be available at a 50% subsidy.
- Eligible projects will get good quality water for industrial use at Rs 12 per cubic meter for the first five years. Units will also get a power subsidy of Rs 2 per unit for the first 10 years after commencement of production. Such projects will also be exempt from electricity duty.

61. **Hareli Festival** which was seen in the news recently is celebrated in which of the following state?

- Uttarakhand
- Chhattisgarh**
- Mizoram
- Nagaland
- None of these

- The Chhattisgarh government is all set to start purchasing 'gaumutra' (cow urine) from the 'Hareli' festival which is falling this year on July 28.
- Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will launch this initiative by purchasing 'gaumutra' from Gauthan established in village Karsa of Patan block of Durg district. In Raipur district, the purchase of 'gaumutra' will start from Gauthans established in Navagaon (L) of Abhanpur block and village Badgaon in Arang block.
- The state government started a first-of-its-kind scheme in the country--Godhan Nyay Yojana--two years ago on July 20, 2020, on the auspicious occasion of Hareli. Under this scheme, cow dung is being purchased at the rate of Rs 2 per kg from the cattle rearers.
- The scheme has been recognized by many states across the country. After the success of this innovative scheme, the government has decided to purchase 'gaumutra' as well.
- In keeping with this spirit, the 'Narva, Garwa, Ghurwa, Bari' program was started under 'Suraj Gaon Yojana' for recharging streams and drains, protecting and promoting livestock, promoting organic farming, and improving the nutritional level.
- Under the 'Garwa' program of Suraj Gaon Yojna, Gauthans has been established in 8408 villages of the state where an arrangement of free-of-cost fodder, water, and care has been made for the cattle.
- In these Gauthans, cow dung is being procured for the last two years under the Godhan Nyay Yojana, using which women groups are preparing organic fertilizers and other products.

Chhattisgarh govt to start purchase of 'Gaumutra' from today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
RAIPUR, 27 JULY

Chhattisgarh government is all set to start purchasing 'Gaumutra' (cow urine) from 'Hareli' festival which is falling this year on Thursday July 28. Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel will launch this initiative by purchasing 'Gaumutra' from a cow-shed established in Karsa village under Patan block in Durg district.

The state government has started the Godhan Nyay Yojana on July 20, 2020 on the occasion of Hareli. Under this scheme, cow dung is being purchased at the rate of Rs 2 per kg from the farmers. The cow dung then is used to produce organic manure which is being used by farmers in their fields. It has become crucial in promoting organic farming in

the state. The scheme has been recognized by many states across the country.

After the success of this scheme, the government has decided to purchase 'Gaumutra' as well. The cow urine purchased under this scheme will be used to make pest control products and 'Jeevamrut' (liquid organic fertilizer). The move aims to minimize use of expensive chemical pesticides and promote organic farming in the state by making organic pesticides available to farmers at nominal prices.

In addition, it also aims to minimize residue of chemical pesticides in food items which destroys its nutritional value and causes harmful effects on human health. Agricultural scientists suggest that cow urine insecticide is a superior and cheaper alternative to

chemical pesticides. Its disease resistance is much higher than chemical pesticides. These pesticides are effective against leaf eating, fruit piercing and stem borer pests.

Under the 'Garwa' program of Suraj Gaon Yojna, Gauthans have been established in 8408 villages of the state where arrangement of free-of-cost fodder, water and care has been made for the cattle. In these Gauthans, cow dung is being procured for the last two years under the Godhan Nyay Yojana. Women Self Help Groups are preparing organic fertilizers and other products. Over 76 lakh quintals of cow dung has been procured in the state in the last two years. More than Rs 153 crore has been paid to the beneficiaries under the scheme.



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International / Report News

62. *Yosemite National Park*, recently seen in news is located in _____.

- A. South Africa
- B. **California**
- C. Brazil
- D. Australia
- E. None of these

- *A state of emergency has been declared in part of California as the largest active wildfire in the US rapidly spreads near Yosemite National Park.*
- *The Oak Fire has quickly grown since starting, and firefighters have struggled to get the blaze under control.*
- *The state of emergency, which has been declared in Mariposa County, will allow the state to access some federal assistance to tackle the fires.*
- *Yosemite National Park, which lies to the northeast of where the Oak Fire is burning, is home to some of the largest and oldest sequoia trees in the world. The redwoods were threatened by another blaze earlier this month, but firefighters managed to save them.*

63. Recently in July India and _____ inked a pact to enhance cooperation between both countries parliaments.

- A. Kenya
- B. **Mozambique**
- C. Iran
- D. France
- E. None of these

- *Om Birla and Esperanca Bias inked a pact to enhance cooperation between both countries' parliaments.*
- *A Parliamentary Delegation of Mozambique led by Ms. Bias is on a three-day visit to India.*
- *It is the first time that a Parliamentary Delegation of Mozambique has visited India.*
- *The main aim of the MoU is to develop relations based on the principles of equality, reciprocity of benefits, and mutual respect between the Parliaments of India and Mozambique.*

Thousands ordered to flee California wildfire

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WAWONA

A fast-moving brush fire near Yosemite National Park exploded in size on Saturday into one of California's largest wildfires of the year, prompting evacuation orders for thousands of people and shutting off power to more than 2,000 homes and businesses.

Evacuation orders were put in effect on Saturday for over 6,000 people living across a several-mile span in the sparsely populated, rural area, said Daniel Patterson, a spokesman for the Sierra National Forest.

"Explosive fire behaviour

is challenging firefighters," Cal Fire said in a statement.

By Saturday morning, the fire had destroyed 10 residential and commercial structures, damaged five others and was threatening 2,000 more structures, Cal Fire said. The blaze prompted numerous road closures.

More than 400 firefighters, along with helicopters, battled the blaze, said Daniel Patterson, a spokesman for the Sierra National Forest. Hot weather, low humidity and bone dry vegetation caused by the worst drought in decades was fueling the blaze and challenging fire crews, he added.

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- India and Mozambique 2nd round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) was held in New Delhi on 4th July.
- Both countries exchanged their views on defense and security cooperation, trade and economic matters, consular issues, etc. during Foreign Office Consultations (FOC).
- Both sides agreed to enhance people-to-people exchanges and cultural cooperation.
- Maputo is the capital and Metical is the currency of Mozambique.

64. Recently _____ became the first woman from the minority Hindu community in Pakistan to become a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

- A. Ankita Ahuja
- B. **Manisha Ropeta**
- C. Sana Raichand
- D. Geeta Mishra
- E. None of these

'I FEEL WE NEED PROTECTOR WOMEN IN OUR SOCIETY'

Manisha Ropeta— Pak's first Hindu woman DSP

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KARACHI, JULY 28

MANISHA ROPETA is making heads turn not only because she is among the few women officers in authoritative positions in Sindh Police, but also for the fact that the 26-year-old is the first woman from the minority Hindu community in Pakistan to become a Deputy Superintendent of Police.

In Pakistan's male dominated society and culture, it is difficult for women to join professions considered as "manly" such as the police force.



Manisha Ropeta. UNI

ers or doctors," Ropeta from Sindh's Jacobabad area says. Belonging to a middle class family from Jacobabad in interior Sindh province, Ropeta says she wants to end this sentiment that girls from good families shouldn't have anything to do with the police or district courts.

"Women are the most oppressed and the target of many crimes in our society and I joined the police because I feel we need 'protector' women in our society," she says. Ropeta, who is currently under training, will be posted in the crime-infested area of Lyari.

She feels that working as a senior officer really empowers women and gives them authority. "I want to lead a feminisation drive and encourage gender equality in the police force. I have always been inspired and attracted to police work," she says.

Asked what prompted her to choose a different profession, Ropeta says she had failed to clear MBBS entrance examinations. "I then told my family I was taking a degree in physical therapy, but at the same time I prepared for the Sindh Public Services Commission examinations and got 16th position among 468 candidates." Ropeta's father was a trader in Jacobabad. He passed away when she was 13.

She admits it is not easy to be in a senior position in Sindh Police and to get on field training in a place like Lyari, her colleagues, superiors and juniors treat her with respect for her views and hard work.

Ropeta recalls that in her hometown it was not a usual practice for girls to pursue higher education and even when her relatives came to know she was joining the police force, they said she wouldn't last long. "So far I have proven them wrong," she says. Ropeta is hopeful of playing a role in portraying a better image of police whom many people still don't trust to report crimes.

- Manisha Ropeta is making heads turn not only because she is among the few female officers in authoritative positions in Sindh Police but also for the fact that the 26-year-old is the first woman from the minority Hindu community in Pakistan to become a Deputy Superintendent of Police.
- Ropeta, who is currently under training, will be posted in the crime-prone area of Lyari.

65. Recently seen in the news "Neom" is a futuristic 'zero-gravity vertical city' of which of the following country?

- A. UAE
- B. **Saudi Arabia**
- C. Japan
- D. China
- E. None of these

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Saudi prince plans \$80-bn fund, IPO for zero-carbon city Neom



The site of the city Neom stands empty before the project's first phase, which will run until 2030. PHOTO: REUTERS FILE

VIVIAN NEREIM
26 July

Saudi Arabia will set aside 300 billion riyals (\$80 billion) for an investment fund tied to the crown prince's flagship mega-project, Neom, and plans an initial public offering of the project on the kingdom's stock market as soon as 2024.

The Neom Investment Fund could potentially

expand to 400 billion riyals, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman told reporters in Jeddah. It will invest in companies that agree to operate at Neom, a new region planned in Saudi Arabia's northwestern corner.

The prince's announcement on Monday was attended by global investors including Bridgewater Associates founder Ray Dalio, Tim

Collins of Ripplewood, Saudi Prince Alwaleed bin Talal and Kuwaiti retail billionaire Mohammed Aishaya.

For the first time, Prince Mohammed also outlined details on how he plans to finance Neom — one of the largest and most complex construction programmes in the world.

The first phase of the project, which runs until 2030,

will cost 1.2 trillion riyals, with about half of that covered by the Public Investment Fund (PIF), he said. Officials will

seek to raise another 600 billion riyals from other sovereign wealth funds in the region, private investors in Saudi Arabia and abroad, and an initial public offering of Neom itself on the Saudi stock market — an idea the prince first floated in 2017. BLOOMBERG

- **Amid urgent talks about climate change, a futuristic way of living is in the works in Saudi Arabia, which is planning to build a zero-carbon city called NEOM. It is touted to be the “world’s first zero-gravity vertical city” that will span 170 km and have “zero cars, zero pollution, and zero carbon emissions”.**
- **Saudi Arabia crown prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is the chairman of the NEOM board of directors, announced the designs of ‘The Line’, which will be a “civilizational revolution that puts humans first, providing an unprecedented urban living experience”.**
- **Two buildings, the world’s largest structures, will reach up to 1,600 feet in height and run parallel for 75 miles or 120 km. Called an ‘architectural marvel’, when ready, NEOM will “run in a straight line” from the mountains of NEOM to the Red Sea.**
- **The project will allow people to travel from one end to another on 20 minutes. While the prince claims it will be ready by 2030, engineers said it could take up to 50 years for completion.**
- **NEOM is being called what 'New Future might look like by Saudi Arabia. Neom is a portmanteau of the Greek word neos, meaning "new," and mustaqbal, the Arabic word for "future." It is a futuristic mega-city 33 times the size of New York City.**
- **It hired three of the world's largest consultancy firms in 2017. These were McKinsey & Co, Boston Consulting, and Oliver Wyman.**

66. Recently in July, the following country introduced an investor migrant visa category that aims to attract experienced, high-value investors to invest in domestic businesses.

- A. New Zealand**
- B. UAE**
- C. Saudi Arabia**
- D. USA**
- E. None of these**

- **New Zealand like Canada has also introduced a new investor migrant visa category that aims to attract experienced, high-value investors to invest in domestic businesses.**
- **The New Zealand government under the Immigration Rebalance strategy introduced this visa category.**
- **Minister for Economic and Regional Development Stuart Nash and Immigration Minister Michael Wood in Christchurch announced the launch of this visa category.**

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- The new Active Investor Plus visa category will replace the existing Investor 1 and Investor 2 visa categories. Eligibility criteria for New Zealand's Active Investor Plus visa category include a minimum \$5 million investment and only 50% of that can be invested in listed equities.
- The minimum amount required for indirect investments will be \$15 million
- *Eligibility criteria for the new visa include a minimum NZ\$5 million (\$3.1 million) investment and only 50% of that can be invested in listed equities. Individuals will need to make a minimum investment of \$5 million in New Zealand for active investments. It will cap so-called passive investment to 50% of a minimum \$15 million investment.

67. Recently A partnership of _____ economies, including India, the US, and the European Union (EU), has unveiled a four-point roadmap for building collective, long-term resilient supply chains, including steps to counter risks arising from supply dependencies and vulnerabilities.

- A. 17
- B. 19
- C. 18**
- D. 20
- E. None of these

- A partnership of 18 economies, including India, the US, and the European Union (EU), has unveiled a four-point roadmap for building collective, long-term resilient supply chains, including steps to counter risks arising from supply dependencies and vulnerabilities.
- The roadmap was outlined in a joint statement issued following a virtual supply chain ministerial meeting hosted by US secretary of state Antony Blinken and secretary of commerce Gina Raimondo. The meeting was a follow-up to the supply chain summit convened by US President Joe Biden last October.
- The partners said they intend to "deepen our consultations to identify and address risks arising from supply dependencies and potential vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure" to promote supply chain security.
- Besides India, the US, and the EU, other partners are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore, Spain, and the UK.

68. Recently seen in the news Mr. Jamshid Khodjayev who visited India to deepen diplomatic ties in agriculture for completing 30

PARTNERS TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY IN CONSULTATION

India, 17 Others Unveil Roadmap for Long-term Resilient Supply Chains

Meeting was a follow-up to the supply chain summit convened by US President Joe Biden last October

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: A partnership of 18 economies, including India, the US and the European Union (EU), has unveiled a four-point roadmap for building collective, long-term resilient supply chains, including steps to counter risks arising from supply dependencies and vulnerabilities.

The roadmap was outlined in a joint statement issued on Wednesday following a virtual supply chain ministerial meeting hosted by US secretary of state Antony Blinken and secretary of commerce Gina Raimondo. The meeting was a follow-up to the supply chain summit convened by US President Joe Biden last October.

The roadmap for building resilient supply chains is based on the global principles of transparency, diversification, security and sustainability, according to the statement. "Building collective, long-term resilient supply chains based on international partnerships is critical to the success of this effort," the statement said.

The partners said they intend to "deepen our consultations to identify and address risks arising from supply dependencies and potential vulnerabilities in critical infrastructure" in order to promote supply chain security.

"We intend to work together to address our mutual vulnerabilities and work to eliminate corruption in support of supply chain security," the statement said, adding this cooperation will involve partnerships with industry, labour, civil society and other relevant stakeholders to manage security risks to supply chains.

Besides India, the US, the EU, other partners are Australia, Brazil, Canada, Congo, France, Germany, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, South Korea, Singapore, Spain and the UK.



FOCUS ON COMMON APPROACH

'We intend to advance info sharing, and...common approaches and early warning systems about potential, emerging and systemic supply challenges'

NSA Raises Extremism with UK Counterpart

New Delhi: NSA Ajit Doval on Thursday met his counterpart from the UK, Stephen Lovegrove, in New

Delhi and among other issues raised the issue of 'UK-based violent extremism' in the context of Sikh radicals and other radical groups. They discussed a wide range of subjects of bilateral and global significance. The focus was on specific and substantial outcomes to take the partnership forward in line with the vision of the Roadmap 2030, sources told ET. The key points discussed included cooperation in cyber security, maritime and Indo-Pacific, regional security and dealing with violent extremism, sources said. – OPB

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years was *Deputy Prime Minister* of which of the following country?

- A. Azerbaijan
- B. Uzbekistan**
- C. Australia
- D. Japan
- E. None of these

- A fruitful discussion took place between the Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan, Mr. Jamshid Khodjayev, and the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar.
- During the meeting, it was agreed to take forward the ongoing cooperation in the Agricultural sector between the two countries.
- While India's diplomatic ties with Uzbekistan complete 30 years, for India it is the occasion of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Shri Tomar expressed happiness that special attention has been paid to cooperation in the Agriculture sector.
- He informed that India has decided to provide market access for Grapes, Plums, and Sweet Cherries from Uzbekistan.
- Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, Currency: Som.

69. Recently which of the following is to *set up its campus in Tanzania*?

- A. IIT Madras**
- B. IIT Kanpur
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Ropar
- E. None of these

- IIT Madras has also received requests from other African countries, Nepal and Sri Lanka to set up campuses for offering courses in data sciences, artificial intelligence, and energy systems.
- A 16-member committee headed by Dr. K Radhakrishnan is creating a roadmap for the expansion of IIT Madras.
- IIT Madras can offer country-specific courses and the institute may offer both UG and PG courses on its offshore campus.
- IIT Madras has earlier launched interdisciplinary MTech programs for foreign students.
- IIT Madras also signed MoU with Kathmandu University to offer an MTech course in the energy system.
- Capital of Tanzania: Dodoma
- Currency of Tanzania: Tanzanian shilling

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70. Consider the following statement regarding *International Space Station*.

1. *Russia has decided to quit the International Space Station after 2030.*
2. *The United States of America and Russia have worked side by side on the ISS ever since it has been in orbit in 1998.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Russia to leave ISS after 2024, focus on building own outpost

Roscosmos chief tells Putin Moscow will fulfil its obligations

ASSOCIATED PRESS
MOSCOW

Russia will pull out of the International Space Station after 2024 and focus on building its own orbiting outpost, the country's new space chief said on Tuesday amid high tensions between Moscow and the West over the fighting in Ukraine.

Yuri Borisov, appointed this month to lead the state space agency, Roscosmos, said during a meeting with President Vladimir Putin that Russia will fulfill its obligations to its partners before it leaves. "The decision to leave the station after 2024 has been made," Mr. Borisov said, adding: "I think that by that time we will start forming a Russian orbiting station."

Mr. Borisov's statement reaffirmed previous declarations by Russian space officials about Moscow's intention to leave the space



After a long run: NASA and other partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030. *GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

station after 2024 when the current international arrangements for its operation end.

NASA and other international partners hope to keep the space station running until 2030, while the Russians have been reluctant to make commitments beyond 2024.

The space station is jointly run by the space agencies of Russia, the U.S., Europe, Japan and Canada. The first

piece was put in orbit in 1998, and the outpost has been continuously inhabited for nearly 22 years. It is used to conduct scientific research in zero gravity and test out equipment for future space journeys.

It typically has a crew of seven, who spend months at a time aboard the station as it orbits about 400 km from Earth. Three Russians, three Americans and one Italian are now on board.

- *Russia has decided to quit the International Space Station after 2024. This was confirmed by Russia's newly-appointed Roscosmos chief Yuri Borisov.*
- *The announcement comes amid a spike in tensions between Russia and the West over Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.*
- *The United States of America and Russia have worked side by side on the ISS ever since it has been in orbit in 1998.*
- *The Roscosmos chief said that the space agency will fulfill all its obligations to its partners but will leave the space station after 2024.*
- *Borisov also mentioned putting together a Russian orbital space station, calling it the space agency's main priority.*
- *The International Space Station (ISS) is the largest modular space station currently in low Earth orbit. It is a multinational collaborative project involving five participating space agencies: NASA (United States), Roscosmos (Russia), JAXA (Japan), ESA (Europe), and CSA (Canada).*
- *Nasa has announced plans for the International Space Station (ISS) to be officially decommissioned in 2031.*
- *Nasa's plans for the decommissioning operation will culminate in a fiery plunge into the middle of the Pacific Ocean – a location called Point Nemo, also known as the "spacecraft graveyard", the furthest point from all civilization.*
- *Before complete de-orbit in 2031, the ISS will first undergo a transition phase to sustain the crucial scientific research currently being conducted and to form the basis of new industries in space.*
- *Jeff Bazos' Blue Origin recently announced plans to replace the ISS with the company's privately-operated space station. Other key players include Northrop Grumman and Axiom Space (partnered with SpaceX) who have a contract to start building modules off of the existing ISS as early as 2024.*
- *Meanwhile, China launched the first and second module of their independent Tiangong Space Station and plan to complete its expansion in the coming months.*

71. Consider the following statements regarding *the UN General Assembly resolution to declare a healthy environment a human right*.

1. *All UN member states unanimously voted in favor of the resolution.*
2. *This right was already included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.*

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3. The resolution is *legally binding on the 193 UN Member States*.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *United Nations (UN) has declared a healthy environment a human right.*
- *United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared that everyone on the planet has a right to a healthy environment.*
- *On 28 July 2022, UNGA adopted the resolution. This resolution declared access to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment a universal human right.*
- *161 states voted in favor of the resolution, and eight abstained from voting. China, Russian Federation, Belarus, Cambodia, Iran, Syria, Kyrgyzstan, and Ethiopia are states who abstained.*
- *The newly recognized right will be crucial to tackling the triple planetary crisis of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss.*
- *This right was not included in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948.*
- *The resolution is not legally binding on the 193 UN Member States.*
- *However, it will prompt countries to include the right to a healthy environment in national constitutions and regional treaties.*
- *In April, the UN Human Rights Council declared access to a "clean, healthy and sustainable environment" a human right.*
- *Last year, New York State passed a constitutional amendment guaranteeing citizens a right to a "healthful environment."*
- *Recently, Brazil's Supreme Court declared the Paris climate change agreement a human rights treaty.*
- *In July 2010, UNGA recognized the right to water and sanitation through its resolution.*

72. Recently in July _____ *announced to conduct of live-fire exercises (LFX) near Pingtan Island of Fujian province, which is opposite the self-governing island of Taiwan.*

- A. USA
- B. **China**
- C. India
- D. UAE
- E. None of these

- *China is planning to conduct live-fire exercises on Saturday in waters near Pingtan Island of Fujian province, which is opposite the self-governing island of Taiwan.*

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- The news comes amid speculation over how China could respond to a potential visit by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing sees as part of its territory, despite never having controlled it.
- The US does not have formal diplomatic ties with Taiwan but maintains close unofficial relations with Taipei.
- Washington continues to sell military gear to Taiwan for self-defense, even though Beijing has repeatedly warned not to do so. US Navy warships also regularly sail through the Taiwan Strait to project American military power in the region.
- China and Taiwan have been separated since 1949 when the Chinese civil war ended with the victory of the Communists under the leadership of Mao Zedong.
- The governments in Beijing and Taipei say they are one country but disagree over which is entitled to national leadership.

China announces military exercise off Taiwan coast

AP ■ BEIJING

China said it was conducting military exercises on Saturday off its coast opposite Taiwan after warning Speaker Nancy Pelosi of the US House of Representatives to scrap possible plans to visit the island democracy, which Beijing claims as part of its territory.

The ruling Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, was conducting "live-fire exercises" near the Pingtan islands off Fujian province from 8 a.m. To 9 p.m., the official Xinhua News Agency said. The Maritime Safety Administration warned ships to avoid the area.

Such exercises usually involve artillery. The one-sentence announcement gave no indication whether Saturday's exercise also might include missiles, fighter planes or other weapons. Pelosi, who would be the highest-ranking American elected official to visit Taiwan since 1997, has yet to confirm



whether she will go. President Xi Jinping warned his U.S. counterpart, Joe Biden, in a phone call Thursday against "external interference" in Beijing's dealings with the island.

China says Taiwan has no right to conduct foreign relations. It sees visits by American officials as encouragement for the island to make its decades-old de facto independence official.

The Ministry of Defence warned Washington this week not to allow Pelosi, who is Biden's equal in rank as leader

of one of three branches of government, to visit Taiwan. A spokesman said the PLA would take unspecified "strong measures" to stop pro-independence activity.

The PLA has flown growing numbers of fighter planes and bombers near Taiwan and has in past fired missiles into shipping lanes to island. Taiwan and China split in 1949 after a communist victory on mainland. The two governments say they are one country but disagree over which is entitled to national leadership.

73. Consider the following statement regarding a joint Aid for Trade at a Glance 2022 report issued by the WTO.

1. India received the highest aid for trade in 2020 at \$2.7 billion from developed countries.
2. Report was issued by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) regarding aid for trade.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India received the highest aid for trade in 2020 at \$2.7 billion from developed countries even as the receipts declined during the pandemic year compared to the \$3.9 billion received in 2019.
- The World Trade Organisation-led aid for trade flows is particularly meant for the least developed economies.

In 2020, India got highest trade aid from rich nations



ON TOP
Five biggest recipients of trade and related disbursements, 2019-20

Recipient	Rank	Disbursement (in \$ bn)	Rank	Disbursement (in \$ bn)
India	1	2.69	1	3.92
Benladesh	2	2.69	2	2.44
Egypt	3	1.79	3	1.94
Ethiopia	4	1.60	4	1.74
Myanmar	5	1.33	5	0.94

SHEENA NANDI
New Delhi, 29 July

India received the highest aid for trade in 2020 at \$2.7 billion from developed countries, even as the receipts declined during the pandemic year compared to the \$3.9 billion received in 2019. The World Trade Organisation-led aid for trade flows is particularly meant for the least developed economies. It consists of official development assistance to build infrastructure and trade-related infrastructure to enable trade, capacity building to improve in international trade negotiations, and technical assistance. The aid is provided by Egypt, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Bangladesh, and India. According to the World Trade Organisation, developed nations provided \$10.4 billion in trade aid to 120 developing countries in 2020, a 10% increase from \$9.4 billion in 2019. The total disbursement in 2020 was \$4.7 billion, which translates to India getting a 5.7% share of the total. Trade experts, however, said that while reports show that trade aid is growing, it is not enough to meet the needs of the least developed countries. The report says that trade aid is not enough to meet the needs of the least developed countries. The report says that trade aid is not enough to meet the needs of the least developed countries. The report says that trade aid is not enough to meet the needs of the least developed countries.

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- It consists of official development support to build supply-side capacity and trade-related infrastructure to enable such countries to participate in international trade.
- Bangladesh was the second largest recipient of aid, followed by Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Vietnam, Pakistan, Morocco, Myanmar, and Indonesia, among others.
- Institutions such as the World Bank, European Union Institutions, Asian Development Bank, and developed countries such as Japan, the United States, Germany, and France are among the top donors of the aid.
- According to a joint Aid for Trade at a Glance 2022 report issued by the WTO and the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), aid for trade commitments increased by 18 percent during 2020, reaching an all-time high of \$64.6 billion.

74. Recently **Indian Vegetable Oil Producers' Association (IVPA)** and the _____ country **Palm Oil Council** have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to further cooperation between the **two organizations to promote the use of palm oil.**

- A. Iran
- B. **Malaysia**
- C. Maldives
- D. Egypt
- E. None of these

- **The Malaysian Palm Oil Council (MPOC) and the Indian Vegetable Oil Producers Association (IVPA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to cooperate further on palm oil use and development.**
- **Malaysia exported approximately 1.4 million mt of palm oil to India between January-June this year, according to data from the Malaysian Palm Oil Board (MPOB).**
- **IVPA's Desai also added that India is expected to import around 3.8-4 million mt of palm oil from Malaysia in 2022.**
- **Malaysia has also been actively making efforts to promote its palm oil, with previous MoUs signed with Saudi Arabia's Savola Group and UAE-based multinational conglomerate LuLu Group International earlier this year.**

Countries Line up for IIT-B's Digital Identity Platform

Aadhaar-like tech backed by Gates Foundation, Tata Trusts, Norad, Pratiksha Trust and Omidyar

Suraksha.P@timesgroup.com

Bengaluru: A centre in Bengaluru is extending India's Aadhaar-like unique identity programme to developing countries.

The International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIT-B) has developed an open-source foundational identity platform called the Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (Mosip), which is currently being used by six countries — Sri Lanka, Morocco, the Philippines, Guinea, Ethiopia and the Togolese Republic — to provide digital identities to their citizens. West African nation Sierra Leone is also coming on board soon.

The programme is backed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), Tata Trusts, Norad, and Omidyar Network, which have cumulatively provided \$50 crore in funding.

Infosys cofounder Kris Gopalakrishnan's Pratiksha Trust has also committed \$1 million to the project.

So far, in the Philippines, 71 million citizens have been registered using Mosip, out of which 50 million have been issued identity cards. In Morocco, out of a population of 36 million, 120,000 have been issued unique identity numbers.

IIT-B intends to reach a billion people in the next couple of years out of three billion people across the world who do not have an identity, its officials told ET.

Among other countries that have shown interest in using Mosip are Uganda, Nigeria, Samoa, and Tunisia. It is also evaluating new technologies — other than fingerprint, iris, and face — such as voice biometrics, for national ID use cases.

IIT-B is a not-for-profit society registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. It is governed by a board with Gopalakrishnan as chairman.

"The reason for Pratiksha Trust to invest is because it is an Indian initiative to have gone global. We wanted to support it since it is open-source and not-for-profit," Gopalakrishnan said. "This intellectual

SANJITH SUNDARAM
Head, Biometric Ecosystem, Mosip

While the total population is about 8m, the pilot size will be a couple of thousands. We are in a position to complete pilot in three months

HEADING OUT



• Mosip is currently being used by six countries to provide digital identities to their citizens

• IIT-B intends to reach a billion people in the next couple of years, say officials

• Tata Trusts, BMGF, Norad, Omidyar Network and Pratiksha Trust have provided **<150 crore** in funding

NICOLAS DE STAEL, *BMGF* property showcases India's IT capabilities; it builds on the country's brand equity and as a destination for world-class software. We're the latest on the sponsors list." On whether there were any foreseeable privacy or security concerns with national identity projects based on Mosip, AP Singh, the former deputy director-general of the Unique Identification Authority of India told ET that it "entirely depends on how it is configured in various countries. The respective statutory provisions in these countries, their ring-fencing and privacy guardrails will determine how Mosip is used."

Funded jointly by the Karnataka government and the IT industry under a public-private partnership model, the governing body of the university has representation from governments, industry, academia and alumni.

"On July 21, Sierra Leone signed an MoU with IIT-B for Mosip on a pilot basis. While the total population is about eight million, the pilot size will be a couple of thousands. We are in a position to complete the pilot in three months," said Sanjith Sundaram, head, biometric ecosystem, Mosip.

FOR FULL REPORT, GO TO www.economictimes.com

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Banking / Economy News

75. Consider the following statement regarding the *Modular open source identity platform*.

1. It is developed by the *International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B)*
2. The program is backed by the *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BGMF), Tata Trusts, Norad, and Omidyar Network, which have cumulatively provided Rs 250 crore in funding.*
3. At present it is being utilized by *six nations – Sri Lanka, Morocco, the Philippines, Guinea, Ethiopia, and the Togolese Republic.*

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

- A center in Bengaluru is extending India's Aadhaar-like unique identity program to developing countries. The International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B) has developed an open-source foundational identity platform called the Modular Open-Source Identity Platform (MOSIP).
- Six growing nations – Sri Lanka, Morocco, the Philippines, Guinea, Ethiopia, and the Togolese Republic – are utilizing an Aadhaar-like, open-source system to supply digital identities to their residents. The platform was constructed by the International Institute of Information Technology, Bengaluru (IIIT-B), a non-profit headed by Infosys cofounder Kris Gopalakrishnan.
- The program is backed by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (BGMF), Tata Trusts, Norad, and Omidyar Network, which have cumulatively offered Rs 150 crore in funding.
- Infosys cofounder Kris Gopalakrishnan's Pratiksha Trust has additionally dedicated \$1 million to the undertaking.
- By the numbers: So far, within the Philippines, 71 million residents have been registered to utilize MOSIP, out of which 50 million have been issued identification playing cards. In Morocco, out of inhabitants 36 million, 150,000 have been issued distinctive identification numbers.
- Other nations which have proven curiosity about utilizing MOSIP are Uganda, Nigeria, Samoa, and Tunisia.
- IIT-B can be evaluating new applied sciences – apart from fingerprint, iris, and face – resembling voice biometrics, for nationwide ID use circumstances.

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- *IIT-B is a not-for-profit society registered underneath the Karnataka Societies Registration Act, 1960. It is ruled by a board with Gopalakrishnan as chairman.*

- 76. Recently _____ government has signed an MoU with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) –a member of the World Bank Group, to support the implementation of the Asset Monetization & Recycling Program (AMRP) for the State.
 - A. Tamil Nadu
 - B. **Odisha**
 - C. Telangana
 - D. Andhra Pradesh
 - E. None of these

- *Odisha government has signed an MoU with the International Finance Corporation (IFC) –a member of the World Bank Group, to support the implementation of the Asset Monetization & Recycling Program (AMRP) for the State. This program is a part of a wider World Bank Group technical assistance to support the State in monetizing existing public sector assets.*
- *The program will facilitate and accelerate the monetization process in the State by unlocking the value from large-scale public investment in brownfield infrastructure assets and bringing in private sector efficiencies.*
- *India's infrastructure development pipeline has an estimated funding requirement of \$1.5 trillion until 2025.*
- *To address this issue and boost the economy, the Central Government rolled out the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP).*

- 77. Recently _____ has launched Gai Aadharit Unnati (GAU) Vision App' a model which is used for facial recognition technology for stray cows to link them with donors.
 - A. **IIM Ahmedabad**
 - B. IIT Madras
 - C. IIT Kanpur
 - D. IISc Bangalore
 - E. None of these

- *An Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad (IIMA) study has come out with a model using facial recognition technology for stray cows to link them with donors to achieve "Gai Aadharit Unnati (GAU)," or cow-based development.*
- *A working paper published by the country's premier management institute proposes linking stray cows that end up in shelters with donors using an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based model for a self-sustainable cow-based economy.*
- *The "GAU model," including the tech platform, was launched in January this year in Vadodara in Gujarat for a live demonstration.*

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- A "GAU Vision App" is used to recognize the face of cows. The profile of such cows is created on the portal which is used by a donor to make donations.
- TechMachinery Labs created machine learning models to recognize the face of a cow from a live cow or its photo.
- Plans are afoot to launch the model in Uttar Pradesh, says the paper titled, "Gai Aadharit Unnati (GAU): Modernising Cow-based Economy through Application of Advanced Technology." For a live demonstration, an NGO (non-governmental organization) and a panjrapole (cow shed) serving 1,000 cows have been selected.
- Each cow was also given a name and their profile was created on the tech platform.

78. Recently _____ has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mphasis, an Information Technology (IT) solutions provider to create a hub for quantum science and technology.

- A. IIT Ropar
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Delhi
- E. None of these

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT M) has a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Mphasis, an Information Technology (IT) solutions provider to create a hub for quantum science and technology.
- The partnership aims to promote fundamental and applied research in quantum technologies, democratize access to education in quantum technologies, assist start-ups aligned to relevant domains and develop and attract talent to the quantum ecosystem by offering scholarships to students who excel in research.
- The initiative is funded by Mphasis F1 Foundation, (the CSR arm of Mphasis) with a grant of Rs 21 crores over five years.
- The partnership aims to develop comprehensive training and create resources for education and training in quantum computing.
- The collaboration aims to democratize quantum learning through training programs tailored to specific industries, online certification programs through the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), and continuing education through IITM's web-enabled MTech program on Quantum Science and Technology (QuST).

79. Recently Reserve Bank Of _____ has launched gold coins to be sold to the public, in a bid to curb an inflation spike that has eroded the country's unstable currency.

- A. Zimbabwe**
- B. Kenya
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Pakistan
- E. None of these

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- Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public, in a bid to curb an inflation spike that has eroded the country's unstable currency.
- The move was announced by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, which disbursed 2,000 coins to commercial banks.
- Called Mosi-oa-Tunya, which in the local Tonga language refers to Victoria Falls, the coins "will have liquid asset status", meaning they "will be capable of being easily converted to cash and will be tradable locally and internationally", the central bank said in its announcement, adding the coins "may also be used for transactional purposes".
- Holders will only be able
- Individuals or companies will be able to buy them from authorized outlets such as banks and keep them at a bank or take them home, according to the announcement. Foreigners can only buy the coins in foreign currency.

Zimbabwe debuts gold coins as legal tender to stem inflation

Zimbabwe has launched gold coins to be sold to the public in a bid to tame runaway inflation that has further eroded the country's unstable currency. The unprecedented move was announced on Monday by the country's central bank, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, to boost confidence in the local currency.

Trust in Zimbabwe's currency is low after people saw their savings wiped out by hyperinflation in 2008 which reached 5 billion, according to the IMF.

Faith in Zimbabwe's currency is already so low that many retailers don't accept it. The central bank disbursed 2,000 coins to commercial banks on Monday.

The first batch of the coins was minted outside the country but eventually they will be produced locally, according to the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, John Mangudya.

The coins can be used for purchases in shops, depending on whether the shop has enough change, he said.



AP The gold coins can be used for purchases in shops. PTI

- The first batch was minted outside the country but eventually, they will be produced locally, said John Mangudya, the governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe.
- He added the 22-carat coins can be used for purchases in shops, depending on whether the shop has enough change, as well as security for loans and credit facilities.
- Their price will be determined by the international market rate for an ounce of gold, plus five percent of the cost of producing the coin. At the time of the launch on Monday, the cost of one Mosi oa Tunya was \$1,824.

80. Consider the following statement regarding the PLI scheme for drones.

1. Government is providing a total incentive of Rs 120 crore.
2. Incentive is for three financial years starting 2021-22.
3. Eligibility norm for Non-MSME has specified as Rs. 4 crores of annual sales revenue for drone manufacturers.

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

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- The government is providing a total incentive of Rs 120 crore spread over three financial years starting 2021-22. The incentive for 2021-22 will be payable in 2022-23 after scrutiny of the financial results of the beneficiaries said Minister of State in the Ministry of Civil Aviation (Gen. (Dr) V. K. Singh (Retd) in a written reply in Rajya Sabha today.
- The Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for drones and drone components was notified on 30th September 2021. A provisional list of 23 PLI beneficiaries was released on 6th July 2022. The beneficiaries include 12 drone manufacturers and 11 drone component manufacturers.
- The eligibility criteria which have been set for drones and drone component manufacturers are as follows:
- (i) Eligibility norms for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and startups are specified as Rs. 2 crores of annual sales revenue for drone manufacturers and Rs. 50 lakhs of annual sales revenue for drone component manufacturers.
- (ii) Eligibility norm for Non-MSME has specified as Rs. 4 crores of annual sales revenue for drone manufacturers and Rs. 1 crore of annual sales revenue for drone component manufacturers.
- (iii) Minimum value addition is specified as 40% of net sales

81. Recently _____ and Aditya Birla Health Insurance has announced a tie-up for the distribution of health insurance products through the bank's network.

- A. City Union Bank
- B. Union Bank Of India
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of these

CUB, Aditya Birla Health ink pact

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, July 25

City Union Bank will distribute the products of Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co Ltd. The two today announced a partnership.

This is the third health insurance tie-up for CUB after pacts with Star Health and Alliance Insurance as also Care Health.

CUB garnered ₹4-5 crore rev-

enue in FY22 through its health insurance tie-ups.

Tie-up with Royal Sundaram

CUB has signed another bancassurance tie-up with general insurer Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co Ltd. This deal will enable the customers of the bank access general insurance products of Royal Sundaram across its branches.

- City Union Bank (CUB) and Aditya Birla Health Insurance have announced a tie-up for the distribution of health insurance products through the bank's network.
- While this is the 14th agreement by Aditya Birla Health Insurance with a bank for the bancassurance partnership, CUB has already entered into MoUs with two other health insurance players for the purpose.
- On the other hand, Royal Sundaram General Insurance Co Limited has also entered into a bancassurance partnership with CUB.
- This arrangement will enable the customers of the bank to have easy access to general insurance products from Royal Sundaram across its 727 branches,
- City Union Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu. The bank was initially named Kumbakonam Bank Limited and was incorporated on 31 October 1904. The bank preferred the role of a regional bank in the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu.

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82. Consider the following statement regarding *Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP)*.

1. It is an *Asian Development Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme*
2. RAMP program *will be implemented for five years.*
3. The total outlay for the scheme is *Rs. 6,062.45 crores or USD 808 Million.*

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 government of India has launched a World Bank-supported Central Sector Scheme called Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) aims at strengthening institutions and governance at the Centre and State, improving Centre-State linkages and partnerships, and improving access of MSMEs to market and credit, technology up-gradation and addressing issues of delayed payments and greening of MSMEs
- RAMP program will be implemented for five years. The total outlay for the scheme is Rs. 6,062.45 crore or USD 808 Million, out of which Rs. 3750 crores or USD 500 Million would be a loan from the World Bank, and the remaining Rs. 2312.45 crores or USD 308 Million would be funded by the Government of India (GoI).
- The scheme was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Union Budget 2022-23. The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved it in March 2022. PM Modi launched the scheme at a program in New Delhi on June 30, 2022.

83. Consider the following statement regarding *International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)*,

1. The Prime Minister *will launch India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), India's first International Bullion Exchange in GIFT-IFSC.*
2. The Prime Minister *also launched NSE IFSC-SGX Connect. Under this Connect, all orders on NIFTY derivatives placed by members of Singapore Exchange Limited (SGX) will be routed to and matched on the NSE-IFSC order matching and trading platform.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- PM Modi launched India's first international bullion exchange in Gujarat.

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- He visited India's first International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) near Gandhinagar.
- During his visit, he launched India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX).
- He also laid the foundation stone for the headquarters building of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA).
- He also launched the NSE IFSC-SGX Connect platform, which will deepen liquidity in derivative markets at GIFT-IFSC.
- International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA):
- It has been established on April 27, 2020, under the International Financial Services Centres Authority Act, 2019.
- It is an authority for the development and regulation of financial products, financial services, and financial institutions in the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in India.

84. Recently A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) and _____ for adopting the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs).
- A. World Bank
 - B. International Labour Organisation
 - C. United Nations Development Programme
 - D. World Economic Forum
 - E. None of these

- Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilisers, and Health & Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya chaired a seminar on "Safe Use of Chemicals at Workplace".
- The seminar was organized by the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals (DCPC) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).
- A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in presence of Union Minister Dr. Mandaviya between DCPC and ILO for adopting the International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs).
- The International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) are data sheets intended to provide essential safety and health information on chemicals concisely.
- The primary aim of the Cards is to promote the safe use of chemicals in the workplace. The main users are workers and those responsible for occupational safety and health.
- The International Chemical Safety Cards (ICSCs) will be used by the department to disseminate the appropriate hazard information on chemicals at the workplace in a comprehensible and easy manner. To date, 1784 Chemicals Safety Cards are available.
- The ICSCs are developed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) with the cooperation of the European Commission and are regularly updated to take account of the latest scientific developments.

Modi unveils India's first global bullion exchange

Move could lead to standard gold pricing in the country

MAHESH LANGA
GANDHINAGAR

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday launched the India International Bullion Exchange (IIBX), a first in the country and NSE IFSC-SGX Connect at Gandhinagar's GIFT city, an international financial services hub set up by the Gujarat government outside the State capital.

India is the world's second biggest consumer of gold and the move to set up the IIBX is seen as India's effort to bring transparency to the market for the precious metal. Moreover, setting up of IIBX could lead to standard gold pricing in the country and make it easier for small bullion dealers and jewellers to trade in the precious metal.

India is a leading importer of the metal and imported 1,059 tonnes of gold in 2021, up from 430 tonnes a year ago. The yellow metal is tightly regulated in the country and currently only nominated banks and agencies approved by the Reserve



Grand launch: Narendra Modi with Nirmala Sitharaman during the foundation stone laying ceremony in Gandhinagar. *A*

Bank Of India can import gold and sell to dealers and jewellers across the country. While launching the new exchange and laying foundation stone for new projects in GIFT city, his pet project, Mr. Modi said that India is among the biggest economies in the world and is now joining the league of global financial centres like the United States, the United Kingdom and Singapore.

Foundation stone laid
He laid the foundation stone of the headquarters building of the International Financial Services Centres Authority (IFSCA), the country's

first and only IFSC in line with those in UAE, Singapore and Hong Kong. "Today in the 21st century, finance and technology are linked to each other. And when it comes to technology, in science and software, India has an edge and experience. Today, India alone has 40% share in real time digital payments all over the world," he said at the event. "India is one of the world's leading economies and will become even bigger going forward; we should build institutions that can cater to our present and future roles," the Prime Minister said.

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- *International Labour Organization Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland Founded: 1919*
- *Founder: Paris Peace Conference.*

85. Recently India contributed _____ to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

- A. USD 1.5 million
- B. USD 2.5 million**
- C. USD 3.5 million
- D. USD 4.5 million
- E. None of these

- *India contributed USD 2.5 million to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).*
- *India is a dedicated donor to UNRWA, having given USD 20 million in support of core UNRWA services to Palestine refugees across the Middle East since 2018.*
- *The UNRWA, which was established as a humanitarian agency in 1949, is fully funded through voluntary contributions and grants from donor countries.*
- *The agency was mandated to provide assistance and protection for about 5.6 million Palestinian refugees registered in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and refugee camps in Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan.*
- *In January, the UNRWA announced that it needs 1.6 billion US dollars from the international community in 2022 to cover expenses and provide services and humanitarian development programs for Palestinian refugees.*

86. Consider the following statement regarding the defense sector of India.

1. The Government has liberalized and allowed FDI under an automatic route up to 74% and up to 100% through the Government route
2. Total FDI inflow reported till May 2022 is approximately Rs. 494 Crores.
3. Two Defence Corridors have been established; one in Tamil Nadu and another in Uttar Pradesh.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Investing in defence

494 In ₹ crore, the amount received by India as foreign direct investment (FDI) in the defence sector since the revision of policy relating to FDI, according to the Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt. In the last few years, the government has taken a series of measures to boost domestic defence manufacturing. In 2020, the government announced increasing FDI limit from 49% to 74% under the automatic route and up to 100% through the government route in the defence sector. PTI

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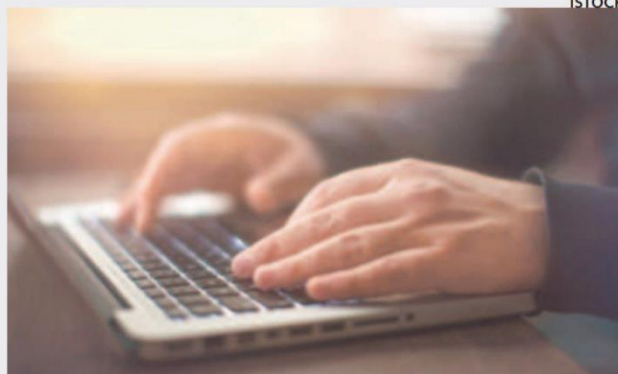
- *The Government has liberalized and allowed FDI under an automatic route up to 74% and up to 100% through the Government route wherever it is likely to result in access to modern technology.*
- *Since the notification of the revised FDI policy, the total FDI inflow reported till May 2022 is approximately Rs. 494 Crores.*
- *Two Defence Corridors have been established; one in Tamil Nadu and another in Uttar Pradesh which provides Plug & Plays support to the industries including FOEMs in the Corridor.*
- *Under the Aerospace & Defence Policy notified by the two State Governments, Customized incentive packages are provided to investors based on investment, employment, and project location which may include GST-based refunds on sales, Stamp duty concessions on the land allotment, Electricity Tax exemption, Capital subsidy and Training subsidy for training workers.*

87. Recently **SAP Labs India** has partnered with _____ under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to launch SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG) for improving digital government capabilities in the country.

- A. **National e-Governance Division**
- B. National Cyber Security Coordinator
- C. National Institute of Ocean Technology
- D. National Centre for Coastal Research
- E. None of these

- *SAP Labs India has partnered National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), to launch SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG) for improving digital government capabilities in the country.*
- *SAP Labs India said it will work closely with NeGD to set up SCDG in Bengaluru.*
- *It will focus on capacity building, program management, and implementation of Digital India's projects and initiatives undertaken by the ministries and/or their departments, both at the central and state levels.*
- *As part of the MoU, SCDG will cater to three broad pillars of activities - innovations in technology application for government service delivery, capacity building, knowledge sharing, and thought leadership.*

SAP Labs India partners NeGD to set up Centre for Digital Govt



New Delhi: SAP Labs India has partnered with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) to launch SAP Centre for Digital Government (SCDG) for improving digital government capabilities in the country. SAP Labs India said that it will work closely with NeGD to set up the SCDG in Bengaluru.

SOHINI BAGCHI

88. Recently **NDDB** has established _____ an Unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on July 1, 2022 as with the paid-up capital of _____.

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- A. NDDB SUDHA Limited, Rs. 7.50 crore.
- B. NDDB MRIDA Limited, Rs. 9.50 crore.
- C. NDDB MISTHI Limited, Rs. 8.50 crore.
- D. NDDB MITUSBHI Limited, Rs. 6.50 crore.
- E. None of these

- **Shri Parshottam Rupala, Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying here on Monday launched NDDB MRIDA Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of the National Dairy Development Board to take forward manure management initiatives across the country.**
- **NDDB established NDDB MRIDA Limited, an Unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act, 2013 on July 1, 2022, with a paid-up capital of Rs. 9.50 crore.**
- **Shri Sandeep Bharti, newly appointed Managing Director of NDDB MRIDA Limited.**
- **NDDB has also registered a trademark named “SuDhan” to provide a common identity for dung-based organic fertilizers.**
- **On this occasion, Dr. Balyan launched a brochure on NDDB MRIDA Limited and Dr. Murugan handed over NDDB’s SUDHAN trademark to Chairman and MD, NDDB MRIDA Limited.**
- **Dr. Balyan said this is a first-of-its-kind company focussing on the efficient utilization of dung by creating a manure management value chain that will immensely contribute to enhancing the livelihoods of dairy farmers and at the same time contribute towards the Swachh Bharat Mission and promotion of green energy**

89. RBI has approved products of four entities after they tested acceptable under the second cohort of the regulatory sandbox for cross-border payments. Which of the following is not one of those four entities?

- A. Cashfree Payments
- B. Fairex Solutions
- C. Nearby Technologies
- D. SoCash India Technologies
- E. None of these

NDDB launches subsidiary for manure management

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, July 26

Union Minister of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala on Monday launched NDDB MRIDA Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary company of National Dairy Development Board that will work in manure management initiatives across the country.

With the Centre's nod, the NDDB has established NDDB MRIDA, an unlisted Public Limited Company under the Companies Act on July 1, 2022, with the paid-up capital of ₹9.50 crore, an official statement said.

Rupala said that NDDB MRIDA Ltd will open avenues of additional income to dairy farmers from sale of slurry/dung. By replacing cooking fuel with biogas, farmers will be able to save money, he said. Informing that various efforts made for better utilisation of bovine dung are mostly individual initiatives, Rupala hoped that the new company would provide structured

impetus to manure management efforts.

Promoting usage of dung-based manure will gradually lead to replacement of chemical fertilisers with organic manure, thereby, reducing dependency on India's fertiliser imports, Rupala said.

Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said this is a first-of-its-kind company focussing on efficient utilisation of dung by creating a manure management value chain which will contribute to enhancing the livelihoods of dairy farmers.

According to I. Murugan, a Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, the manure management initiatives have potential to generate biogas equivalent to 50 per cent of India's present LPG consumption and to produce bio slurry equivalent to 44 per cent of India's NPK (nitrogen, phosphorous and potash) requirement.

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- **RBI approved the products after they tested acceptable under the second cohort of the regulatory sandbox for cross-border payments.**
- **The opening of the second cohort was announced by RBI in December 2020.**
- **RBI had received 27 applications from 26 entities. Of these, eight entities were selected for the 'Test Phase'.**
- **The names of four entities are given below.**
- **Payment solution provider, Cashfree Payments**
- **Payment solution provider, Fairex Solutions**
- **Financial services provider, Nearby Technologies (it operates PayNearby)**
- **Neo-banking unicorn, Open Financial Technologies**
- **These entities are now out of the second cohort of the regulatory sandbox on 'Cross-Border Payments.**
- **Regulated entities can now consider the adoption of the products found acceptable under the second cohort.**
- **In September 2021, RBI announced the opening of the third cohort under Regulatory Sandbox.**

Date : Jul 19, 2022

Regulatory Sandbox (RS): Second Cohort on 'Cross-Border Payments' - Exit

In the Second Cohort under the Regulatory Sandbox (RS) with 'Cross-Border Payments' as its theme, eight entities commenced testing of their products which was communicated vide [Press Release dated September 13, 2021](#).

2. The following four entities have completed the 'Test Phase'.

Sl. No.	Sandbox Entity	Description
1	Cashfree Payments India Private Limited	The product extends a cross-border payment platform to facilitate the purchase of assets listed on foreign exchanges (e.g NASDAQ) like publicly listed shares, exchange-traded funds i.e., ETFs and units of mutual funds, securities by Indian investors via local payment methods.
2	Fairex Solutions Private Limited	The product provides an aggregation platform of leading cross-border payment providers for outward remittance.
3	Nearby Technologies Private Limited	The product facilitates routing the inward cross-border remittance to the beneficiary's Aadhaar number as a virtual bank account using existing Rupee Drawing Arrangement (RDA) mechanism.
4	Open Financial Technologies Private Limited	The product proposes a Blockchain-based cross-border payment system, leveraging the current infrastructure and ensures frictionless and tamperproof monitoring capabilities.

3. The products were evaluated based on mutually agreed test scenarios and expected outcomes. All the above four products have been found viable within the boundary conditions defined during testing under Regulatory Sandbox.

4. The aforesaid entities have now exited the Second Cohort of the Regulatory Sandbox on 'Cross-Border Payments'. The products found acceptable under this Cohort may be considered for adoption by Regulated Entities subject to compliance with applicable regulatory requirements.

90. On the occasion of 163rd Income Tax Day on 24 July 2022, Finance Minister complimented Income Tax Department for having achieved the highest ever revenue collection of over _____ in FY 2021-22.

- A. 12 lakh crore
- B. 13 lakh crore
- C. 14 lakh crore**
- D. 15 lakh crore
- E. None of these

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- CBDT and all its field offices across the country observed the 163rd anniversary of Income Tax Day on 24 July 2022.
- Finance Minister complimented Income Tax Department for having achieved the highest ever revenue collection of over 14 lakh crore in the last fiscal (FY 2021-22).
- In his message on Income Tax Day, the newly appointed chairman of CBDT Nitin Gupta said the tax department has reported the highest ever tax collection of ₹14.09 lakh crore in the fiscal year ended March 31, 2022.
- Income Tax Day is celebrated on 24 July. This year's Income Tax Day is the 163rd Income Tax Day.
- On 24 July 1860, Sir James Wilson introduced income tax in India to compensate the British government for the losses incurred at the time of the First War of Independence in 1857.
- In 2010, Income Tax Department decided to mark 24 July as Income Tax Day.
- 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.

91. Which of the following has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the transfer of 4G technology?

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Vodafone Idea
- C. Bharti Airtel
- D. ITI Limited
- E. None of these

- ITI Limited has signed an MoU with the Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the transfer of 4G technology.
- The MoU is to establish a framework for the cooperation of LTE/LTE-A/4G technology-based wireless communication systems.
- As part of this MoU, ITI Limited and C-DoT will collaborate to create a 'Make in India' stack for the upcoming 4G and 5G opportunities in India.
- ITI will produce the 4G upgradeable to 5G radio access network (RAN) and explore supplying the C-DOT LTE RAN/eNodeB systems to railways, defense, export markets, etc.
- ITI Limited: It is a manufacturing telecom and defense equipment company. It is headquartered in Bengaluru.
- It is a Public Sector Undertaking under the Department of Telecommunication, Ministry of Communications, Government of India.

92. As per data of MoHUA how many states have adopted the Model Tenancy Act?

Only 4 States adopt Model Tenancy Law

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

More than a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy Act (MTA), only four States had revised their tenancy laws to be in line with the MTA, the Ministry said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

In response to a question by BJP member Ashok Bajpai, Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore said, "As per information available with MoHUA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Assam have revised Tenancy Acts on the lines of Model Tenancy Act (MTA)."

The reply stated that the Model Tenancy Act aimed to balance the rights of tenants and landlords, and to "create an accountable and transparent ecosystem for renting of premises in a disciplined and efficient manner".

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- A. 4
- B. 6
- C. 8
- D. 12
- E. None of these

- **Model Tenancy Act (MTA) aims to balance the rights of all types of tenants & landlords and create an accountable and transparent ecosystem for renting premises in a disciplined and efficient manner.**
- **Union Cabinet approved MTA on 2nd June 2021 and the same was circulated by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) to all the States / Union Territories (UTs) on 7th June 2021 for adoption by way of either enacting fresh legislation or amending existing rental laws suitably.**
- **As per information available with MoHUA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam have revised Tenancy Acts on the lines of MTA.**
- **The Model Act establishes a three-tier quasi-judicial dispute adjudication mechanism consisting of (i) Rent Authority; (ii) Rent Court; and (iii) Rent Tribunal. No civil court will have jurisdiction over matters on provisions under the Model Act.**
- **Rent Authorities and Rent Courts may be established by the District Collector with the approval of the state government. The state or union territory government may establish a Rent Tribunal after consulting with the jurisdictional High Court.**

93. Recently Tech Mahindra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with _____, for the setting up of Makers Lab to spearhead Research & Development (R&D) in Quantum Computing, XAI (Explainable AI), and Metaverse.

- A. Jodhpur University
- B. Mahindra University
- C. Jabalpur University
- D. Magadh University
- E. None of these

- **Tech Mahindra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Mahindra University, for the setting up of Makers Lab to spearhead Research & Development (R&D) in Quantum Computing, XAI (Explainable AI), and Metaverse.**
- **As a part of the partnership, the students of Mahindra University will get an opportunity to work on IPs made within the Makers Lab and get deployed in R&D projects on campus.**

TechM, Mahindra University sign MoU to set up new Makers Lab

New Delhi: Tech Mahindra and Mahindra University have signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a new 'Makers Lab' for research and development. The lab will work in areas such as quantum computing and explainable artificial intelligence (AI) that presents data in a manner that can be understood by humans, and Metaverse, a virtual world where people can connect through their digital avatars.

SOHINI BAGCHI

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- They will also collaborate with coding groups like Engima within the university to get access to projects, internships, and employment opportunities.
- The evaluation process to select students for Makers Lab will be facilitated by Mahindra University and Tech Mahindra.
- Tech Mahindra represents the connected world, offering innovative and customer-centric information technology experiences, enabling Enterprises, Associates, and Society to rise.

94. Recently Electronics firm **Sahasra Semiconductors** to become country's first company to set up a memory chip assembly, test, and packaging unit in _____ with an investment of a total of Rs 750 crore.

- A. **Bhiwadi, Rajasthan.**
- B. Chennai, Tamil Nadu
- C. Surat, Gujarat
- D. Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- E. None of these

- Electronics firm **Sahasra Semiconductors** has said it expects to become the first company to set up a memory chip assembly, test, and packaging unit in the country and start selling locally-made chips by December.
- **Sahasra Semiconductors** chairman and managing director **Amrit Manwani** told that the company plans to invest a total of Rs 750 crore in setting up the unit at **Bhiwadi** in **Rajasthan**.
- It will invest Rs 150 crore in this financial year for setting up the ATMP facility in the **Elcina** manufacturing cluster in **Bhiwadi, Rajasthan**. it is to be operational by the end of this year.
- The company has already invested Rs 60 crore in the current fiscal and by **March 2023** it will complete the investment of Rs 75 crore. The remaining Rs 75 crore will be invested in 2023-24.
- **Sahasra Semiconductors** is one of the companies whose proposal to set up an ATMP unit has been approved under the **Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semiconductors (SPECES)** production-linked incentive scheme.

Sahasra to invest ₹750 crore to set up chip plant in Rajasthan

Electronics firm **Sahasra Semiconductors** has said it expects to become the first company to set up a memory chip assembly, test and packaging unit in the country, and start selling locally-made chips by December. **Sahasra Semiconductors** chairman and managing director **Amrit Manwani** said that the company plans to invest ₹750 crore in setting up a unit at **Bhiwadi** in **Rajasthan**. "We will invest ₹150 crore in this financial year for setting up the ATMP facility in **Elcina** manufacturing cluster in **Bhiwadi, Rajasthan**. We expect it to be operational by the end of this year. Once the market is established and we touch revenue in the range of ₹250-300 crore then we will again invest ₹600 crore. In total, we plan to invest ₹750 crore initially," **Manwani** said.

PTI

95. Consider the following statement regarding **Sebi's new guidelines on settlement of running accounts of clients**.
1. It is to be applicable from **October 1**.

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2. Under the rules, stock brokers need to reverse the unutilized funds lying in the clients' trading accounts at least once within a gap of 30 or 90 days between two settlements of running accounts.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

SEBI's new norms for running account settlement from Oct 1

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27

SEBI on Wednesday came out with new guidelines on settlement of running accounts of clients' funds lying with stock brokers, to be applicable from October 1. The settlement of the running account of funds of the client will now be done by the trading member

after considering the end of the day (EOD) obligation of funds as on the date of settlement across all exchanges on the first Friday of the quarter for all clients.

Accordingly, settlement will be on the first Friday of October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023, and so on, SEBI said in a circular. If the first Friday is a trading

holiday, then settlement will happen on the previous trading day.

Further, for clients who have not done any transaction in 30 calendar days, funds will be returned within the next three working days irrespective of the date when the running account was previously settled.

- **Capital markets regulator Sebi came out with new guidelines on settlement of running accounts of clients' funds lying with stock brokers, to be applicable from October 1.**
 - **Under the guidelines, the settlement of the running account of funds of the client will be done by the trading member after considering the End of the day (EOD) obligation of funds as on the date of settlement across all the exchanges on the first Friday of the quarter for all the clients.**
 - **The running account of funds will be settled on the first Friday of October 2022, January 2023, April 2023, July 2023, and so on for all the clients, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) said in a circular.**
 - **If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.**
 - **For clients, who have opted for monthly settlement, running accounts will be settled on the first Friday of every month. If the first Friday is a trading holiday, then such settlement will happen on the previous trading day.**
 - **Under the rules, stock brokers need to reverse the unutilized funds lying in the clients' trading accounts at least once within a gap of 30 or 90 days between two settlements of running accounts as per the preference of the client.**
96. Consider the following statement regarding **National Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NCFDC)**.
1. It is an **umbrella organization for urban cooperative banks (UCBs)**.
 2. The **National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFCUB)** was given the task to set up NCFDC.
 3. Each member bank will have to affix the NCFDC name along with its own.

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

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- **The National Cooperative Finance and Development Corporation Limited (NCFDC), an umbrella organization for urban cooperative banks (UCBs) has been incorporated and is likely to start operations in early 2023.**
- **The organization has begun the process of enrolling UCBs as members.**
- **The National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFCUB) was given the task to set up NCFDC.**
- **The NCFDC, which is proposed to be a non-banking finance company, will raise Rs 300 crore as capital from member banks and build a team for operations.**
- **The NCFDC would provide a digital backbone for UCBs and bulk buy IT and digital services for UCBs. Banks, including those with just one branch, can rent the IT services, obviating the need for capital expenditure.**
- **Each member bank will have to affix the NCFDC name along with their own, which would extend the NCFDC brand to about 11,500 branches. The NCFDC will have access to about 50 million customers of UCBs.**

97. Consider the following statement regarding the **world's most valuable banks**.
1. **Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), at the current valuations and will also be the first Indian bank to make it to the Top 10 club.**
 2. **JP Morgan is the most systemically important bank for 2021.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **HDFC Bank will be among the world's top 10 most valuable banks after its merger with the parent, mortgage lender Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC), at the current valuations and will also be the first Indian bank to make it to the Top 10 club**
- **India's largest private lender has a market capitalization of about \$108 billion and recently edged past Citigroup (over \$100.5 billion), which was at the 17th position, said the report.**

Umbrella body for UCBs to be ready by early 2023

ABHJIT LELE
Mumbai, 24 July

The proposed Umbrella organisation for Urban Cooperative Banks, National Cooperative Financial and Development Company (NCFDC), will be ready for operations in early calendar 2023.

Prior to that, the NCFDC, which is a non-banking finance company, will raise ₹300 crore as capital from member banks and build a team for operations. J Mehta, president of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies (NAFCUB), said it would apply for an NBFC licence, after getting commitments for equity infusion. This is expected to happen by December. NAFCUB has been tasked to set up an umbrella body.

The company would work on bulk buying of IT and digital services and develop the digital banking backbone, giving access to 50 million UCB customers. This entity will not nurse a

cooperative bank.

About 70 per cent of UCBs are small, tier-I banks. They need support, and the technology they use will not be a capital expenditure, but will be available on rent so that they do not have to spend much, Mehta said.

Customers of UCBs, including those with a single branch, will be able to access their bank accounts across two million customer touchpoints.

The platform also would help smaller UCBs access debt markets to monetise part of their balance sheets for liquidity and use the funds for lending.

According to a concept note prepared for the umbrella body, about \$50 billion (₹3.9 trillion) of additional financing to MSMEs and lower middle class borrowers of UCBs would be facilitated by unlocking liquidity. This covers excess money maintained in Cash Reserve Ratio, investment into bonds for Statutory Liquidity Ratio and bank deposits.

mainly from the positioning points sequentially, and 5.7 and the deal as well, he said.

HDFC Bank to be among global top 10 after merger

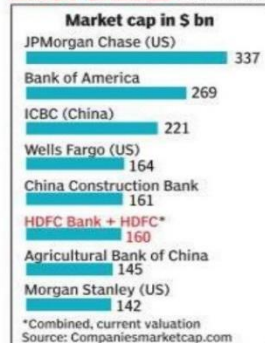
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: HDFC Bank will be among the world's top 10 most valuable banks after its merger with parent HDFC at current valuations. It will also be the first Indian bank to make it to the top 10 club.

HDFC Bank has a market capitalisation of about \$108 billion. It has recently edged past Citigroup (over \$100.5 billion), which was at number 17. HDFC Bank is worth more than UBS and DBS Group (both valued at around \$58 billion). The country's largest lender SBI (\$57 billion) is at number 32 ahead of BNP Paribas (\$55 billion) in terms of valuation.

The combined market cap of HDFC Bank and HDFC (\$52 billion) would be around \$160 billion.

MOST-VALUED BANKS



One of the implications of moving up the ranks in size and valuation is that the bank's measure of being systemically important also

res. Such banks are required to hold more capital compared to those that are not deemed as systemically important. HDFC Bank is already a systemically important bank in India, but the increase in size would add to its global significance.

The Financial Stability Board, an international body which makes recommendations on financial regulation, had termed JP Morgan the most systemically important bank for 2021 followed by BNP Paribas, Citigroup and HSBC. The board publishes a list of 30 systemically important banks worldwide. While the 2021 list does not have any Indian bank, it has 15/20 Indian banks in the list, which is the most for any country.

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- **HDFC Bank is worth more than DBS Group and UBS (both valued at around \$58 billion). The country's largest lender State Bank of India (\$57 billion) is at number 32 ahead of BNP Paribas (\$55 billion) in terms of valuation. The combined market cap of HDFC Bank and HDFC (\$52 billion) would be around \$160 billion.**
- **JP Morgan is the most systemically important bank for 2021**
- **The Financial Stability Board, an international body that makes recommendations on financial regulation, termed JP Morgan the most systemically important bank for 2021 followed by BNP Paribas, Citigroup, and HSBC.**
- **The board publishes a list of 30 systemically important banks worldwide. While the 2021 list does not have any Indian bank, it has four Chinese lenders. China has five banks in the Top 10, the most for any country.**

98. Recently _____ and drone startup Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop and offer end-to-end integrated drone solutions with a focus on **efficiency, safety, and productivity of open cast mining operations.**

- A. Adani Green
- B. Tata Steel**
- C. Reliance Energy
- D. ONGC
- E. None of these

- **Tata Steel and Bengaluru-based drone startup Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop and offer end-to-end integrated drone solutions with a focus on efficiency, safety, and productivity of open cast mining operations.**
- **Tata Steel will also work jointly with AUS to provide drone-based solutions, including mine analytics and geotechnical mapping to Tata Steel group companies across various stocks and mining locations in India.**
- **This is the second time a Tata Group company and AUS have partnered. Previously, Tata Steel partnered with AUS in November 2021, to help its project team to map the progress of the upcoming Kalinganagar Expansion Plant in Odisha. Back then, AUS had carried out drone survey of the mining leases of Tata Steel and delivered mines analysis.**
- **Founded in 2013 by Vipul Singh and Suhas Banshiwala, AUS is building commercial-grade drones and provides drone-based solutions for enterprise applications in mining, infrastructure, urban planning, irrigation, energy, and agriculture. Its end-to-end solutions include a drone, an operator, and a cloud platform for data analysis.**
- **AUS was the first drone startup to be granted the certification under the small category as all previous certifications were for drones under the micro category.**

Tata Steel signs MoU with drone startup

Staff Writer
feedback@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

Tata Steel has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Aarav Unmanned Systems (AUS), a Bengaluru-based startup that sells end-to-end drone solutions for mine management.

The collaboration is to jointly develop and offer sustainable and end-to-end integrated solutions that will focus on the efficiency, safety and productivity of open cast mining operations.

Tata Steel will also work jointly with AUS to provide exclusive drone-based solutions including mine analytics and geo-technical mapping to Tata Steel group companies across various stocks and mining locations in India.

"We are excited to work with AUS again, this time for a longer duration and with a broader vision of sustainable development. Drone survey enabled digitalisation and other technology will assist in gathering impactful and actionable insights. We see enormous potential in redefining core mining processes such as exploration and mine planning using drone data and adequate analytics," D. B. Sundara Ramam, Vice President, Raw Materials, Tata Steel, said.

"These end-to-end mining solutions are economical, demand fewer on-foot exploration requirements, and improve production, efficiency, and site safety. We also intend to offer our learnings to the rest of the world's mining companies as a professional solution from our fully owned unit, Tata Steel Industrial Consultancy Limited," he added.

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99. Recently in July _____ launched its street view service across 10 cities in India in partnership with two local companies Genesys International and Tech Mahindra.
- Mapmyindia
 - Microsoft
 - Meta
 - Google Maps**
 - None of these

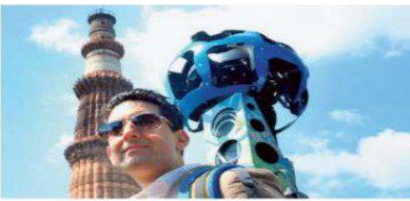
The street, in 360-degree panoramic view

Google brings in 'Street View' to India after two earlier failed attempts by firm

YUTHIKA BHARGAVA
NEW DELHI

Google on Wednesday announced the launch of its popular 'Street View' feature in India – after failing to bring the experience to India at least twice in the past decade, following security concerns raised by government agencies over collection of data.

For the launch this time, Google has partnered with two Indian firms – mapping solutions provider



The Archaeological Survey of India had earlier tied up with Google to enable a virtual tour of heritage sites. •FILE PHOTO

Genesys International and Tech Mahindra. Under the National Geospatial Policy, 2021, local companies can collect such data and foreign firms can license the data from Indian entities to serve their customers in the country.

The India launch marks the first time in the world that Street View, which allows users to view panoramic and street-level 360-degree views of a particular place, is being brought to life completely by local partners.

10 cities for now
Starting Wednesday, Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering 1,50,000 km across 10 cities in India – Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.

Google, Genesys International, and Tech Mahindra plan to expand this to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022, and cover a little under one million unique km over the 18-24 months.

"The new geospatial policy allows local entities to do the data collection at a certain level of fidelity. So our partners here, they configure the cameras, they go and do the data collection. They own the data that they collect, but then they license it to entities like Google, so we can actually integrate it and offer services like Google Maps," Miriam Karthika Daniel, VP - Google Maps Experiences, told reporters.

To launch Street View, users need to open Google Maps, zoom into a road in any of the target cities, and tap the area they want to view.

"The company also announced partnerships with local traffic authorities to improve road safety and reduce traffic congestion.

- Google Maps has launched its street view service across 10 cities in India in partnership with two local companies.
- Google said Street View is being launched in partnership with Genesys International and Tech Mahindra.
- Street View will be available on Google Maps with fresh imagery licensed from local partners covering over 1,50,000 km across ten cities in India, including Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, and Pune, Nashik, Vadodara, Ahmednagar, and Amritsar.
- Google, Genesys International, and Tech Mahindra plan to expand this to more than 50 cities by the end of 2022.
- This India launch marks the first time in the world that Street View is being brought to life completely by local partners.
- Street View APIs will also be available to local developers enabling them to deliver richer mapping experiences in their services.
- Additionally, Google announced its collaboration with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) to provide air quality information.

...MapmyIndia too joins the geospatial mapping race

SHUBHRA TANDON
New Delhi, July 27

THE MARKET FOR geospatial mapping is likely to heat up in India as not just Google, but homegrown player MapmyIndia also launched its 360-degree street view imagery feature along with 3D Metaverse maps, on Wednesday.

Speaking to *FE*, Rohan Verma, chief executive officer, MapmyIndia said that the company had already started 360-degree street view imagery capture and released it in some parts just after the National Geospatial Policy 2021 came out in February, and has now added the element of 3D immersive maps and 3D models for places.

"The objective of this feature is to help users explore anywhere in India like never before. You could be sitting in Delhi and see what a beach in Goa looks like or what the drive from Pune to Goa look like. Users can have a look at Mahatma Mandir Convention Centre where Vibrant Gujarat happens in 3D,

and many such experiences," Verma said. He added that MapmyIndia's maps will not only provide street view service but also 3D Metaverse Maps. "The Mapply map coverage and technologies and user experience is more advanced, hyperlocal and of course fully indigenous compared to the foreign map apps. So you can not only see the panoramic view but also experience it in 3D like a movie. We also have coverage across hundreds of cities," Verma said.

Google, on Wednesday, announced the launch of Street View in India, which is a 360-degree panoramic view feature on Google Maps. While refraining from commenting directly on Google's Street View, Verma said that based on geospatial guidelines released by government of India in February 2021, there are multiple restrictions on foreign entities.

"It is for the agencies to evaluate and discuss with the foreign players and their Indian collaborators the details of their launch and compliance with local laws, guidelines and sensitivities," he said.

100. Recently Indian digital mapping company MapmyIndia released its new 360-degree panoramic street view service. What is the name of the service?

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- A. **Mappls Realview**
- B. mAPPy Realview
- C. Map360 Realview
- D. Map Mirror Realview
- E. None of these

- Indian digital mapping company MapmyIndia has released its Mappls Realview – a new 360-degree panoramic street view service. The company says RealView features over 40 crore geo-tagged panoramas and has offered the part of its repository -- almost 1,00,000km -- free for consumers, following which the service will be chargeable.
- Interestingly the Mappls RealView came on the same day that Google Maps launched its Street View service to India in select cities after 11 years. MapmyIndia says Mappls reviews several thousand kilometers in metropolitan areas and towns, and highways connecting them, and provides 3D views of tourist landmarks, residential societies, office towers, and complexes. The service can be accessed on the Mappls website or Mappls App on Android and iOS.
- Rohan Verma, CEO & Executive Director, MapmyIndia

101. Recently **SEBI and the Financial Regulatory Commission (FRC)** of _____ have entered into a bilateral **MoU for cooperation and technical assistance**.

- A. Japan
- B. **Mongolia**
- C. Uzbekistan
- D. Nepal
- E. None of these

- **The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Financial Regulatory Commission, Mongolia(FRC) have entered into a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for mutual co-operation and technical assistance.**
- **The MoU has been signed by Ms. Madhabi Puri Buc Chairperson, SEBI, and Mr. Bayarsaikhan Dembereldash, Chairman, FRC.**
- **The objective of this MoU is to strengthen cross-border cooperation in the area of securities regulation. This will facilitate mutual assistance, contribute to the efficient performance of the supervisory functions, aid**

Sebi signs pact with Mongolia's Financial Regulatory Commission

Capital markets regulator Sebi on Wednesday said it has entered into a pact with Mongolia's Financial Regulatory Commission for mutual cooperation and technical assistance in the area of securities market rules. The objective of the memorandum of understanding (MoU) is to strengthen cross-border cooperation in the area of securities regulation, the Sebi said in a statement.

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in sharing technical domain knowledge, and enable effective enforcement of the laws and regulations governing the securities markets.

- SEBI has signed bilateral MoUs with securities regulators of various jurisdictions. SEBI is also a signatory to the Multilateral MoU (MMoU) and Enhanced MMoU (MoU) of the International Organization of Securities Commissions (IOSCO).

102. Consider the following statement regarding

Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS).

- The scheme has an outlay of over Rs 3.03 trillion in five years to FY26.
- The Centre has set an ambitious target of installing 250 million smart meters by 2030.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- PM Modi will launch the ministry of power's flagship Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) on July 30, 2022. The scheme is aimed at improving the operational efficiencies and financial sustainability of the power distribution companies (discoms).
- The scheme, with an outlay of over Rs 3.03 trillion in five years to FY26, will enable discoms to modernize and strengthen the distribution infrastructure and improve the reliability and quality of supply of power to end consumers.
- It also aims to reduce the AT&C (aggregate technical and commercial) losses to pan-India levels of 12-15% and the ACS-ARR (average cost of supply-average revenue realized) gap to zero by 2024-25. REC and PFC have been nominated as nodal agencies for the scheme.
- RDSS mandates the compulsory installation of smart meters across the country. The Centre has set an ambitious target of installing 250 million smart meters by 2025.
- With this new scheme coming into force, all other previous schemes such as Integrated Power Development Scheme, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, and Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) would stand subsumed.
- During the program, the Prime Minister also dedicated and laid the foundation stone of various green energy projects of the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) worth over Rs 5,200 crore.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the 100 Mega Watt-MW Ramagundam Floating Solar Project in Telangana and the 92 MW Kayamkulam Floating Solar Project in Kerala. Besides, Mr. Modi also laid the foundation stone of the 735 Mega Watt Nokh

State approves Rs 39,602-cr power distribution reform scher

SANJAY JOG
Sanjay.jog@fj.co.in

Keeping in mind the need for empowerment and modernisation of the current electricity distribution system to meet the increasing demand, the state government has approved the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of about Rs 39,602 crore. This aims to improve the quality of power supply, reduce distribution losses and enhance consumer service.

To improve financial stability of the distribution companies in the state, the RDSS will be implemented with the financial assistance of the Central government. A MahaVitaran official said, "Due to this scheme, there will be a radical change in the power distribution system of the state-run MahaVitaran. It will improve financial stability and operational efficiency through conditional financial assistance, strengthen basic distribution infrastructure, improve quality and availability of power supply, focus on energy audit through smart metering and provide funds for power loss reduction works."

FEATURES

- ▶ Will improve financial stability and operational efficiency
- ▶ Will strengthen basic distribution infrastructure
- ▶ Improve quality and availability of power supply
- ▶ Focus on energy audit through smart metering
- ▶ Provide funds for power loss reduction works
- ▶ Reduce technical and commercial losses by 12-15% by 2024-25
- ▶ Bring to zero the gap between the average cost per unit of electricity supply and the average revenue per unit by 2024-25

tion works."

The main objectives of the RDSS are to provide quality, reliable and affordable power supply to MahaVitaran consumers, to reduce technical and commercial losses by 12-15 percent by 2024-25 and to bring to zero the gap between the average cost per unit of electricity supply and the average revenue per unit by 2024-25, the official said.

The scheme envisages installation of smart meters for 1.66 crore consumers with the expenditure of Rs 11,105

crore. On the reduction in distribution losses, the MahaVitaran will incur an expenditure of Rs 14,231 crore for the construction of 527 new 33/11 KV sub-stations at various places in the state, capacity enhancement of 705 sub-stations, installation of about 29,893 new distribution transformers and development of SCADA system in 21 cities of the state. Similarly, about Rs 14,266 crore will be spent on empowerment and modernisation of the power distribution system.

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Solar Project in Rajasthan, the Green Hydrogen Mobility Project in Leh, and Kawas Green Hydrogen Blending with Natural Gas project in Gujarat.

- On this occasion, Mr. Modi launched the national solar rooftop portal, which will enable online tracking of the process of installation of rooftop solar plants.

103. Recently in July _____ received approval from the International Financial Services Centre Authority to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary at the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.

- A. Sundaram Asset Management Company Ltd
- B. HDFC Asset Management Company
- C. Baroda Asset Management India Limited
- D. Kotak Mahindra Asset Management Company Limited
- E. None of these

- HDFC Asset Management Company has received approval from the International Financial Services Centre Authority to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary at the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.
- The wholly-owned subsidiary HDFC AMC International is going to be the “offshore hub” for the mutual fund major which does not have any other companies/businesses outside of India other than an office in Dubai.
- In January, both Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and Nippon Life India AMC received approval to set up a new unit as a strategic step toward growth.
- Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC already has a presence in Dubai, Singapore, and Mauritius.

HDFC AMC gets nod to set up arm in GIFT City

To launch funds targeted at global investors, domestic investors and NRIs

ing to be the “offshore hub” for the mutual fund major which does not have any other companies/businesses outside of India other than an office in Dubai.

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 29

HDFC Asset Management Company has received approval from the International Financial Services Centre Authority to set up a wholly-owned subsidiary at the Gujarat International Finance Tec (GIFT) City in Ahmedabad.

The fund house is in the process of setting up the company and will be launching funds targeting global investors who are looking at allocating capital to India, apart from domestic investors and NRIs who are exploring investments globally.

The wholly-owned subsidiary HDFC AMC International is go-

Other fund houses

In January, both Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and Nippon Life India AMC had received approval to set up new unit as a strategic step towards growth.

Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC already has a presence in Dubai, Singapore and Mauritius. Nippon India AMC has been managing and advising global flows through various funds and mandates and catering to investors across Asia, West Asia, the UK, the US and Europe.

Fund houses in GIFT City will be exempted from certain domestic laws but have to follow international best practices.

104. Recently _____ has completed the acquisition of Indus OS after reaching an out-of-court settlement with Affle Global Pte Ltd (AGPL), the majority owner of the India-made content and app discovery platform.

- A. Phonepe
- B. Paytm
- C. Snapdeal
- D. ONDC
- E. None of these

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- **PhonePe acquired AGPL's entire stake at a premium but did not reveal the deal value. The acquisition was closed after a months-long legal dispute between PhonePe and AGPL and Ventureast Fund on the valuation of IndusOS, which is alternatively called OSLabs.**
- **PhonePe placed a bid to acquire a 92 percent stake in Indus OS at a valuation of around \$60 million. AGPL, the biggest shareholder in the company, opposed the deal in court. In June 2021, AGPL claimed to have won the initial legal battle in a case filed against it by PhonePe in a Singapore court. AGPL estimated Indus OS was worth \$90 million and refused to sell its 25 percent stake for a lower valuation.**

Flipkart-owned PhonePe buys OSLabs in all-cash deal

OSLabs founders, its 100-strong workforce will join PhonePe after the acquisition



Appstore, while AGPL gets a premium on its original investment.

Commenting on the acquisition, Sameer Nigam, Founder and CEO PhonePe, said: "We are excited to embark on this journey with OSLabs, and build the kind of localised App store that India needs." Mei Theng Leong, Director of AGPL, said: "We are happy that the matter has been amicably settled for all entities. We wish the PhonePe team the very best for its vision of building a homegrown horizontal, local Appstore."

YATHI SONI
Investigation, July 29

Flipkart-owned digital payments major PhonePe has announced acquisition of 100 per cent stake in OSLabs, which built Indus App Bazaar, the Indian alternative to big tech-controlled app stores. While the companies did not disclose the acquisition deal value, a PhonePe spokesperson told *Business-Insider* that it is an all-cash deal.

She added that the founders of OSLabs and its 100 employees will join PhonePe after the acquisition. PhonePe has been in talks to acquire OSLabs for \$60 million since May 2021. However, the deal was not completed on account of the objection raised by existing investors, Affle Global and Ventureast.

The existing investors had valued Indus OS at \$90 mil-

lion, while PhonePe had offered \$60 million to acquire about 90 per cent stake. Since then, the deal has been in a legal tussle. The companies said in a joint statement on July 29 that PhonePe, AGPL (Affle Global) and OSLabs had reached an amicable settlement in the matter, with PhonePe acquiring AGPL's entire stake at a premium. According to a source close to the development, all legal disputes in the matter have been resolved.

In April, PhonePe, Indus OS, Affle Global and Ventureast Proactive Fund II had opted for an out-of-court settlement in the case surrounding the acquisition of Indus OS by PhonePe. With the closure of this deal, PhonePe will pursue its vision for building a homegrown horizontal, local

Super-app ambitions

This acquisition is a boost to PhonePe's super-app ambitions. A super-app is one that offers a slew of services such as payments, messaging, online shopping, grocery delivery, on one platform and at least two of these services are used frequently by the app users.

PhonePe will integrate lakhs of localised Indian apps from Indus App Bazaar to its PhonePe Switch, which already has some mini apps integrated.

105. Recently **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed a contract worth _____ with **Honeywell** for the supply and manufacture of 88 TPE331-12B engines/kits along with maintenance and support services to power the Hindustan Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40).
- USD 100 million**
 - USD 200 million**
 - USD 300 million**
 - USD 400 million**
 - None of these**

- **The Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed a contract worth over USD 100 million with Honeywell for the supply and manufacture of 88 TPE331-12B engines/kits along with maintenance and support services to power the Hindustan Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40).**
- **HAL CMD R Madhavan said the company has successfully developed Basic Trainer Aircraft (HTT-40) to address the basic training requirements of the IAF.**
- **Honeywell is committed to supporting the export of HTT-40 aircraft in the coming years along with other engine programs which are currently on the radar. This contract would pave the way for future collaboration between HAL and Honeywell.**
- **Honeywell International Inc. is an American publicly traded, multinational conglomerate corporation headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina. It primarily operates in four areas of business: aerospace, building technologies, performance materials and technologies, and safety and productivity solutions.**

106. Recently **HDFC Securities Ltd** announced its partnership with _____ to provide its

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clients with a demat account and its broking or investment services.

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

Equitas SFB, HDFC Securities in pact for demat, trading services

HDFC Securities Ltd, a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, has partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank to provide demat accounts and broking and investment services to customers, the two entities said in a joint release on Monday. With this partnership, Equitas Small Finance Bank will be able to offer its customers a three-in-one account that will help them access the services of HDFC Securities.

- Stock broking company HDFC Securities has partnered with Equitas Small Finance Bank to provide its clients with a demat account and broking investment services.
- With the new partnership, Equitas Small Finance Bank will offer its customers a “3-in-1” account for accessing the services of HDFC Securities.
- Also, all Equitas Small Finance Bank customers would be able to open their demat and trading accounts for buying and selling shares and trading in futures, options, and even currencies.
- Equitas Small Finance Bank is a small finance bank founded in 2016 as a microfinance lender. The bank has its headquarters in Chennai and is a subsidiary of the holding company Equitas Holdings Ltd.
- HDFC Securities Limited is a financial services intermediary and a subsidiary of HDFC Bank, a private sector bank in India. HDFC securities were founded in the year 2000 and are headquartered in Mumbai.

107. _____ will become the *first airline to introduce an e-tech logbook solution and will go paperless in its flight operations.*

- A. Aaksa Air
- B. IndiGo
- C. Vistra**
- D. Spicejet
- E. None of these

- Indian carrier Vistara will become the first airline to introduce an e-tech logbook solution and will go paperless in its flight operations. The Tata-SIA-backed airline partners with Ultramain Elb to go paperless and will fully replace the paper technical log, cabin log, journey log, damage log, and fueling log providing a validated electronic Certificate of Release to Service (e-CRS) on its flight fleet.

Vistara to go paperless



Full-service carrier Vistara on Monday said it has selected Ultramain System for providing electronic logbook software as the airline looks to go paperless in its operations. Ultramain ELB will fully re-

place aircraft paper technical log, cabin log, journey log, damage log, and fuelling log, with electronic Certificate of Release to Service (e-CRS). Vistara will become the first Indian airline to go paperless in its operations.

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- Currently, in the airborne proving stage, the ELB application will be used by Flight Crew, Cabin Crew, and Engineers on iOS devices to provide integrated workflows with Vistara's maintenance and operational systems. The airline is seeking necessary approvals from relevant authorities before fully integrating this solution across its operations.
- Once implemented, Ultramain Elb will enable accurate, real-time global operational visibility of the Vistara fleet resulting in more efficient maintenance, higher dispatch reliability, and increased aircraft utilization.
- Ultramain ELB will be integrated with various live processes like AMOS, ACARS, and ARMS for seamless operations.

108. Recently LIC has trimmed its stake by 2.002% in the pharma company Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries to _____ % of the paid-up capital of the latter.
- A. 7.014 %
 - B. 5.024%**
 - C. 3.024 %
 - D. 2.022 %
 - E. None of these

- Life insurance giant, LIC announced offloading of a portion of its stake in pharma major, Sun Pharmaceuticals Industries. LIC has trimmed its stake by 2.002% in the pharma company.
- LIC's stake in Sun Pharma has been reduced from 7.026% to 5.024% of the paid-up capital of the latter.
- As of March 31, 2022, the Indian Embedded Value (IEV) of LIC has been determined to be ₹5,41,492 crore as compared to ₹95,605 crores.
- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited is an Indian multinational pharmaceutical company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra, that manufactures and sells pharmaceutical formulations and active pharmaceutical ingredients in more than 100 countries across the globe.

109. Consider the following statement regarding BSNL BBNL Merger 2022.
1. The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a revival package of Rs 1.64 lakh crore for BSNL on July 27, 2022
 2. The authorized capital of BSNL will also be increased from Rs 40,000 crore to Rs 1,50,000 crore in line with AGR dues, allotment of the spectrum, and provision of capex.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- **The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved a revival package of Rs 1.64 lakh crore for BSNL on July 27, 2022.**
- **The revival measures focus on infusing fresh capital for upgrading BSNL services, de-stressing its balance sheet, allocating spectrum, and augmenting its fiber network by merging with Bharat Broadband Nigam Limited (BBNL).**
- **The BSNL revival plan not only includes helping BSNL improve the quality of its existing services but roll out 4G services and become financially viable.**
- **BSNL is expected to report a turnaround and earn profit by Financial Year 2026-27 with the implementation of the revival plan.**
- **The Bharat Broadband Network Ltd (BBNL) will be merged with BSNL to facilitate the wider utilization of infrastructure laid under BharatNet. The infrastructure created under BharatNet will continue to be a national asset and accessible on a non-discriminatory basis to all the Telecom Service Providers.**
- **BSNL will be allotted a 900/1800 MHz spectrum band at Rs 44, 993 crores to improve existing services and provide 4G services to enable it to compete in the market and provide high-speed data using its vast network including in rural areas.**
- **The government will also provide Rs 13,789 crore to BSNL as viability gap funding for commercially unviable rural wire-line operations done during 2014-15 to 2019-20.**
- **The authorized capital of BSNL will also be increased from Rs 40,000 crore to Rs 1,50,000 crore in line with AGR dues, allotment of the spectrum, and provision of capex.**

Centre tops up BSNL with ₹1.64-lakh cr revival package

Will make PSU a sustainable and vibrant telecom player: Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw

S RONENDRA SINGH

New Delhi, July 27

The Centre on Wednesday approved yet another revival package for State-owned Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd (BSNL) after 2019 – this time to the tune of a whopping ₹1.64-lakh crore, to be utilised over the next four years.

The measures focus on fresh capital for upgrading services, allocating spectrum, de-stressing its balance sheet and augmenting its fibre network by merging Bharat Broadband Nigam Ltd (BBNL) with BSNL.

“After the first package in 2019, BSNL has become a stable organisation and has now started generating revenue of around ₹19,000 crore and operating cost of ₹18,000 crore. So, it has been brought to an operating profit of around ₹1,000 crore now. From here, to make it sustainable and a vibrant telecom player, the new package has been announced,” Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, told reporters.

He said the package has a cash component of ₹43,964 crore and a non-cash component of ₹1.20-lakh crore. To improve existing services and provide 4G, BSNL will be allotted spectrum in 900/1800 MHz band administratively at ₹44,993 crore



Booster pack

- The package has a cash component of ₹43,964 crore
- Non-cash component is ₹1,20,192 crore
- The package is for four years; maximum work will be done in the next 2 years
- BSNL expected to become profitable in the next four years

through equity infusion. To promote indigenous technology development, BSNL is in the process of deploying Aatmanirbhar 4G technology stack, said a statement.

Destressing balance sheet

The government will fund capex of ₹22,471 crore and will also provide ₹13,789 crore to BSNL as viability gap funding for commercially unviable rural wire-line operations done from 2014-15 to 2019-20. BSNL's authorised capital will also be increased from ₹40,000 crore to ₹1.50-lakh crore in lieu of average gross revenue (AGR) dues, provision of capex and allotment of spectrum, the statement said.

The government will also provide sovereign guarantee to PSUs for raising long-term loan. They will be able to raise long-term bonds for ₹40,399 crore.

“AGR dues of BSNL amounting to ₹33,404 crore will be settled by conversion into equity. The government will provide funds to BSNL for set-

ting the AGR/GST dues ... BSNL will re-issue preference share of ₹7,500 crore to the government,” the statement added. On job creation, Vaishnaw said, “Significant amount of employment will be generated by these packages ... even on conservative basis, if BSNL has to connect 35,000 through its stack of network ... we are expecting about 1-lakh employment generation.” Whether those employees will be on payroll or contract, is up to BSNL to decide, the minister added.

‘Growth opportunity’

Welcoming the decision, PK Purwar, Chairman and MD, BSNL, told *BusinessLine*, “It is a realistic approach ... our intent is to increase our customer base in rural areas from where we get around ₹3,000 crore currently (of the total ₹19,000-crore-odd revenue). We did not have investment opportunity ... who would buy 2G/3G services? But, now we can have a sustainable growth opportunity.”

- **The central government will provide a sovereign guarantee to BSNL and BBNL for raising a long-term loan to help restructure existing debt and de-stressing the balance sheets. They will be able to raise these bonds for an amount of Rs 40,399 crore.**
- **The center will also provide funds to BSNL for settling the AGR/GST dues, which amount to almost Rs 33,404 crore.**

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- The BSNL will also re-issue preference shares worth Rs 7,500 crore to the central Government.
- 110. According to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) with effect from which the following date *no entity in the card transaction/payment chain, other than the card issuers and/or card networks, can store CoF (card on file) data.***
- 1st September
 - 1st October
 - 1st December
 - 1st January
 - None of these
-
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said with effect from October 1, no entity in the card transaction/payment chain, other than the card issuers and/or card networks, can store CoF (card on file) data, and any such data stored previously must be purged.
 - The RBI made clear that as sufficient time had elapsed since the requirements were specified, there would be no change in the effective date of implementation of the requirements.
 - RBI, as an interim measure, has permitted entities other than the card issuer and the card network, the merchant, or its Payment Aggregator (PA) involved in the settlement of such transactions, to save the CoF data for a maximum period of transaction date plus 4 days or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier.
 - For handling other post-transaction activities, acquiring banks can continue to store CoF data until January 31, 2023.
- 111. RBI has temporarily permitted payment aggregators to save the Card-on-File (CoF) data for a maximum period of _____ or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier.**
- “Transaction Date + 1 day”
 - “Transaction Date + 2 days”
 - “Transaction Date + 3 days”
 - “Transaction Date + 4 days”
 - None of these
-
- RBI has temporarily permitted merchants and payment aggregators to save the Card-on-File (CoF) data.
 - However, they can save data for a maximum period of “Transaction Date + 4 days” or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier.

● **CIRCULARS ISSUED**

RBI bans non-card issuers from storing CoF data from Oct 1

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, July 28

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Thursday released guidelines to ease the transition to new norms on card-on-file (CoF) tokenisation and licensing of payment aggregators (PAs) in two separate notifications.

While reiterating that with effect from October 1, no entity in the card transaction chain, other than card issuers and card networks, shall store CoF data, the central bank notified two interim measures. Other than the card issuer and the card network, the merchant or its PA involved in settlement can save the CoF data for a maximum period of four days after the transaction date or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier. This data shall be used only for settlement of such transactions, and must be purged thereafter, the RBI said.

Also, for handling other post-transaction activities, acquiring banks can continue to store CoF data until January 31, 2023. “Appropriate penal action, including imposition of business restrictions, shall be considered by the RBI in case of any non-compliance,” the central bank said.

On guidelines for PAs and payment gateways, the RBI took note of the disruption caused by the pandemic and allowed a fresh window for all PAs existing as on March 17, 2020 to apply for authorisation. They will now be allowed to apply by September 30, 2022 and shall have a net worth of ₹15 crore as on March 31, 2022.

They will also be permitted to continue their operations till they receive communication from the RBI regarding the fate of their application. The timeline of March 31, 2023 for achieving a net worth of ₹25 crore



NEW NORMS

- No entity in the card transaction chain, other than card issuers and card networks, shall store CoF data
- The merchant or its PA involved in settlement can save the CoF data for a maximum period of four days after the transaction date or till the settlement date, whichever is earlier

will remain.

The RBI said applications received from some PAs had to be returned as they had not complied with the eligibility criteria, including the minimum net worth criterion of ₹15 crore by March 31, 2021.

“This also implied that they have to discontinue their operations within a period of six months from the date of return of application. Though they have the option to apply afresh on meeting the prescribed criteria, ceasing operations may lead to disruption in payment systems,” the regulator said, adding that some PAs may not have applied due to non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria.

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- This is only for the settlement of transactions where cardholders decide to enter the card details manually.
- RBI said the data shall be used only for the settlement of transactions. It must be purged (removed) after that.
- Acquiring bank can store CoF data until January 31, 2023, for handling other post-transaction activities.
- RBI said that there will be no change in the date of implementation of the requirements relating to “Restriction on Storage of Actual Card Data.
- All entities, except card issuers and card networks, shall purge the CoF data before October 1, 2022.
- In Card-on-File transactions, merchants are authorized by cardholders to store their payment information and to bill their accounts for future purchases.

112. Recently **Centre’s fiscal deficit** reached _____ during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal.

- A. 20%
- B. 21%**
- C. 22%
- D. 23%
- E. None of these

- The Centre’s fiscal deficit reached 21% during the April-June quarter of the current fiscal.
- The fiscal deficit stood at 18 percent during the corresponding period of last fiscal.
- However, the fiscal deficit is not likely to breach the Budget Estimate of 6.4 percent.
- Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said the government would stick to its projected target of Budget FY 2023.
- As per Ind-Ra, the fiscal deficit in FY23 will be in the range of 6.2-6.4 percent of GDP.
- According to Controller General of Accounts (CGA) data, the center received around ₹5.96-lakh crore and incurred an expenditure of ₹9.47-lakh crore during three months.
- This resulted in a fiscal deficit of over ₹3.51-lakh crore. A fiscal deficit is a difference between expenditure and income.

Fiscal deficit at 21% of Budget Estimate in first 3 months

OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, July 29

The Centre's fiscal deficit touched 21 per cent during first three months (April-June) quarter of current fiscal, the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) reported on Friday. This is bit higher than deficit of 18 per cent during the corresponding period of the last fiscal. Still, experts do not expect the fiscal deficit to breach the Budget Estimate of 6.4 per cent.

Meanwhile, the government has already indicated that it is unlikely to go for additional borrowing.

According to CGA data, the Centre received around ₹5.96-lakh crore during three months. It is around 26 per cent of the Budget Estimate. During this period, total expenditure incurred was over ₹9.47-lakh crore,



which is 24 per cent of BE. This resulted in fiscal deficit, which is difference between expenditure and income, of over ₹3.51-lakh crore.

Fiscal deficit target

The Centre has already indicated that the fiscal deficit target of ₹16.61 lakh crore, as estimated in the Budget, has not been breached. On Thursday, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said the government would stick to its projected target of Budget FY 2023, and might not need additional borrowing to support it.

Commenting on the latest deficit number, Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist with ICRA, said with a 22 per cent increase in tax revenues, halving of non-tax revenues, a 9 per cent rise in revenue expenditure, and a sharp 57 per cent expansion in capital spending, the Centre's fiscal deficit widened Q1 FY2022.

"We expect a large part of the higher-than-budgeted subsidies and loss related to the excise duty cut to be absorbed by higher-than-estimated non-excise taxes, limiting the extent of the overshoot in the Gov's fiscal deficit in FY2023 relative to the BE at ₹0.3-0.8 lakh crore. Unless the free foodgrain scheme is extended beyond September 2022, we do not expect the fiscal deficit to exceed 6.4 per cent of GDP based on a nominal GDP

growth assumption of 15 per cent," she said. Sunil Kumar Sinha, Principal Economist with India Ratings and Research, said the capital expenditure grew by a robust 57.3 per cent yoy in 1QFY23. The sustained double-digit growth in capex will help the economy at a time when the private investment is in wait and watch mode due to the monetary tightening across the globe and the uncertainty created by the Russia-Ukraine conflict.

In fact, the impact of government capex is reflected in the double-digit yoy growth of various infrastructure sectors like steel and cement in 1QFY23.

For a strong and durable economic recovery, it is imperative that the government sustains its capex in the remaining months of FY23.

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113. Recently _____ has enabled over two lakh online merchants of all sizes across the country with card-on-file tokenization.

- A. Rupay
- B. Mastercard**
- C. Phone Pe
- D. Visa
- E. None of these

• Payments and technology company Mastercard announced that it has enabled more than 2 lakh, online merchants, with card-on-file (COF) tokenization in support of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) directive mandating COF tokenization for merchants.

• Tokenization essentially replaces the card details including the 16-digit card number and expiry date with an alternate number or 'token' unique for every card, device, and token requestor. A token requestor is an entity such as a merchant accepting customer request for tokenization and sharing it with the respective card networks like Visa, MasterCard, Rupay, etc., to issue the token.

• The RBI had earlier restricted tokenization to mobile phones and tablets but expanded it in August last year to laptops, desktops, wearables Internet of Things (IoT) devices, and more.

• Mastercard's partnership with payment aggregators like Juspay, PayU, Razorpay, BillDesk, and Paytm has already made it possible for a large number of merchants to process token-based transactions.

• Mastercard said 19.5 crore tokens have been issued so far and anticipated more merchants to implement tokenization in the future.

• To boost the adoption of the technology, the RBI extended the deadline for tokenization of debit and credit cards to September 30, 2022, from the earlier deadline of June 30, 2022.

RBI'S TOKENISATION

MasterCard enables two lakh merchants

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 26

In line with the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) directive, mandating card-on-file (COF) tokenisation for merchants, MasterCard on Tuesday announced that it has enabled two lakh online merchants of all sizes across the country with card-on-file tokenisation.

The company has worked with over 45,000 merchants, 34 issuing banks, 10 acquiring banks and 30 plus token requestors (in-

cluding all major payment aggregators), as well as service providers to create 90 million tokens for MasterCard cardholders since December 2021.

Secured payment

Card-on-file tokenisation, as mandated by the RBI, replaces sensitive payment credentials such as card number and expiry date with an alternate number which is called token. It inhibits entities in the transaction value chain from collecting and saving



cardholders' details, providing an additional layer of security.

Additionally, MasterCard's collaboration with payment aggregators such as Juspay, PayU, Razorpay, BillDesk and Paytm have already enabled countless

merchants to process token-based transactions.

"Security, reliability, and convenience are the core tenets of a robust digital payment ecosystem. MasterCard is supporting the RBI's mandate, which empowers the larger merchant community and millions of cardholders to make rapid transactions a less cash-centric experience," said Nikhil Sahni, Country President, South & Central Asia, MasterCard.

114. Recently Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - North East Initiative and _____ executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly work to promote Investment in Assam and the North East States of India.

- A. North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd**
- B. Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- C. Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

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- D. Confederation of Indian Industry
- E. None of these

- *Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC) - North East Initiative and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd (NEDFi) executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to jointly work to promote Investment in Assam and the North East States of India and contribute toward the various initiatives aimed at reforms, policy advocacy, ease of doing business, market linkages and promotion of sustainable business practices, etc. in Assam and North-East India and linking the region with the wider contemporary economic perspective of India.*
- *MoU aims at reaching a mutual understanding and promoting collaboration on catalyzing economic development of the North Eastern Region of India, promoting entrepreneurship through effective mentoring, skill development, and capacity building of the micro, small and medium enterprises.*
- *NEDFi is notified as a Public Financial Institution under Section 4A of the Companies Act 1956 and was registered as an NBFC in 2002 with RBI.*

115. Consider the following **countries for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in India**. Which is not in the list of top 5 countries for FDI equity inflows into India FY 2021-22.

- A. Singapore
- B. USA
- C. Mauritius
- D. UAE**
- E. None of these

- *Singapore (27.01%) and the USA (17.94%) have emerged as the top 2 sourcing nations in FDI equity flows into India in FY2021-22 followed by Mauritius (15.98%), Netherland (7.86%) and Switzerland (7.31%).*
- *It may be noted that as per the UNCTAD World Investment Report (WIR) 2022, in its analysis of the global trends in FDI inflows, India has improved one position to 7th rank among the top 20 host economies for 2021.*
- *The top 5 States receiving the highest FDI Equity Inflow during FY 2021-22 are Karnataka (37.55%), Maharashtra (26.26%), Delhi (13.93%), Tamil Nadu (5.10%), and Haryana (4.76%)*
- *During FY 2021-22 FDI has been reported from 101 countries, whereas, it was reported from 97 countries during the previous FY 2020-21.*
- *In India FDI up to 100% is allowed in non-critical sectors through the automatic route, not requiring security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).*

116. Recently In which of the following banks **Carlyle Group and Advent International** invest will invest ₹8,900 crores for a cumulative stake of up to 20 percent in the bank.?

- A. Yes Bank**

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- B. IDBI Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Central Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Carlyle Group and Advent International will invest ₹8,900 crores in YES Bank.
- They will invest in a cumulative stake of up to 20 percent in the bank.
- Yes, Bank will raise ₹8,900 crores, which will include ₹5,100 crores through shares and ₹3,800 crores through share warrants.
- The capital raise is subject to the approval of the bank's shareholders.
- YES, Bank is also looking to sell stressed loans worth ₹48,000 crores to an Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC).
- Yes, Bank was founded in 2004. It is headquartered in Mumbai. Prashant Kumar is its MD and CEO. It is a private sector bank.

Carlyle Group, Advent to invest ₹8,900 crore for 20% stake in YES Bank



₹5,100 crore will be raised through shares, ₹3,800 crore via share warrants

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 29

YES Bank will raise ₹8,900 crore from global private equity investors, Carlyle Group and Advent International, for a cumulative stake of up to 20 per cent in the bank.

Of the proposed preferen-

tial issue, ₹5,100 crore will be raised through shares and ₹3,800 crore via share warrants.

EGM on August 24

The capital raise is subject to approval of the bank's shareholders at an EGM, scheduled for August 24. "The cap-

ital-raise will further bolster the capital adequacy of YES Bank, and aid the medium-to long-term sustainable growth objectives.

"Once approved, this would be one of the largest private capital raises by an Indian Private Sector Bank," said the lender in a release.

The bank will continue to drive sustained growth, scale its franchise, and focus on investing in its people and

leadership team, said MD and CEO Prashant Kumar.

Stressed loans

The fund-raise proposal comes at a time when YES Bank is looking to sell a block of stressed loans worth ₹48,000 crore to an ARC.

The asset sale, expected to be completed by August, is seen helping clear the lender's asset quality stress, making it more attractive to

investors. YES Bank plans to issue 370 crore shares at ₹13.78 per share, and 257 crore convertible warrants at ₹14.82 per warrant.

Half of each will be issued to CA Basque Investments, part of the Carlyle Group, and Verventa Holdings, one of the funds advised and managed by Advent International.

The entities will initially acquire 5.9 per cent stake

each post the share issue, which will eventually rise to 10 per cent after the conversion of share warrants into shares.

"Equity for the transaction will come primarily from Carlyle Asia Partners (CAP) V, a \$6.6-billion investment fund," said the Carlyle Group in a release, adding that it will support YES Bank in growing its retail and transaction banking and digital

payments platforms. While the Carlyle Group has investments in several Indian entities such as SBI Life, HDFC Ltd, PNB Housing Finance, SBI Card and India Infoline, YES Bank will be Advent International's first investment in an Indian financial entity.

Both investors will have one nominee on the board of YES Bank post the share issue.

117. In which of the following cities has Bandhan Bank recently opened its first-ever currency chest?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chennai
- D. Patna
- E. None of these

- Bandhan Bank has opened its first-ever currency chest.
- The currency chest is located in Deedargunj, Patna. It will help in cash management in the city and enhance customers' convenience.
- Bandhan Bank is a private sector bank. It is headquartered in Kolkata. Dr. Anup Kumar Sinha is its current chairman. Chandra Shekhar Ghosh is its MD and CEO.

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118. Recently _____ has set “RACE” - grow RAM (retail, agriculture and MSME) loans, improve Asset quality, increase CASA (current account, savings account deposits) and increase Earnings - as its goal for the year.

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

- Union Bank of India has set “RACE” - grow RAM (retail, agriculture, and MSME) loans, improve Asset quality, increase CASA (current account, savings account deposits), and increase Earnings - as its goal for the year.
- UBI is currently the fifth largest public sector bank (PSB) in the country.
- A Manimekhalai, who took charge of UBI as MD & CEO on June 3 as its first woman chief, wants the bank to become the third largest PSB in the next couple of years

119. Recently _____ school of Hyderabad has introduced the country's first teaching robot Eagle Robots as part of its collaborative learning model. These robots can perform all teaching activities, claims the school.

- A. DAV International School
- B. Jayprakash International School
- C. **Indus International School**
- D. City International School
- E. None of these

- Indus International School, Hyderabad, has introduced the country's first teaching robot as part of its collaborative learning model.
- These robots can perform all teaching activities, claims the school.
- According to a leading news daily, the school has developed interactive Eagle robots and recently demonstrated its working to state education minister Sabitha Indra Reddy.
- The objective of the demonstration was to explore the possibility of launching these robots in government schools. Reportedly, the robots are equipped with all teaching abilities and can teach students in classes 5 to 11 in the classroom on their own.
- They can even teach in over 30 different languages, clear doubts by answering and asking questions, and administer an automated assessment at the end of a session.
- Children have the option to connect with the robot's assessment and content via mobile phones and computers.
- As per the report, up to 21 highly interactive Eagle Robots have been deployed at three Indus schools which are located in Hyderabad, Bangalore, and Pune. Aparna Achanta,

Bharat Forge, Talgo enter into JV for high-speed trains

FE BUREAU
Pune, July 27

BHARAT FORGE IS entering the business of manufacturing high-speed trains through a joint venture with a Spanish company, Talgo.

The collaboration between the companies comes amidst the backdrop of the Indian Railway's tender for manufacturing and maintenance of 100 new generation lightweight energy-efficient trains.

Talgo is a wholly-owned subsidiary of 75-year-old passenger train manufacturer Patentes Talgo S.L.

Bharat Forge's wholly-owned subsidiary, BF Infrastructure and Talgo India signed the agreement on Wednesday. The alliance will tap into large business opportunities in the Indian Railways sector and look at upcoming domestic requirements.

“The collaboration between BF Infrastructure and Talgo India would significantly contribute to the Government of India's initiative of Atmanirbhar Bharat,” said Bharat Forge.

The collaboration will help bring high-speed rail technology and solutions to the Indian Railways and other private operators that will serve under the overarching self-reliant vision.

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principal of Indus International School, Hyderabad, stated that the school is willing to provide Eagle robots to other private and government institutions across the country.

120. Recently _____ has partnered with Talgo for manufacturing high-speed trains in India.

- A. Tata Power SED
- B. Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd
- C. Mahindra Aerospace
- D. Bharat Forge**
- E. None of these

- Bharat Forge subsidiary BF Infrastructure has partnered with Talgo for manufacturing high-speed trains in India.
- The joint venture will focus on bringing high-speed rail technology and solution to Indian Railways. It will tap into any upcoming domestic opportunities in the railways.
- The government recently floated a tender for 100 Vande Bharat trains with a maximum speed of 200 kmph. According to the tender document, these 100 trains will have articulated bogie, aluminum body, and sleeper facilities.
- Talgo is a wholly owned subsidiary of Spain-based high-speed passenger train manufacturer Patentes Talgo. The company has more than 75 years of experience in the design, manufacturing, and maintenance of trains

121. Consider the following statement regarding RBI Digital Payments Index for March 2022.

1. Digital Payments Index (DPI) for March 2022 stands at 349.30.
2. The central bank had developed the composite Reserve Bank of India (RBI) – Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) with March 2020 as the base year.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- RBI has announced Digital Payments Index for March 2022.
- Digital Payments Index (DPI) for March 2022 stands at 349.30. DPI for September 2021 was 304.06.
- DPI for March 2021 was 270.59. DPI for March 2020 was 207.84.
- The Reserve Bank had announced the construction of a composite Reserve Bank of India – Digital Payments Index

RBI's Digital Payments Index shows accelerated growth

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, July 27

The Reserve Bank of India's composite Digital Payments Index (RBI-DPI) has risen to 349.30 in March 2022 against 270.59 in March 2021, indicating rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country.

The index has demonstrated significant growth, the central bank said in a statement. The index was at 304.06 in September 2021.

The RBI-DPI, which captures the extent of digitisation of payments across the country, has been constructed with March 2018 as the base period-DPI score for March 2018 is set at 100. The index was up at 153.47 in March 2019 and 207.84 in March 2020.

Parameters for measurement
The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable measurement of deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different time periods.

These parameters are – (i) Payment Enablers (weight 25

per cent), (ii) Payment Infrastructure – Demand-side factors (10 per cent), (iii) Payment Infrastructure-Supply-side factors (15 per cent), (iv) Payment Performance (45 per cent) and (v) Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).

Sub-parameters

Each of these parameters have sub-parameters which, in turn, consist of various measurable indicators. The sub-parameters under the "payment enablers" parameter are internet, mobile, Aadhaar, bank accounts, participants and merchants.

The sub-parameters under the "payment infrastructure (demand side)" parameter are debit cards, credit cards, prepaid payment instruments, customers registered mobile and internet banking and FASTags.

The sub-parameters under the "payment infrastructure (supply side)" parameter are bank branches, business correspondents, ATMs, PoS (point of sale) terminals, QR (quick response) codes and intermediaries.

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(RBI-DPI) in March 2018 as a base to capture the extent of digitization of payments across the country.

- RBI-DPI from March 2019 to March 2022 shows rapid adoption and deepening of digital payments across the country.
- The RBI-DPI comprises 5 broad parameters that enable the measurement of the deepening and penetration of digital payments in the country over different periods.
- These parameters are Payment Enablers (weight 25 percent); Payment Infrastructure; Demand-side factors (10 percent); Payment Infrastructure; Supply-side factors (15 per cent); Payment Performance (45 per cent); and Consumer Centricity (5 per cent).
- The index is published on a semi-annual basis from March 2021 onwards with a lag of 4 months.

122. In July 2022, RBI has permitted _____ to begin NBFC business without accepting public deposits.

- A. Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Enterprises
- B. Bajaj Enterprises
- C. Shriram Enterprises
- D. Piramal Enterprises**
- E. None of these

• RBI has permitted Piramal Enterprises to begin NBFC business without accepting public deposits.

• The company received the license on 26 July 2022.

• It had earlier received clearance from the shareholders to demerge its pharmaceuticals business and simplify its corporate structure.

• The company said that under Section 45 IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934, RBI has granted it a Certificate of Registration to commence the business of nonbanking financial institutions without accepting public deposits.

• Earlier, the company had acquired Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL) for Rs 34,250 crore.

• Piramal Enterprises is the largest company of Piramal Group, an Indian multinational diversified global business conglomerate.

Piramal Enterprises gets RBI nod to start NBFC business

PIRAMAL ENTERPRISES ON Tuesday said it has received the approval from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start non-banking finance company (NBFC) operations. The licence is for initiating an NBFC not accepting public deposits.

"The RBI has granted a certificate of registration to the company to commence

the business of non-banking financial institution without accepting public deposits. The said licence was received by the company on July 26," Piramal said in an exchange filing.

The approval from the RBI comes after the company received clearance of the shareholders to demerge its pharmaceuticals business

and simplify its corporate structure.

Earlier, the company had acquired Dewan Housing Finance (DHFL) for ₹34,250 crore. The acquisition will diversify Piramal Enterprises' loan book towards retail financing by scaling up the retail loan book by up to five times, the company had said earlier.

—FE BUREAU



123. Consider the following statement regarding 'Internet in India' by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI).

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1. According to a report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 346 million Indians use online transactions.
2. India will have more than 900 million internet users by 2030.
3. Currently, there are a total of 692 million active internet users in India.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

India has more online users than US population: IAMA report

346 million Indians engage in online transactions, which is higher than the US population estimated at 331 million

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 28

India has more people online than the population of the US!

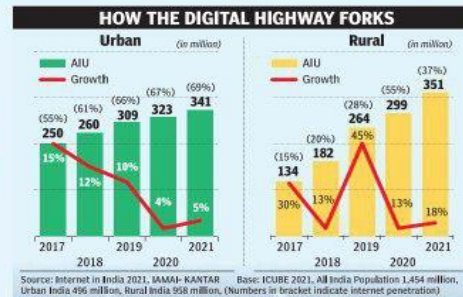
According to a report by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), around 346 million Indians are engaged in online transactions such as e-commerce and digital payments, a number that is greater than the US population, estimated at 331 million.

"The global pandemic witnessed a record 51 per cent increase in digital transactions in just two years, from 230 million in 2019 in India. In terms of gender break-up, there are

more male Internet users in India than female users, with almost similar gender ratios across both urban and rural users," the IAMA KANTAR report titled 'Internet in India' said.

Driven by entertainment

Entertainment, communications, and social media are the top three use-case activities of Internet users across India. While communications using text and e-mail are the most popular, the survey suggests that voice and Indic languages usage will be the key drivers of growth in the future, with two out of five rural Internet users having done voice-based



Source: Internet in India 2021, IAMA-KANTAR. Base: ICUBE 2021, All India Population 1,454 million, Urban India 496 million, Rural India 958 million. (Numbers in bracket indicate internet penetration)

and digital payments is still skewed in favour of urban users. This reflects the large headroom for growth of such services among the rural population.

Rural has headroom

According to the report, there are 692 million active Internet users in India, and much of the growth continues to be driven by rural India (351 million users with 37 per cent penetration), as urban India seems to have hit a plateau (341 million users with 69 per cent penetration). The report also estimates that there will be 900 million Internet users in India by 2025, led by rural growth. Among the States, Goa has the highest Internet penetration, while Bihar has the lowest.

activities on their phones. The penetration of OTT services in rural India is on a par with that in urban India. However, the penetration of other digital services such as online gaming, digital commerce,

- **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) released a report titled 'Internet in India'.**
- **According to a report published by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), 346 million Indians use online transactions.**
- **The number of people using online transactions in India is greater than the US population involved in digital transactions, which is around 331 million.**
- **As per the report, the online transaction in the past two years has increased by 51% from 230 million in 2019.**
- **The report states that the number of male internet users is more than female users in both rural and urban areas.**
- **Social media, entertainment, and communications are the top activities on the internet in India. Text and email are the most popular means of communication.**
- **India will have more than 900 million internet users by 2025. Currently, there are a total of 692 million active internet users in India.**
- **'Internet in India' report is based on the ICUBE 2021 study and is the oldest and most comprehensive survey of internet usage in India.**
- **It is jointly prepared by the Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and KANTAR.**

124. Recently according to the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) payment aggregators (PAs) authorization aggregators have to apply to the RBI by September 30, 2022, and they must have a net worth of Rs _____ crore as on March 31, 2022.
- A. 10 Cr
 - B. 15 Cr
 - C. 20 Cr

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- D. 25 Cr
- E. None of these

- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on July 28 allowed an additional window for payment aggregators (PAs) whose applications for authorization were rejected over failure to meet the minimum net worth criteria under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act).**
- **PAs can apply by September 30 and shall have a net worth of Rs 15 crore as of March 31. They shall be permitted to continue their operations till they receive communication from the RBI regarding the fate of their application.**
- **According to the RBI guidelines, payment aggregators need to have a net worth of Rs 15 crore by March 2021, and a net worth of Rs 25 crore by March 2023. And, they have to maintain a net worth of Rs 25 crore at all times thereafter.**
- **A payment aggregator provides payment services from customers. As part of the process, they do a certain time.**

Payment aggregators get more time to apply for authorisation

RBI move aimed at avoiding disruption in e-commerce payment ecosystem

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, July 28

To avoid disruption in payment systems, the Reserve Bank of India has decided to allow another window up to September-end 2022 to all non-bank payment aggregators (existing as on March 17, 2020) to apply for authorisation under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (PSS Act). This breather has been given in view of the disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, and to ensure smooth functioning of the payments ecosystem.

Payment Aggregators can apply by September 30, 2022 and shall have a net worth of ₹15 crore as on March 31, 2022, according to the RBI notification.

"They shall be permitted

to continue their operations till they receive communication from RBI regarding the fate of their application.

The timeline of March 31, 2023 for achieving the net worth of ₹25 crore shall, however, remain," the notification said.

What PAs do

Payment Aggregators are entities that facilitate e-commerce sites and merchants to accept various payment instruments from customers without the need for merchants to create a separate payment integration system of their own.

PAs facilitate merchants to connect with acquirers. In the process, they receive payments from customers, pool and transfer them on



Entities can continue operations till they receive communication from RBI regarding the fate of their application. March 31, 2023 deadline to achieve ₹25 crore networth is unchanged

September 30, 2021 for authorisation under the PSS Act.

Earlier directives

The RBI noted that applications received from some PAs had to be returned as they had not complied with eligibility criteria, including the minimum net worth criterion of ₹15 crore by March 31, 2021.

"This also implied that they have to discontinue their operations within a period of six months from the date of return of application.

"Though they have the option to apply afresh on meeting the prescribed criteria, ceasing operations may lead to disruption in payment systems.

"It is also possible that some PAs had not applied to RBI due to non-fulfilment of eligibility criteria," the notification said.

125. Consider the following statement regarding the latest edition of Brand Footprint, Kantar Worldpanel's annual ranking.

1. Parle, the biscuit brand owned by Parle Products, continues to be India's top FMCG brand.
2. The number of brands growing in terms of CRP improved in 2021 (70 percent), over 2020 (56 percent).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- For record 10 years in a row, Parle Products has topped the rankings for most chosen FMGG brands, according to a report by Kantar India.

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- It is followed by Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products in the latest 2021 report, which ranks the most chosen FMCG brands based on consumer reach points (CRPs).
- With a CRP score of 6,531 million, Parle holds the top spot. Overall, CRPs have increased from 89 billion to 98 billion.
- The number of brands growing in terms of CRP improved in 2021 (70 percent), over 2020 (56 percent).

126. Consider the following statement regarding the latest edition of Brand Footprint, Kantar Worldpanel's annual ranking. Which of the following is not on the list of India's top 5 FMCG brands?

- A. Parle
- B. Haldiram**
- C. Amul
- D. Britannia
- E. Clinic Plus
- F. None of these

PARLE STAYS ON TOP, HALDIRAM'S ENTERS TOP 25

Regional FMCG brands score big

ALOKANANDA CHAKRABORTY
New Delhi, July 28

REGIONAL FMCG PRODUCTS made a big splash last year, with many local brands featuring on the Kantar's top-25 most chosen list. According to Kantar's Brand Footprint India report, many spice brands improved rankings and so did local brands, thanks to the growth in packaged spices and salty snacks as a category.

Parle remained the most chosen brand for the tenth year, followed by Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus and Tata Consumer Products.

With huge jump in rankings, regional spice brands like Rajesh and Rakesh came in at No. 13 and No. 16 respectively, against 94 and 85 in the 2020 rankings. MDH was also ranked 13 against last year's 112 and Badshah at 18 against 124. Kanpur-based Ghadi, which has successfully fought big detergent brands like HUL's Wheel and P&G's Ariel since its launch in 1988, remained strong at No. 6.

Continued on Page 2

Rank 2021	Brand	CRP (mn)
1	Parle Products	6,531
2	Amul	5,561
3	Britannia	5,370
4	Clinic Plus	4,506
5	Tata Consumer Products	2,723
6	Ghadi	2,315
7	Nandini	2,278
8	Colgate	2,134
9	Aavin	2,024
10	Lifebuoy	1,896

Top 10 most chosen FMCG brands in 2021:

financial.english.in

- Homegrown biscuit brand Parle remained the most chosen brand among fast-moving consumer products in India in 2021, topping the rankings for the tenth year in a row, according to Kantar India's annual Brand Footprint report.
- The report ranked the most chosen FMCG brands of 2021 based on Consumer Reach Points (CRPs). CRP is measured based on the actual purchase made by consumers and the frequency at which these purchases are made in a calendar year.
- This is the 10th year of Kantar's Brand Footprint ranking.
- Amul, Britannia, Clinic Plus, and Tata Consumer Products are the other top brands on the list after Parle. With a CRP score of 6531 (million), Parle holds the top spot for a record 10th year in a row. Parle reported a 14% growth in CRP compared to the previous year's rankings.

127. Consider the following statement regarding Export Credit Insurance for Banks (Entire Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment) (ECIB-WTPC, PS).

- ECGC launched a new scheme that covers up to 90% of will be provided to small exporters under 'Export Credit Insurance for Banks' (Entire Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment) (ECIB-WTPC, PS).

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2. The manufacturer- exporters availing of the fund-based export credit working capital limit of up to ₹ 20 crores will get the benefit of the enhanced cover.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- ECGC launched a new scheme to provide credit risk insurance cover up to 90% to small exporters.
- Export Credit Risk Insurance cover of up to 90% will be provided to small exporters under 'Export Credit Insurance for Banks' (Entire Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment) (ECIB-WTPC, PS).
- This is expected to benefit many small-scale exporters availing export credit from banks having ECGC WT-ECIB cover.
- It will help exporters to explore new markets and diversify their product portfolio.
- The manufacturer- exporters availing of the fund-based export credit working capital limit of up to ₹ 20 crores will get the benefit of the enhanced cover. It excludes Gems, Jewellery & Diamond sector, and merchant exporters/traders.
- This will increase the percentage of accounts up to Rs 20 crore, which will provide further stability to the ECGC portfolio.
- It will enable banks holding ECGC's WT-ECIB cover to further reduce interest rates.
- ECGC Limited: It is a government-owned export credit provider and was set up in 1957.
- Its main objective is to promote exports by providing credit risk insurance and related services for exports.
- It was formerly known as Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India Ltd.

ECGC raises risk cover for small exporters

Firm signs up State Bank of India

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
MUMBAI

ECGC Ltd. has introduced a scheme to provide enhanced export credit risk insurance cover to the extent of 90% to support small exporters. Earlier, the cover available was about 70%.

In this regard, it has signed up State Bank of India (SBI) under the Export Credit Insurance for Banks Whole Turnover Packaging Credit and Post Shipment (ECIB – WTPC & PS). SBI has agreed to provide export credit at repo rate plus 1.3%.

Other banks are also expected to sign up for this scheme, according to ECGC top officials, who added that this scheme would benefit a number of small-scale exporters availing of export credit with banks that hold the ECGC WT-ECIB covers.



This will also enable small exporters to explore new markets and new buyers, and diversify their existing product portfolio to help remain competitive.

"We expect the cover to play a game-changing role," ECGC chairman M. Senthilnathan told reporters. "We expect this to bring up the percentage of accounts with up to ₹20 crore, thereby lending further stability to ECGC portfolio," he added.

128. _____ will divest up to a 12.5% stake in the insurance arm IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company through an offer for sale in the initial public offer (IPO) of the insurer or any other mode.

- A. Yes Bank
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. Canara Bank
- D. Union Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Bank of Baroda will divest up to a 12.5% stake in the insurance arm IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company through an offer for sale in the initial public offer (IPO) of the insurer or any other mode.
- The Bank's board of directors in a meeting on Saturday approved 12.5% of shares divestment in IndiaFirst Life.
- However, the bank's shareholding in the life insurance subsidiary will not fall below 51%.

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- Mumbai-headquartered IndiaFirst Life was a joint-venture among Bank of Baroda, Carmel Point Investments India, and Union Bank of India.
- The insurer is a subsidiary of the Bank of Baroda. Carmel Point Investments India, owned by private equity funds managed by Warburg Pincus LLC, holds a 26% stake in the insurer.
- Union Bank of India is the company's third strategic partner (9% stake).
- In the previous fiscal year (2021-22), Bank of Baroda (BoB) acquired a 21% stake in the insurance company following a 'right of the first offer (ROFO)' by Union Bank of India to the existing shareholders of IndiaFirst Life, following which it has become a subsidiary company of BoB.
- BoB's holding in the company now stands at 65% from 44% earlier.

129. Recently in July Prime Minister **Narendra** inaugurated the **IFSC Banking Unit (IBU)** of _____ at the Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) in Ahmedabad.

A. National Stock Exchange

B. Deutsche Bank AG

C. Frankfurt Bank

D. State Bank of India

E. None of these

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the IFSC Banking Unit (IBU) of Deutsche Bank AG at the Gujarat International Finance-Tec City (GIFT City) in Ahmedabad.
- According to Deutsche Bank AG, the IBU will offer financial products across trade finance, fixed income, and currencies in the initial phase.
- The IBU will provide all approved international financing products to Deutsche Bank's clients in India and overseas.
- Deutsche Bank has been in the Asia Pacific for 150 years and India for 42 years, and our presence at Gift City only underscores our strong commitment to this country.
- Deutsche Bank's IBU will also facilitate external commercial borrowing (ECB) financing for its prime customers, and offer products such as factoring and bank guarantees.
- The GIFT City IBU will enable the bank to provide liquidity in INR on a 24x7 basis to international investors and overseas corporates with exposures in India.

130. Recently **HDFC** announced to acquire its venture capital subsidiary **HVCL** by buying out State Bank of India's _____ percent stake in the company.

A. 9.99 %

B. 19.5 %

C. 11.12 %

D. 13.14%

E. None of these

HDFC to fully acquire venture capital arm by buying shares from SBI

HDFC on Friday said it will acquire its venture capital subsidiary HVCL by buying out State Bank of India's 19.5 per cent stake in the company. The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) holds 80.50 per cent equity share capital of HVCL and the remaining shares are held by State Bank of India (SBI). The acquisition is expected to be completed within 14 days from the date of execution of the SPA or by August 12, 2022.

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- *HDFC said it will acquire its venture capital subsidiary HVCL by buying out the State Bank of India's 19.5 percent stake in the company.*
 - *The Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) holds 80.50 percent equity share capital of HVCL and the remaining shares are held by the State Bank of India (SBI).*
 - *HVCL is an investment manager for HDFC Property Fund, and it was incorporated in October 2004.*
131. Recently *Reserve Bank of India has placed three urban cooperative banks (UCBs) under Directions. Consider them in respect of the amount allowed to withdraw for depositors, which is incorrect.*
- A. *Durga Co-operative Urban Bank - ₹1.50 lakh of the total balance*
 - B. *Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank - no amount from the total balance*
 - C. *Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank - ₹10,000 of the total balance*
 - D. *All of the above are correct*
 - E. *None of these*
- *The Reserve Bank of India has placed three urban co-operative banks (UCBs) -- Durga Co-operative Urban Bank, Vijayawada; Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Basmatnagar; and The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank, Solapur - under Directions.*
 - *In the case of Durga Co-operative Urban Bank, Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), RBI said the Directions will remain in force for six months from the close of business on July 29, 2022, and are subject to review. Depositors will be allowed to withdraw a sum not exceeding ₹1.50 lakh of the total balance*
 - *In the case of Jaiprakash Narayan Nagari Sahakari Bank, Basmatnagar (Maharashtra), RBI said the Directions will remain in force for six months from the close of business on July 29, 2022, and are subject to review.*
 - *Considering the bank's 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.*
 - *In the case of The Karmala Urban Co-operative Bank, Solapur (Maharashtra), the Directions will remain in force for six months from the close of business on July 29, 2022, and are subject to review.*
 - *Depositors will be allowed to withdraw not more than ₹10,000 of the total balance across all savings bank or current accounts or any other account, subject to the conditions stated in the Directions.*
 - *The central bank said the issue of the above Directions should not per se be construed as a cancellation of a banking license.*
 - *The UCBs will continue to undertake banking business with restrictions till their financial position improves.*
132. Consider the following statement regarding *India's first all-women-run cooperative bank.*
1. *India's first all-women-run cooperative bank will be set up in Haryana.*
 2. *It will be established on the lines of the Stree Nidhi model of Telangana.*
- Which of the following statement is correct?*

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

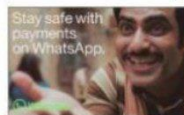
- India's first all-women-run cooperative bank will be set up in Rajasthan. It will be established on the lines of the Stree Nidhi model of Telangana.
- Rajasthan government has also signed an MoU with the Telangana government's Stree Nidhi Credit Cooperative Federation.
- The Rajasthan Mahila Nidhi will be established along the same lines as the Telangana Stree Nidhi. It will empower self-help groups in the state by providing timely loan facilities.
- This cooperative bank will be operated entirely by women and will act as a complementary body to the formal banking system.
- It will also reduce the number of loan applications pending in the banks. During the first two years of its operations, it will get a grant of ₹50 crores from the State government.
- Mahila Nidhi will include all of Rajeevika's cluster-level federations as members.

133. Recently _____ launched a user-safety campaign through a music video titled 'Scam Se Bacho', in line with its focus on communicating its core safety principles to payments to help keep users safe while making digital payments.

- A. Paytm
- B. Phone Pe
- C. Whatsapp**
- D. SBI Cards
- E. None of these

Tyroo Comet. Galaxy Racer has exclusively partnered with Tyroo Comet for driving brand partnerships across its media portfolio in the India market. Leveraging Tyroo Comet's proprietary live streaming media-tech solutions for brands, Galaxy Racer will work towards nurturing its esports and gaming content creator IPs 2022 onwards.

WhatsApp launches awareness campaign



WhatsApp has launched a user-safety

To create awareness and educate users on making safer online payments,

campaign, titled 'Scam Se Bacho' which will come alive through a music video. The idea is to communicate the core safety features of WhatsApp to help keep users safe while making digital payments. The music video is a parody rendition of the evergreen song, 'Dekh Ke Chalo', and delivers the message in a fun manner.

Yellow to handle Sephora's communication

Yellow, an integrated global creative agency based in Mumbai, has signed up with global cosmetic retail giant, Sephora. The agency will be responsible for the brand's online and offline communication, including social media, celebrity campaigns and e-commerce. The agency acquired the new client following a pitch.

- Messaging app WhatsApp launched a user-safety campaign through a music video titled 'Scam Se Bacho', in line with its focus on communicating its core safety principles to payments on WhatsApp to help keep users safe while making digital payments.
- Payments on WhatsApp allow users to send and receive money from their contacts via Unified Payment Interface (UPI) as easily as a WhatsApp message.
- The 'Scam Se Bacho' music video is a parody rendition of the popular song, 'Dekh Ke Chalo', wherein the lyrics demonstrate real-life situations in which individuals could be susceptible to scams and reinforce the

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message of staying safe and exercising caution while making digital payments.

134. Recently **ReNew Power Private Limited**, India signed MOU with _____ to build a green hydrogen factory in the Suez Canal Economic Zone worth \$8 billion.

- A. Egypt
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Japan
- D. Australia
- E. None of these

- India and Egypt signed MoU to build a green hydrogen factory worth \$8 billion.
- An Indian Company has signed MoU with Egypt to build a green hydrogen factory in the Suez Canal Economic Zone.
- As per the MoU, Indian ReNew Power Private Limited will build a factory to produce 20,000 tonnes of green hydrogen a year.
- This factory will be built with investments worth \$8 billion.
- ReNew Power is India's largest renewable energy company in terms of operational capacity. It is based in Gurgaon, Haryana. Sumant Sinha is its CEO.
- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolyzing water and using electricity generated from renewable energy sources such as wind or solar.

135. **India's core sector output** registered double-digit growth for the second straight month in June at _____.

- A. 19.11 %
- B. 12.7 %
- C. 15.18 %
- D. 9.02 %
- E. None of these

of the spectrum. with Bharti.

ReNew to invest \$8 bn to set up green hydrogen plant in Egypt

RAJESH KUMAR SINGH
28 July

ReNew Power has signed a preliminary agreement with the Egyptian government to invest as much as \$8 billion (over ₹63,000 crore) to produce green hydrogen in the African country, according to the chairman of the renewable energy firm.

ReNew, backed by investors including Goldman Sachs Group Inc and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, will be looking to produce 220,000 tonnes of the clean fuel annually in Egypt in the coming years, Chairman Sumant Sinha said in a text message.

The Indian company plans to build the project in the Suez Canal Economic Zone, the Egyptian embassy in New Delhi said in a Facebook post.

ReNew joins several Indian companies tapping the prospects in green hydrogen, which is considered crucial to decarbonise hard-to-abate heavy industries. Conglomerates run by India's two richest men — Gautam Adani and Mukesh Ambani — along with state energy giants have committed large investments in the green hydrogen value chain, responding to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambition to make the country a global powerhouse in this area.

"Green Hydrogen is critical for decarbonising industries in the fight against climate change and we intend to be a global leader in this sector," ReNew's Sinha said.

In January, Reliance Industries announced it would commit \$75 billion to green energy, including an undisclosed amount towards green hydrogen projects.

Earlier, in November 2021, Adani Group announced it would invest \$70 billion by 2030 into renewable energy infrastructure, including in green hydrogen. **BLOOMBERG**

ReNew Chairman Sumant Sinha said the firm will be looking to produce 220,000 tonnes of the clean fuel annually in Egypt in the coming years



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- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries (ICI) increased by 12.7% as compared to the Index of June 2021.
- Eight core sectors' output growth declined to 12.7% in June from 18.1% in May.
- All sectors except crude oil registered an increase in production. Crude oil output dropped 1.7% from a year ago period.
- The eight core industries have a weightage of 40.27 percent in the index of industrial production (IIP).
- Eight core industries are Coal, Crude Oil, Natural Gas, Refinery Products, Fertilizers, Steel, Cement, and Electricity.

Core sector output expands by 12.7%

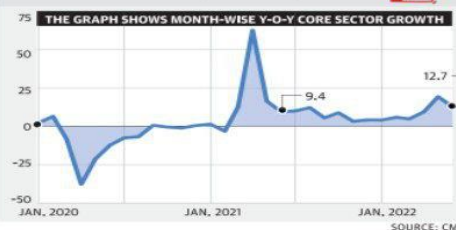
Crude oil output dropped 1.7% from a year earlier

VIKAS DHOOT
NEW DELHI

India's eight core sectors' output growth moderated to 12.7% in June, from 18.1% in May, with all sectors except crude oil registering an uptick in production.

Coal, cement, electricity and refinery products rose 15% or more, compared with the June 2021 output levels, while natural gas (1.2%), steel (3.3%) and fertilizers (8.2%) grew at a milder pace. Crude oil output dropped 1.7% from a year earlier, returning to contractionary territory after recording the

Expanding core | The output of eight core sectors expanded by 12.7% in June 2022, better than 9.4% recorded in the year-earlier period



first uptick in several months this May.

The Commerce and Industry Ministry also revised the index of eight core industries for March and May.

Core sectors' growth in March was pared to 4.8% from 4.9% estimated earlier, while for May, it was revised higher at 19.3% from the previous estimate of 18.1%.

While June marks the second successive month of double-digit growth in core sectors, which constitute about 40% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), the overall core output shrank 4.08% compared with the previous month. Cement and fertilizers were the only sectors to record a sequential month-on-month growth in output in June of 6.9% and 0.32%, respectively.

Compared to pre-COVID levels, the core sectors reported an 8% growth in June with a healthy performance in all the sectors, except steel and crude oil, said Aditi Nayar, chief economist at rating agency ICRA.




CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

136. Consider the following statement regarding the Top 5 wealthiest women according to their company in Hurun Leading Wealthy Women List 2021. Which of the following is matched incorrectly?

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra - HCL Technologies
- Falguni Nayar - Nykaa
- Kiran Mazumdar Shaw - Biocon
- Nilima Motaparti - Divi's Laboratories
- Radha Vembu - Uber
- None of these

- Roshni Nadar Malhotra, Chairperson of HCL Technologies, has been named the wealthiest woman on Kotak Private Banking - Hurun Leading Wealthy Women List 2021 for the second consecutive year with a net worth of Rs 84,330 crore.
- Under her leadership, HCL backed the purchase of seven IBM products worth Rs 13,740 crore - the largest in the company's history, confirmed the report.
- Nykaa founder Falguni Nayar - who had an impressive listing at the National Stock Exchange last November - made it to the second spot in the list with a net worth of Rs 57,520 crore. She climbed to the second rank after being featured in ninth place

THE TRAILBLAZERS HURUN LIST: Leading Wealthy Women in 2021

Name	Wealth (₹ cr)	Company
 RICHEST WOMAN	84,330	HCL Tech
 RICHEST SELF-MADE	57,520	FSN E-commerce (Nykaa)
 RICHEST TOP-10 ENTRANT	29,030	Biocon
	28,180	Divi's Lab
	26,260	Zoho
	24,280	USV
	14,530	Thermax
	13,380	Confluent
	6,810	Dr Lal PathLabs
	6,620	Hero FinCorp

Source: Kotak Private Banking - Hurun

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last year. Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw of Biocon stood proudly in third place with Rs 29,030 crore in wealth.

- The Nykaa CEO was also named India's richest self-made woman and the tenth richest self-made woman in the world. Before setting up the beauty and wellness e-commerce company, Nayar worked with the Kotak Mahindra Group for nearly two decades. Her wealth grew 963 percent in a year.
- Nilima Motaparti of Divi's Laboratories and Zoho's Radha Vembu were in fourth and fifth place with a net worth of Rs 28,180 crore and Rs 26,260 crore, respectively.
- On the self-made billionaires' list, nine out of 2 women are aged under 40. Thirty-three-year-old Kanika Tekriwal of Jetsetgo is the youngest self-made woman on the list. Former Pepsico CEO Indra Nooyi is at the sixth spot on the Kotak-Hurun self-made women's list.
- This year, the list saw 25 new entrants. Narkhede, Sucharitha P Reddy of Apollo Sindoori Hotels, Ruchi Kalra of OfBusiness, Anita Hemant Jalan of Indigo Paints, and Badve Engineering's Supriya Badve ruled the top five places.
- Three professional managers made it to the 2021 list. Nooyi was named the richest professional manager, with a wealth of Rs 5,040 crore. Renu Sud Karnad of HDFC (Rs 870 crore) and Kotak Mahindra Bank's Shanti Ekambaram (Rs 320 crore) were ranked second and third, respectively.
- Nine start-up entrepreneurs made in the 2021 list included Divya Gokulnath of BYJU's, Kalra, Neha Bansal of Lenskart, and LEAD School's Smita Deorah, who have transformed their companies into Unicorns.
- Compiled by Kotak Private Banking and Hurun India, the 2021 report focuses on women who have established themselves in the corporate world. The report also highlights success stories of India's top 100 self-made or active women entrepreneurs, businesswomen, and professionals.
- The cut-off for this year's list was Rs 300 crore, as against Rs 100 crore in 2020. The average wealth of women in the 2021 list is around Rs 4,170 crore as against Rs 2,725 crore in 2020.



137. India is the world's _____ largest telecom market.

- A. 2nd
- B. 3rd
- C. 4th

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- D. 5th
- E. None of these

- Union Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw today said that with 117 crore subscribers, India is the world's 2nd largest telecom market. He said, the telecom discourse which used to be about 2G, has been taken to 5G and 6G.
- Mr. Vaishnaw was speaking during the valedictory session of the Telecom Investor's Roundtable on "Investment Opportunity in 5G operations and Telecom Reforms"
- The Union Telecom Minister said, the Industry has come out of the old phrase, entering a sunrise stage, where a new infusion of capital investment can happen.
- He said the 5G spectrum auction is receiving a good response from the industry. He added that as the prices of the 5G spectrum have been reduced, more players are coming in.
- Mr. Vaishnaw informed us that the government is working on a new legal framework for the telecom sector. He expressed hope to have a new legal structure by August 2023.

138. Recently **C. Vijayakumar, the chief executive officer (CEO)** _____ became **India's highest-paid tech CEO as he earned 123 cr in 2021.**

- A. **HCL**
- B. Wipro
- C. Infosys
- D. Tata Motors
- E. None of these

- **C. Vijayakumar, the chief executive officer (CEO) of tech giant HCL Technologies Limited earned ₹123.13 crores (\$16.52 million) last year, which makes him the highest-paid among India's software companies.**
- **Vijayakumar took an annual base salary of \$2 million, while he got another \$2 million in variable pay. The CEO further got 0.02 million as perquisites and other benefits for the year ended 31 March.**
- **Saugat Gupta, CEO of Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) Marico, saw a 157 percent hike in salaries and allowances in FY22, making him the highest-paid CEO in the segment. Gupta's salary was Rs 14.02 crore in the year 2021, which has increased to Rs 36.1 crore in the financial year 2022.**

139. Recently **Nasscom Foundation and** _____ **have announced setting up a call center in collaboration with a not-for-profit body Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) to help women farmers scale up their business.**

- A. Microsoft
- B. **Google**
- C. Paytm

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- D. Rupay
- E. None of these

- Nasscom Foundation along with Google has set up a call center in collaboration with a not-for-profit body ISAP to help women farmers scale up their business.
- The project is being run on a pilot basis to initially reach out to 20,000 rural women entrepreneurs across six states — Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, and Rajasthan, Nasscom Foundation CEO Nidhi Bhasin said at the launch of “DigiVaani Call Center”.
- “DigiVaani will be one place where rural women entrepreneurs will be able to call and get the information around various schemes available for them, which can help them scale up their business, be it government scheme or any other information that can be of help for them.
- A DigiVaani call center has been set up at the Delhi and Lucknow offices of the Indian Society of Agribusiness Professionals (ISAP) with a combined headcount of 19 people.

140. Recently Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted its approval that _____ will acquire Citibank's India consumer business for _____ in all cash deal?

- A. Kotak Mahindra Bank, ₹11,325
- B. Axis Bank, ₹12,325**
- C. HDFC Bank, ₹10,325
- D. ICICI Bank, ₹14,325
- E. None of these

- The Axis Bank's acquisition of Citibank's consumer businesses has taken one step closer to reality as the Competition Commission of India (CCI) granted its approval to the ₹12,325 crore deal.
- With CCI's approval, the Axis Bank-Citi merger deal has now moved a step closer to reality. In March this year, private lender Axis Bank said it had agreed to acquire Citi India's retail

CCI clears Axis-Citi deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 26

THE COMPETITION COMMISSION has approved Axis Bank's proposed acquisition of Citi's consumer business in India, one of the largest deals in the country's financial services space. Under the deal worth ₹12,325 crore, announced on March 30, Axis Bank would take over Citi's credit cards, personal loans and wealth management businesses that are focused on the affluent segment.

In a tweet on Tuesday, the regulator said it has cleared the “acquisition of Citibank, N.A.'s and Citicorp Finance (India) Limited's undertakings comprising of their consumer banking activities by Axis Bank”. Deals beyond a certain threshold require approval of the Competition Commission



ONE STEP FURTHER

■ Under the deal, Axis Bank will take over Citi's credit cards, personal loans and wealth management businesses that are focused on the affluent segment

■ The deal worth ₹12,325 crore announced on March 30 is one of the largest ones in the country's financial services space. It is expected to be completed by Sept '24.

of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair business practices across sectors.

In March, Axis Bank and Citi had signed a definitive agreement for the deal, which is expected to be completed by September 2024 and would help Axis Bank gain access to 30 lakh new customers.

The parties involved in the deal are Axis Bank, Citibank, N.A. (acting through its India branch) and Citicorp Finance (India).

“The transaction involves the proposed slump sale by Citi of an undertaking comprising its consumer banking activities to the acquirer on a going concern basis and the proposed slump sale by Citicorp of an undertaking comprising its consumer banking activities to the acquirer on a going concern basis,” the summary of the transaction available on CCI website said.

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assets for \$1.6 billion. Axis Bank CEO and MD Amitabh Chaudhry had said there will be no milestone payments in the deal, and a cash deal of Rs 12,325 crore will be payable only once the entire business gets transferred from Citi Bank.

- *The transaction between Axis Bank and Citi India will include approximately 3,600 Citi employees supporting the consumer businesses in India, who will transfer to Axis upon completion of the proposed transaction. Axis Bank will also acquire 3 million unique customers of Citibank India which will enhance the lender's presence in major identified growth segments.*

141. Recently _____ has launched a philately scholarship scheme *Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby)* for generating interest regarding Philately amongst students.

- A. Department of telecommunication
- B. Department of economic affairs
- C. Department of posts
- D. Both A and B
- E. None of these

- *Department of Posts has launched a philately scholarship scheme Deen Dayal SPARSH Yojana (Scholarship for Promotion of Aptitude & Research in Stamps as a Hobby) for generating interest regarding Philately amongst students.*
- *Students of classes VI to IX having a good academic record and pursuing philately as a hobby will be awarded the scholarship based on Philately Quiz & Philately Project to be conducted by circle offices.*
- *Philately is the collection and study of postal stamps. The hobby of collecting Stamps includes seeking, locating, acquiring, organizing, cataloging, displaying, storing, and maintaining the stamps or related products in thematic areas.*
- *The scheme aims to create interest among children related to a stamp collection.*

142. Recently _____ announced the launch of its add-on motor insurance cover, called '*Pay As You Consume*' (PAYC).

- A. Bajaj Allianz General Insurance
- B. Cholamandalam MS General Insurance
- C. SBI General Insurance
- D. Kotak Mahindra Bank
- E. None of these

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- Bajaj Allianz General Insurance today announced the launch of its add-on motor insurance cover, called ‘Pay As You Consume’ (PAYC). The company claims to be the first to launch ‘Pay As You Consume’ under the IRDAI’s Sandbox Regulations, and owing to the overwhelming response from customers, it has launched this as a full-fledged cover under motor insurance products.
- This usage-based motor insurance add-on cover is in alignment with IRDAI’s recent circular to allow PAYC under annual motor products.
- The pay-as-you-consume add-on cover can be opted for by the customer along with the basic OD plan under Package Product, Bundled, and Standalone OD cover.
- Customers can choose coverage based on their vehicle usage, further to which the premium will be calculated, i.e., kilometers are driven annually. Customers can also avail of an additional benefit in premium for their safe driving.
- The company has offered a unique concept of “GRACE KM” gratification, which is provided at the time of claim in case kilometers opted during the policy period get exhausted.

143. Consider the following statement regarding the new **Custom-built credit card lay in store for MSMEs.**
1. The bespoke credit card for MSMEs will be similar to what is provided by Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and could be **branded as Vyapar Credit Card (VCC).**
 2. **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will offer a credit card to MSMEs registered on the Udyam portal.**
 3. It will include interest subvention, **in addition to offering collateral-free loans of up to 5 lakh.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- A credit card with a limit of Rs 1 lakh could be offered to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) if the government’s universal credit flow plan withstands.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) will offer a credit card to MSMEs registered on the Udyam portal.

New credit card planned for MSMEs to free up cash flow

VCC is expected to provide cash-flow-based lending to the smallest of small businesses

Subhash Narayan
subhash.narayan@pibemint.com
NEW DELHI

Small businesses could be offered a bespoke credit card with ₹1-lakh limit if the government’s plan to universalise credit flows goes through. The credit card will be offered by SIDBI to micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) registered on the Udyam portal. The card will pool together all the credit schemes available for MSMEs, including interest subvention, in addition to offering collateral-free loans of up to ₹1 lakh, similar to what is provided to Kisan Credit Card (KCC) beneficiaries, two people aware of the development said.

According to them, it could be branded as Vyapar Credit Card (VCC), as suggested by the standing committee on finance in a recent report. It will be offered to MSMEs for meeting their business credit needs with provisions for enhanced credit, based on their financial performance and credit servicing abilities. The initial limit could vary between ₹50,000 and ₹1 lakh. The rules for providing CIBIL ratings for MSMEs may also be tweaked to allow improved and updated data flows to ratings agencies to provide fairer ratings to the sector. Queries sent to the finance ministry,



Vyapar Credit Card will be offered to MSMEs for meeting their business credit needs with provisions for enhanced credit.

and secretary, department of financial services, and MSME remained unanswered till press time.

“This will create a substantial incentive for even nano-MSMEs (such as

roadside vendors, kirana shops and village salons) to sign up on the Udyam portal. There are crores of MSMEs that have not yet entered the formal financial system. The Vyapar credit card will

be an excellent mechanism to bring them into the system,” the standing committee report said.

Once MSMEs are registered on Udyam, other targeted programmes can also be created by industry, geography and size. The MSME database can also be used by states and other stakeholders to help small businesses.

To be sure, while the finance ministry has begun discussions on VCC, it had earlier indicated that several banks were already providing their own credit cards for MSME borrowers, including *Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana* borrowers, so a separate card

may not be needed at this juncture. However, the people quoted above said the scheme chimes in with the ministry’s attempts to universalise card benefits among all banks so that services offered to card holders do not vary from one bank to another.

This will also provide MSMEs an easy and convenient access to formal credit. It is expected that VCC will provide short-term loans at low interest rates for meeting the working capital requirements of MSMEs. It will be further extended to provide collateral-free, small loans to MSMEs, like the ₹1 lakh collateral-free facility available to KCC holders.

A limit of 5-10% of the credit limits of the institutions could be encouraged through the card for bonafide business expenditure. New to credit, informal customers, once formalized, may be offered small value limits through the card. Other benefits may also be offered through suitable linkages to the card. A detailed plan is likely to be prepared for this in consultation with leading banks.

Formal borrowing by MSMEs is very limited at present with as high as 60% of India’s 600 million MSMEs not borrowing from banks and institutions. This has resulted in a credit gap of ₹20-25 trillion. Also, lower ratings mean many MSMEs are forced to borrow at high interest rates and have limited access to financial products. The VCC is expected to address some of these concerns by providing cash-flow-based lending to the smallest of entities.

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- All the credit schemes available for the MSME sector will be joined together in the card.
- It will include interest subvention, in addition to offering collateral-free loans of up to 1 lakh.
- The bespoke credit card for MSMEs will be similar to what is provided by Kisan Credit Card (KCC) and could be branded as Vyapar Credit Card (VCC).

144. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) lowered India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to _____ from 8.2% estimated in April,

A. 8.2 %
 B. 7.2 %
C. 7.4 %
 D. 7.5 %
 E. None of these

- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) sharply lowered India's economic growth forecast for the current fiscal to 7.4% from 8.2% estimated in April, citing the impact of external headwinds and rapid monetary policy tightening.
- It said taming inflation should be the priority for India's policymakers and made a case for monetary policy tightening.
- The multilateral agency, in its latest World Economic Outlook update, also lowered India's growth forecast for the financial year 2023-24 by 0.8 percentage points to 6.1% amid a slew of downside risks to growth.
- However, despite the downgrade to the growth forecast, India will remain one of the fastest growing key economies in the world in 2022-23

IMF cuts India's FY23 growth forecast to 7.4%

For FY24, too, the agency has pared its estimates to 6.1% from 6.9%

SHISHIR SINHA
 New Delhi, July 26

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered India's growth forecast by 80 basis points to 7.4 per cent for FY23. In April, it projected growth rate at 8.2 per cent.

Even for FY2023-24, it has cut the growth forecast to 6.1 per cent from 6.9 per cent as said in April.

"For India, the revision (for FY 23) reflects mainly less favourable external conditions and more rapid policy tightening," IMF said in its latest update of World Economic Outlook (WEO), titled 'Gloomy and More Uncertain', released on Tuesday. Further it said that downgrades for India, China and the US are driving the downward revisions to global growth during 2022-23, which reflect the materialisation of downside risks highlighted in the April 2022 WEO.

Real GDP growth
 IMF's revision appears to be in line with what Finance Min-



The downgrades for India, China and the US are driving the downward revisions to global growth during 2022-23, which reflect the materialisation of downside risks highlighted in the April 2022 WEO

istry said in Parliament last week. In a written response, Minister of State for Finance Pankaj Chaudhury said as per the Provisional Estimates of Annual National Income, 2021-22, growth of Real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2021-22 is estimated at 8.7 per cent, which has more than recovered the pandemic induced loss of GDP in 2020-21.

"The growth momentum is expected to continue in 2022-23 as well as seen in several high frequency indicators. Though the geopolitical situation and the consequent el-

evated commodity prices have imparted considerable uncertainty to the global growth momentum, India's real GDP growth is expected to be still above 7 per cent in 2022-23," he said.

Earlier, Asian Development Bank (ADB) revised projection to 7.2 per cent from 7.5 per cent.

The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), in April, revised its projection to 7.2 per cent from 7.8 per cent. In June, it retained the projection in June but with cautious optimism.

Meanwhile, the government is hopeful that India's growth story will be different from many of other economies. It feels various initiatives to drive economic growth while managing inflation and mitigating its impact on weaker sections of the society, will have impact on overall growth. It says successful launch of the Production Linked Incentive Schemes (PLIs), Gati Shakti Scheme, National Infrastructure Pipeline, development of renewable sources of energy while diversifying import dependence on crude oil, and strengthening of financial sector are key developments that will sustain economic growth in 2022-23.

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and 2023-24. China's growth is estimated to slow down to 3.3% in 2022 from 4.4% estimated earlier.

- **The world's 19th largest economy, Saudi Arabia, is now estimated to grow faster than India at 7.6% in 2022 and by 3.7% in 2023.**
- **IMF said global trade growth would likely slow to 4.1% in 2022 from 10.1% in 2021.**

145. Recently Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the acquisition of _____ stake in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited.

- A. 11.43 %**
- B. 12.12 %**
- C. 15.16 %**
- D. 26.23 %**
- E. None of these**

CCI approves acquisition of stake in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited

Posted On: 26 JUL 2022 5:10PM by PIB Delhi

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves acquisition of stake in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited. The proposed combination relates to internal reorganization of TPREL and acquisition of up to 11.43% of the equity share capital of TPREL by Greenforest.

Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (**Greenforest**) is an investment vehicle indirectly incorporated by BlackRock Alternatives Management, LLC. (**BAM**) and Mubadala Investment Company PJSC (**MIC**) for undertaking the Proposed Combination.

BAM is a wholly owned subsidiary of BlackRock. BlackRock is a U.S. publicly traded company active in the provision of global investment management, risk management and advisory services to institutional and retail clients. BlackRock manages assets on behalf of institutional and individual investors worldwide.

MIC is an investment vehicle of the Government of Abu Dhabi. It manages investment and development in various industries including energy, utilities and real estate.

Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (**TPREL**) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company Limited (**TPCL**) through which TPCL undertakes its renewable energy business in India. TPREL's primary business is generation of power through renewable sources of energy.

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of the stake in Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited by Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited.**

- **The proposed combination relates to the internal reorganization of TPREL and the acquisition of up to 11.43% of the equity share capital of TPREL by Greenforest.**
- **Greenforest New Energies Bidco Limited (Greenforest) is an investment vehicle indirectly incorporated by BlackRock Alternatives Management, LLC. (BAM) and Mubadala Investment Company PJSC (MIC) for undertaking the Proposed Combination.**
- **BAM is a wholly owned subsidiary of BlackRock. BlackRock is a U.S. publicly traded company active in the provision of global investment management, risk management, and advisory services to institutional and retail clients.**
- **Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL) is a wholly owned subsidiary of Tata Power Company Limited (TPCL) through which TPCL undertakes its renewable energy business in India. TPREL's primary business is the generation of power through renewable sources of energy.**

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146. Recently in July _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Greenko ZeroC Private Limited (Greenko), to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, and other derivatives of green hydrogen.
- A. IOCL
 - B. ONGC
 - C. BPCL
 - D. HPCL
 - E. None of these

ONGC, Greenko partner to pursue opportunities in renewable energy

New Delhi: State-run ONGC on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with Greenko Group, to jointly pursue opportunities in renewable energy, green hydrogen, green ammonia and other derivatives of green hydrogen. Under the partnership, the companies will jointly develop a I-MMTPA green ammonia production and storage facility in the country for export purpose, said a statement from Greenko.

RITURAJ BARUAH

- Energy major Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Greenko ZeroC Private Limited (Greenko), to jointly pursue opportunities in Renewables, Green Hydrogen, Green Ammonia, and other derivatives of green hydrogen.
- The MoU, valid for two years, was inked in New Delhi by ONGC Director Onshore Shri Anurag Sharma and Greenko CEO & Managing Director Shri Anil Kumar Chalamalasetty.
- This MoU is in line with the National Hydrogen Mission launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in making India a global green hydrogen hub.
- The activities envisaged under this MoU will contribute toward India's target of producing 5 million tonnes of Green hydrogen per annum by 2030.
- This MoU will also act as a stepping stone for ONGC to achieve renewable energy targets as per its Energy Strategy 2040.

147. Consider the following statement regarding Eutelsat - OneWeb merger.

1. French satellite operator Eutelsat and key shareholders of Bharti-backed OneWeb have inked a pact for the merger.
2. The transaction values OneWeb at USD 3.4 billion (over Rs 27,000 crore).
3. OneWeb India will also become a subsidiary of the Eutelsat JV.
4. Dominique D'Hinnin would be proposed as Chairman of the combined entity and Sunil Bharti Mittal as Co-Chairman (Vice-President).

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1, 2 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1, 3 & 4

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

- **French satellite operator Eutelsat and key shareholders of Bharti-backed OneWeb have inked a pact for the merger, entailing an all-share transaction.**
- **Post-closing of the deal, Bharti Group will be the single largest shareholder of Eutelsat.**
- **The transaction values OneWeb at USD 3.4 billion (over Rs 27,000 crore), according to a joint statement.**
- **Eutelsat will combine its strong fleet of 36 Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites with OneWeb's constellation of 648 Low Earth Orbit satellites, of which 428 are currently in orbit.**
- **Earlier this year, OneWeb also inked a pact with the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) commercial arm for launching satellites.**
- **As the largest shareholder in the combined entity, Bharti will continue its full interest in OneWeb, via Eutelsat. Sunil Bharti Mittal shall be the Co-chair of the combined listed entity and Shravin Bharti Mittal as the second Bharti Director.**
- **OneWeb India will also become a subsidiary of the Eutelsat JV post-FDI clearances.**
- **Dominique D'Hinnin would be proposed as Chairman of the combined entity and Sunil Bharti Mittal as Co-Chairman (Vice-President).**
- **Eva Berneke would continue as CEO of the combined entity.**
- **Eutelsat holds 23 per cent stake in OneWeb.**
- **So, Eutelsat shareholders and OneWeb shareholders would each hold 50 percent of the Eutelsat shares.**
- **The transaction, which is subject to regulatory approvals, is expected to close by the end of the first half of 2023.**
- **Trading under its existing name, OneWeb will continue to operate the LEO business, with OneWeb's headquarters remaining in the UK.**
- **Eutelsat will continue to be headquartered and domiciled in France.**

Oneweb, Eutelsat to merge; Bharti to be biggest partner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 26

FRENCH SATELLITE OPERATOR Eutelsat and key shareholders of Bharti-backed OneWeb have inked a pact for merger, entailing all-share transaction, a statement said on Tuesday.

Post closing of the deal, Bharti Group will be the single largest shareholder of Eutelsat.

The transaction values OneWeb at \$3.4 billion (over ₹ 27,000 crore), according to a joint statement.

Eutelsat will combine its strong fleet of 36 Geostationary Orbit (GEO) satellites with OneWeb's constellation of 648 Low Earth Orbit satellites, of which 428 are currently in orbit.

The announcement has a takeaway for the India market as well, where OneWeb had received the letter of intent for the GMPCS (Global Mobile Personal Communication by Satellite) licence from the department of telecom.

Earlier this year, OneWeb inked a pact with the Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) commercial arm for

DEAL BOOST TO SATCOM



■ Eutelsat will combine its strong fleet of 36 GEO satellites with OneWeb's 648 LEO satellites

■ Earlier, OneWeb had inked a pact with ISRO's commercial arm for launching satellites

launching satellites.

"With its uniquely superior GEO/LEO offerings, complementing high throughput with low latency, the combined entity will help bolster the satellite communication capabilities of the nation, catering

to the varied range of needs of the private industry as well as the government," the statement said.

Coming at a crucial time when the Indian space policy is on the anvil, the new entity would provide further impetus to the recently-signed agreement on space coordination between India and France.

"As the largest shareholder in the combined entity, Bharti will continue its full interest in OneWeb, via Eutelsat. Sunil Bharti Mittal shall be the Co-chair of the combined listed entity and Shravin Bharti Mittal as the second Bharti director," the statement said.

It, however, did not offer details of the specific holding of Bharti Group post deal-closing.

OneWeb India will also become a subsidiary of the Eutelsat JV post FDI clearances, 'and with its unique capabilities of covering all unconnected white spaces, is confident of furthering the objective of a digitally connected India.'

The statement said operations of Eutelsat and OneWeb are highly complementary.

Space Race

CURRENT ONEWEB SHAREHOLDING

Eutelsat 23% Bharti 30% UK 18%



POST-MERGER PICTURE

Bharti will be the single-largest shareholder of Eutelsat with a 19% stake

UK govt to have a 11% stake

Dominique D'Hinnin to be proposed as chairman

Sunil Bharti Mittal as co-chairman

Eva Berneke would continue as CEO

Shravin Bharti Mittal, MD of Bharti Global, to be the 2nd Bharti director on co's board

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148. Recently Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced the third tranche of _____ crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

- A. Rs 5000 Cr
- B. Rs 6000 Cr
- C. Rs 7000 Cr
- D. Rs 8000 Cr
- E. None of these

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Bullet Train project: JICA announces 3rd tranche loan of ₹6,000 cr

TN RAGHUNATHA ■
MUMBAI

Within days after the Centre cleared the decks for expeditious implementation of the ambitious Bullet Train project by inviting tenders for the construction of a railway terminus at Bandra-Kurla Complex, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Monday announced third tranche of Rs 6,000 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.

The JICA -- which has been supporting the project for the Bullet Train project --- signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance

(ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. INR 6,000 Crore) as Tranche 3 for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).

The loan agreement was signed between Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Government of India and Mr. Watanabe Jun, Senior Representative, JICA India.

The JICA had earlier in 2017 extended a loan package of JPY 250,000 million (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package that JICA had committed in 2017. National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.

"The MAHSR project has contributed to the development of India's first High Speed Rail initiative. By introducing Japan's High Speed Rail technology, this project has emerged as a symbol of Japan-India collaboration. We have witnessed great progress in civil work so far," Jun said.

"We believe that the day is approaching when the Shinkansen System adopted in the project will contribute to region-wide economic and social development, which will bring about income generation to local residents," Jun said.

"With this project, we aim to simplify mobility and ease connectivity with a safe and reliable inter-city transport system. This Japan-India collaboration will ensure Transfer of

Technology from Japan's High Speed Rail system to India, and also give a boost to "Make in India" initiative," Jun added.

It may be recalled that on June 22 2022, the Centre had called for tenders for the construction of an underground railway station at Bandra-Kurla Complex (BKC) in north central Mumbai.

The Shiv Sena-led MVA government, which came into existence on November 28, 2019, had put Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pet Bullet Train on the backburner immediately after it assumed office.

The Narendra Modi government has now revived the Bullet Train project in little over three weeks after Eknath Shinde of the rebel Shiv Sena faction and senior BJP leader

Devendra Fadnavis were sworn in as the chief minister and deputy chief minister respectively on June 30.

It may be recalled that in September 2017, Modi and his then Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe had laid the foundation stone for India's first bullet train project in Gujarat.

The 508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Project (Standard Gauge) at an estimated completion cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore. Out of this Rs 1,10,000 crore, Japan is giving a loan of Rs 88,000 crore. Interest on this loan is minimal i.e. 0.1%, and this loan is to be repaid to Japan in 50 years. Loan repayment period of 50 years with 15 years grace.

In the first phase, the bullet train will cover 508 kilo-

metres between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

There are 12 stations proposed between Mumbai and Ahmedabad - Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad and Sabarmati. If the bullet train stops at 12 stations then it will cover the distance within 2 hours and 58 minutes.

The distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be covered in 2 hours and 07 minutes by the bullet train if it stops at four stations namely Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat and Mumbai.

The operating speed of the bullet train will be 320 kilometers per hour and maximum speed will be 350 kilometers per hour.

- **Within days after the Centre cleared the decks for expeditious implementation of the ambitious Bullet Train project by inviting tenders for the construction of a railway terminus at Bandra-Kurla Complex, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) announced the third tranche of Rs 6,000 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR) project.**
- **The JICA -- which has been supporting the project for Bullet Train project --- signed a loan agreement with the Government of India to provide an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan of 100,000 million Japanese Yen (approx. INR 6,000 Crore) as Tranche 3 for the Construction of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail (MAHSR).**
- **The JICA had earlier 2017 extended a loan package of JPY 250,000 million (approximately INR 18,000 crore) package that JICA had committed in 2017.**
- **National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) is the Executing Agency of the Project.**



Surat- The 'Diamond' city



Bilimora- famous for Mango orchards



Anand- The 'Milk' city

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Each and every station of the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail corridor has been chosen

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- *The MAHSR project has contributed to the development of India's first High-Speed Rail initiative. By introducing Japan's High-Speed Rail technology, this project has emerged as a symbol of Japan-India collaboration.*
 - *It may be recalled that in September 2017, Modi and his then-Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe had laid the foundation stone for India's first bullet train project in Gujarat.*
 - *The 508 km-long Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Project(Standard Gauge) at an estimated completion cost of Rs 1,10,000 crore. Out of this Rs 1,10,000 crore, Japan is giving a loan of Rs 88,000 crore. Interest on this loan is minimal i.e. 0.1%, and this loan is to be repaid to Japan in 50 years. Loan repayment period of 50 years with 15 years grace.*
 - *In the first phase, the bullet train will cover 508 kilometers between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.*
 - *There are 12 stations proposed between Mumbai and Ahmedabad - Mumbai, Thane, Virar, Boisar, Vapi, Bilimora, Surat, Bharuch, Vadodara, Anand, Ahmedabad, and Sabarmati. If the bullet train stops at 12 stations then it will cover the distance within 2 hours and 58 minutes.*
 - *The operating speed of the bullet train will be 320 kilometers per hour and the maximum speed will be 350 kilometers per hour.*
 - *Bullet Train Station Theme*
 - *Surat - Diamonds*
 - *Bilimora - mangoes orchards*
 - *Anand - Milk City*
 - *Sabarmati - charkha*
 - *Vadodara - 'Vad Tree'.*
 - *HSR station - 'Banyan Tree.*
 - *Vapi station Bharuch station - cotton weaving*
 - *Important are Surat And Bilmora Only*
149. _____ has rolled out its first-of-its-kind stressed asset recovery automated solution (SARAS) intended to enforce securities, track recoveries as well as improve monitoring of stressed assets.
- A. Bank of Baroda
 - B. Union Bank Of India**
 - C. Canara Bank
 - D. HDFC Bank
 - E. None of these
-
- *Union Bank of India has rolled out its first-of-its-kind stressed asset recovery automated solution (SARAS) intended to enforce securities, track recoveries as well as improve monitoring of stressed assets. Using this automated solution, the bank expects to accelerate the recovery of bad loans.*
 - *The automated system will fetch data from the websites of courts, registrar of companies as well as government agencies. The bank is also planning to link it to debts recovery tribunals and National Company Law Tribunal (NCLTs).*

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- *Saras, an acronym for stressed asset recovery automated solution, has been developed in-house with the help of an external vendor.*
- *While the bank's internal team has worked on designing the system, a Chennai-based company has developed the software. So far, the bank has made presentations to the financial services department of the finance ministry, the Indian Banks' Association (IBA), and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).*

150. Recently _____ *has partnered with fast-growing legal education startup LawSikho to bring world-class skill development programs resonating to fulfil the growing need in India for skilled manpower*

- A. **National Skill Development Corporation**
- B. Handicrafts & Carpet Sector Skill Council
- C. Capital Goods Skill Council
- D. ITC Limited
- E. None of these

- *National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) has partnered with fast-growing legal education startup LawSikho to bring world-class skill development programs resonating with the vision of NSDC to fulfill the growing need in India for skilled manpower and narrow the existing gap between demand and supply of skills.*
- *The partnership will benefit over 10,000 learners over three years. LawSikho will focus on learners from tier-2, tier-3 cities, small towns, and villages across India under this program to introduce them to cutting-edge digital skills that can lead to remote jobs, freelance opportunities, internships, and other career outcomes for learners.*
- *National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), a nodal skill development agency working under the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India, is a unique Public Private Partnership (PPP). Through its mission, 'Transforming the Skill Landscape', NSDC aims to provide access to opportunities to all through quality vocational education and training, Since its inception in 2008.*

151. Recently _____ *has approved \$875 million for projects in the water, sanitation, ecotourism, and transport sectors in the Asia Pacific and South America*

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

- *New Development Bank (NDB) has just approved five new projects totaling USD 875 million for water, sanitation, ecotourism, and transport. Investments will support commitments by Brazil, China, and India toward the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).*
- *In Brazil, NDB will channel USD 300 million that will contribute to connecting 592 thousand households to water supply and 727 thousand to sewage collection networks in the state of Sao Paulo.*

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- The project will be implemented by the Water and Sanitation Company (SABESP).
- **In India, NDB will direct USD 79 million for the Meghalaya Ecotourism Infrastructure Development Project. Investments will foster much-needed infrastructure in Meghalaya state that will lead to the establishment of 5 ecotourism circuits.**
- The project includes the construction of 114km of roads and bridges. NDB will also direct USD 70 million to the Lamphelpat Waterbody Rejuvenation Project.
- Investments will contribute to the development of the waterbody, green spaces, and tourism facilities.
- **In China, NDB approved EUR 265 million for the expansion of the Lanzhou Zhongchuan International Airport and RMB 805 million for the expansion of the Xi'an Xianyang International Airport. The two projects combined will contribute to the construction of five new runways with an associated taxiway system, two new terminal buildings, an apron with 187 aircraft stands, cargo facilities, and supporting infrastructure, with considerations of energy conservation.**
- With these five new projects, NDB's cumulative approvals have now reached nearly USD 32 billion, contributing to the infrastructure and sustainable development areas that will maximize positive impacts on people and economies in emerging markets and developing countries.

152. Recently _____ approved a fund of 200 mn USD for Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Reforms.

- A. World Bank
- B. New Development Bank
- C. European Union
- D. Asian Development Bank
- E. None of these

- The Government of India will provide a financing facility worth about Rs. 1600 Crore through the World Bank for the "Himachal Pradesh Power Sector Development Program". With the State equity, the total program cost will be approximately Rs 2000 Crore.
- World Bank funding under this Program is expected to be available by early next year. Both the World Bank and the Department of MPP & Power, GoHP are working expeditiously towards the finalization of the Program preparation. The Program duration will be of five years, starting from the year 2023 to 2028.

Appointment News

153. Recently Centre, as part of its efforts to make National Land Management Corporation (NLMC) operational, has appointed _____ interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the special purpose vehicle.

- A. Sanjay Kumar Jain
- B. Dinesh Mitra
- C. K Raghavan
- D. Meenakshi Priya

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E. None of these

- **The Centre, as part of its efforts to make the National Land Management Corporation (NLMC) operational, has appointed a joint secretary to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) as interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the special purpose vehicle, which has been tasked with monetizing the surplus land and buildings of public sector undertakings (PSUs).**
- **The interim CEO's job is learned to have gone to Sanjay Kumar Jain, and the government has appointed its nominees to the board of the corporation.**
- **The government looks to initiate the process of monetizing 3,479 acres of surplus land, identified by nine PSUs, and building assets.**
- **Other PSUs and government departments have been asked to prepare a list of assets that can be monetized through NLMC.**
- **NLMC will own, hold, manage and monetize such land and assets of the PSUs that are to be closed down and the surplus non-core land assets of government-owned companies under strategic disinvestment.**
- **According to the structure finalized, NLMC's board will have 13 directors, of whom seven would be government officials and six from the private sector.**
- **NLMC has incorporated on June 3 as a wholly-owned Government of India company with an initial authorized share capital of Rs 5,000 crore and a paid-up share capital of Rs 150 crore.**

Govt appoints interim head to make NLMC operational

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 24 July

The Centre, as part of its efforts to make National Land Management Corporation (NLMC) operational, has appointed a joint secretary to the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) interim chief executive officer (CEO) of the special purpose vehicle, which has been tasked with monetising the surplus land and buildings of public sector undertakings (PSUs).

The interim CEO's job is learnt to have gone to Sanjay Kumar Jain, and the government has appointed its nominees to the board of the corporation.

The government looks to initiate the process of monetising 3,479 acres of surplus land, identified by nine PSUs, and building assets, an official said.

Other PSUs and government departments have been asked to prepare a list of assets that can be monetised through NLMC.

NLMC will own, hold, manage and monetise such land and assets of the PSUs that are to be closed down and the surplus non-core land assets of government-owned companies under strategic disinvestment.

The directors of NLMC consist of DPE Additional Secretary Rajesh Kumar Chaudhry, the joint secretary handling asset monetisation at the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, and nominees from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, and Department of Heavy Industries.

According to the structure

finalised, NLMC's board will have 13 directors, of whom seven would be government officials and six from the private sector.

The board will meet soon to approve HR-related policies to kickstart the appointment of a full-time CEO and other employees.

It will finalise the guidelines and criteria for selecting professionals from the private sector in the fields of real estate, investment banking, construction, and the legal sector. Their hiring will be similar to what the government-owned National Investment and Infrastructure Fund follows.

Just as K V Kamath was roped in as chairman of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development, the Centre is looking to appoint a professional to head the land special purpose vehicle, another official said.

154. Consider the following match the column and identify which of the following is correctly matched.

1. Suchita Gupta - National Insurance Company.
2. Neerja Kapur - New India Assurance
3. Girija Subramanian - General Insurance Corporation

Which of the following is correct?

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

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

- **Three public sector general insurance companies will soon be headed by women with the newly constituted Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommending two executives for top roles at New India Assurance and Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India. Suchita Gupta already heads the Kolkata-based National Insurance Company.**
- **Neerja Kapur, who is GM at New India Assurance, has been picked for the CMD role at the same company, while Girija Subramanian, who is GM at General Insurance Corporation, has been selected for the top position at Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India. Earlier, Kapur had also headed New India Assurance's UK operations.**
- **The FSIB, a successor to the Banks Board Bureau, was created to appoint director-level roles in banks and financial service companies.**
- **The top position has been vacant after its former chief Atul Sahai retired in February-end. Since then, the government has posted Madhulika Bhaskar as GM with an additional charge of CMD, and she was recently given a three-month extension as current in charge.**
- **National Insurance Company Limited is an Indian nationalized general insurance company. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- **Headquarters location: Kolkata, Founded: 5 December 1906.**
- **The New India Assurance Co. Ltd., based in Mumbai, Maharashtra is a nationalized general insurance company. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India.**
- **General Insurance Corporation of India Limited abbreviated as GIC Re is an Indian nationalized reinsurance company. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India. It was incorporated on 22 November 1972 under the Companies Act, 1956. GIC Re has its registered office and headquarters in Mumbai.**

3 PSU non-life insurers to be women-led with 2 new picks

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Three public sector general insurance companies will soon be headed by women with the newly constituted Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommending two executives for top roles at New India Assurance and Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India. Suchita Gupta already heads the Kolkata-based National Insurance Company.



Neerja Kapur, who is GM at New India Assurance, has been picked for CMD role at the same company, while **Girija Subramanian**, who is GM at General Insurance Corporation, has been selected for the top position at Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India.

Mahindra veteran Nanda steps down

Mumbai: Arun Nanda, Mahindra Lifespace Developers' long-standing chairman and a "trusted adviser" of Mahindra Group chairman Anand Mahindra, has retired from his leadership position. Though the retirement age stipulated by the Mahindra Group for non-executive directors is 75 years, Nanda, 73, decided to cut short his term as he wanted to spend more time on social causes. At Mahindra Lifespaces, Nanda will be succeeded by independent director Ameet Hariyani as chairman. In recent years, Mahindra veterans Pawan Goenka and Bharat Doshi had retired from leadership positions. Nanda, however, continues on the boards of Mahindra Holidays & Resorts and Mahindra Holdings as chairman and director respectively. TNN

ance Corporation, has been selected for the top position at Agricultural Insurance Corporation of India. Earlier, Kapur had also headed New India Assurance's UK operations.

The FSIB, a successor to the Banks Board Bureau, was created to appoint director-level roles in banks and financial service companies. The government is likely to accept the recommendations.

155. Recently _____ was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).

- A. Rajesh Bhushan
- B. Himanshu Pathak
- C. Ashwini Bhatia
- D. Rajiv Ranjan

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E. None of these

- Senior scientist Dr. Himanshu Pathak was appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and Secretary of the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE).
- Dr. Pathak is currently the Director of the ICAR-National Institute of Abiotic Stress Management in Baramati, Maharashtra.
- The order said that the appointment of Pathak has been authorized by the Cabinet's Appointments Committee.
- The Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, has established the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) as the independent organization responsible for coordinating, directing, and managing agricultural research and education across the entire country.

Pathak appointed new D-G of ICAR

HIMANSHU PATHAK was on Thursday appointed director-general, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), a personnel ministry order said.

156. Recently **Bajram Begaj** has takes oath as new president of _____.

- A. Albania
- B. Equador
- C. Malta
- D. Kuwait
- E. None of these

- The newly-elected President of the Republic of Albania, Bajram Begaj, took oath here at a swearing-in ceremony in the parliament.
- In his first address in front of the lawmakers as the president, Begaj, 55, declared that he will support and respect both the government and opposition's work, calling for cooperation between political parties instead of conflict.
- Begaj was elected president on June 4. A total of 83 lawmakers participated in the voting that took place in the plenary session in the parliament, where Begaj received 78 votes in favor, while four lawmakers voted against and there was one abstention.
- He was a major general (Maj Gen) and held the post of chief of general staff of the Albanian Armed Forces before the election as president of Albania, a post he is set to hold over the next five years
- Albania Capital Currency - Tirana · Lek

157. Recently _____ has been elected as president of the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) – dairy industry's apex body.

- A. Nandita Sen

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- B. RS Sodhi**
- C. Shekhar Gopala
- D. Pramod K Mittal
- E. None of these

- R S Sodhi, MD of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation - the apex body of all the milk unions of Gujarat - has been elected as president of the Indian Dairy Association - the dairy industry's apex body in the country.
- Sodhi is the first dairy professional from the federation and second from Gujarat's dairy sector to get elected as president of the nearly seven decades old IDA.
- Before Sodhi, the late Dr. Verghese Kurien, hailed as the Father of India's White Revolution had served as the president of IDA between 1964-65. He was then working with Amul Dairy.
- Dr. Kurien who was earlier serving as general manager of Amul Dairy, in 1973 founded GCMMF which markets dairy products under the brand name – Amul.
- Established in 1948, the Indian Dairy Association (IDA) is the apex body of the dairy industry in India.

158. Recently in July _____ has been appointed as **next Delhi Police Commissioner**.

- A. Rakesh Asthana
- B. Sanjay Arora**
- C. Vijay Dev
- D. S L Thaosen
- E. None of these

- Sanjay Arora, Director General of the ITBP and a 1988-batch officer of Tamil Nadu cadre, has been appointed as the next Delhi Police Commissioner.
- Mr. Arora was appointed the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) DG in August last year and he took charge of the India-China LAC guarding force on September 1st. Delhi Police Commissioner Rakesh Asthana's tenure ends on 31st July.
- The MHA order also said S L Thaosen, Director General, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) shall hold additional charge of the post of DG, ITBP.

159. Consider the following statement regarding the **chief economist at World bank**.

1. The World Bank has appointed **Indermit Gill**, an Indian national, chief economist, and senior vice-president.
2. **Gill** will be only **the Third Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank**.
3. **Geeta Gopinath** was the **first, having served as Chief economist from 2012-2016**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

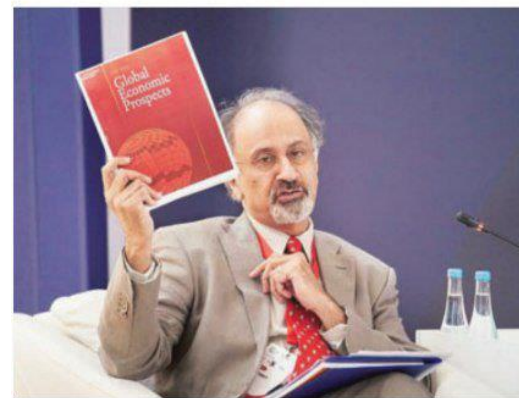
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- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1**
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these

- **The World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill, an Indian national, chief economist, and senior vice-president for development economics at the multilateral development bank.**
- **Gill will succeed American economist Carmen Reinhart in the role.**
- **His appointment will be effective September 1, 2022.**
- **Gill will be only the second Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank.**
- **Kaushik Basu was the first, having served in the job from 2012-2016.**
- **Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath have served as chief economists at the International Monetary Fund, the sister organization of the World Bank.**
- **Gill, currently vice-president for equitable growth, finance, and institutions at the Bank, leads the work on macroeconomics, debt, trade, poverty, and governance.**
- **Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States**
- **President: David Malpass**
- **Founded: July 1944, Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, United States**
- **Motto: Working for a World Free of Poverty**

160. Recently _____ has been **selected as the official representative of the International Association of Ports and Harbors' (IAPH) in India.**
- A. Elfiya Syed
 - B. Alesandra Popp
 - C. Klara Bhul
 - D. Ennarasu Karunesan**
 - E. None of these

- **International collaboration has named Ennarasu Karunesan as its representative to develop its network in India.**
- **Mr. Ennarasu is a mechanical engineer with more than 33 years of leadership in the maritime and ports sector. He currently serves as an advisor to Indian**



Gill 2nd Indian to be World Bank chief economist

ASIT RANJAN MISRA
New Delhi, 25 July

The World Bank has appointed Indermit Gill, an Indian national, chief economist and senior vice-president for development economics at the multilateral development bank.

"Indermit Gill brings to this role a combination of leadership, invaluable expertise and practical experience working with country governments on macroeconomic imbalances, growth, poverty, institutions, conflict, and climate change," World Bank President David Malpass said in a statement.

His appointment will be effective September 1, 2022. Gill will be only the second Indian to serve as chief economist at the World Bank. Kaushik Basu was the first, having served in the job from 2012-2016. Raghuram Rajan and Gita Gopinath have served as chief economists at the International Monetary Fund, the sister organisation of the World Bank.

In a Twitter post, Gill said Carmen Reinhart, the preceding chief economist

at the Bank had left big shoes to fill. "I'm honoured by the opportunity to follow in her footsteps," he tweeted.

Gill is widely respected for his intellectual contributions to development economics. Gill spearheaded the influential 2009 World Development Report on Economic Geography. His pioneering work includes introducing the concept of the "middle income trap" to describe how developing countries stagnate after reaching a certain level of income. He has published extensively on policy issues facing developing countries, sovereign debt, green growth, labour markets, poverty and inequality, and managing natural resource wealth.

Gill, currently vice-president for equitable growth, finance, and institutions at the Bank, leads the work on macroeconomics, debt, trade, poverty, and governance. Between 2016 and 2021, he was professor of public policy at Duke University and non-resident senior fellow in the Global Economy and Development program at the Brookings Institution.

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ports. During 2015-19, he was the joint president and CEO of Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), Gujarat.

- Mr. Ennarasu's main task is to recruit ports and organizations in the Indian port community as IAPH regular and associate members, IAPH said in a statement.
- The appointment coincides with the associate membership of India's first high-tech company Kale Info Solutions, which joined IAPH at its 2022 World Port Conference in Vancouver in May.

Days and Obituary News

161. **World Drowning Prevention Day** is celebrated annually on _____ to move towards a more sustainably-developed world.

- A. 20th July
- B. 25th July**
- C. 23rd July
- D. 21st July
- E. None of these

- **World Drowning Prevention Day** is celebrated annually on 25 July. The United Nations recognized this day for the global advocacy of drowning prevention with a resolution to move towards a more sustainably-developed world.
- **World Drowning Prevention Day** was recognized in April 2021 by a General Assembly resolution. This global advocacy event annually becomes an opportunity to highlight the tragic impact of drowning on families and communities and offers solutions for its prevention as well.

162. **pi approximation day** is celebrated on _____ every year.

- A. 23rd July
- B. 26th July
- C. 27th July
- D. 22nd July**
- E. None of these

- **pi approximation day** is celebrated on July 22 every year. This day is special because it is the day when the approximate value of Pi, 3.14, is calculated to its millionth decimal place.
- **Pi approximation day** is celebrated by people all around the world, including mathematicians and scientists.

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- *Pi Approximation Day on July 22 honors the concept of pi, which is denoted by the Greek letter pi and approximates to 3.14.*

- 163. The *International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem* is celebrated every year on _____ and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem”
 - A. 25th July
 - B. 26th July**
 - C. 27th July
 - D. 25th July
 - E. None of these

- *The International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is celebrated every year on 26 July, and aims to raise awareness of the importance of mangrove ecosystems as “a unique, special and vulnerable ecosystem” and to promote solutions for their sustainable management, conservation, and uses.*
- *This International Day was adopted by the General Conference of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 2015.*
- *The Mangrove Ecosystem is one of the most important ecosystems in the world. It is home to many different species of animals and plants, and it is essential for the preservation of coastal communities.*

164. *International Tiger Day* is observed every year on _____ all over the world.
- A. 29th July**
 - B. 28th July
 - C. 27th July
 - D. 26th July
 - E. None of these

- *International Tiger Day is observed every year on 29 July all over the world.*
- *This day was adopted during the 2010 St. Petersburg Tiger Summit in Russia.*
- *At this summit, the Heads of Governments of Tiger Range countries committed to doubling the tiger population by the year 2022.*
- *The theme of International Tiger Day 2022 is “India launches Project Tiger to revive the tiger population”.*
- *India is home to over half of the world’s wild tigers. The tiger is listed as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.*

165. Every year on _____ *Kargil Vijay Diwas* is celebrated in India.

Tiger deaths

329 The number of tigers India lost in the past three years due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.

According to a reply in the Lok Sabha, 68 tiger deaths were attributed to natural causes, five to unnatural causes, 29 to poaching and 30 to 'seizure' while a total of 197 tiger deaths are under scrutiny. However, the number of poaching cases has reduced over the years – from 17 in 2019 to four in 2021. According to the data presented, 125 people have been killed in 'tiger attacks' in this period. PTI

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- A. 24th July
- B. 25th July
- C. 26th July
- D. 27th July
- E. None of these

- Every year on July 26, Kargil Vijay Diwas is celebrated in India.
- On Kargil Vijay Diwas, the nation honors the martyrs and remembers its wartime heroes.
- On this day, Indian armed forces under Operation Vijay in 1999, drove out insurgents supported by the Pakistani army from high outposts in the Kargil sector.
- The Kargil War was fought for over 60 days and ended with India gaining control of all the territories.
- The victory at Tiger Hill was one of the significant achievements in the 60-day-long conflict.
- The Kargil War took place between May 3 and July 26, 1999, in the Kargil district of Kashmir and along the Line of Control (LOC). India lost more than 500 military soldiers in the Kargil war.

166. Consider the following statement regarding **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**.

1. **83rd Raising Day** of CRPF was observed on 27 July.
2. **Kuldeep Singh is the current Director General of CRPF.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **83rd Raising Day of CRPF was observed on 27 July.**
- **The CRPF Raising day is celebrated to mark the establishment of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).**
- **On this day, the contribution of CRPF personnel to the defense and security of the country is remembered.**
- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF): It is the largest Central Armed Police Force in India.**
- **It was originally constituted as the Crown Representative Police in 1939 in Neemuch with a strength of 1 Battalion.**
- **It became the Central Reserve Police Force on the enactment of the CRPF Act on 28th December 1949.**
- **It assists the State/Union Territories police to maintain law and order and counter-insurgency operations.**
- **Kuldeep Singh is the current Director General of CRPF.**

167. **International Moon Day** is being celebrated for the very first time on _____.

- A. July 21, 2022
- B. July 20, 2022
- C. July 22, 2022

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- D. July 19, 2022
- E. None of these

- *International Moon Day is being celebrated for the very first time on July 20, 2022.*
- *On December 9, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly recognized the proposal submitted by the Moon Village Association and several other groups within the organization. The application to observe International Moon Day was submitted to the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA).*
- *International Moon Day 2022 commemorates the anniversary of the first landing on the lunar surface by humans. Neil Armstrong was the first human to set foot on the Moon as part of the Apollo 11 Mission. On International Moon Day 2022, learn more about the day's history, significance, and why July 20 is celebrated as Moon Day.*

168. Every year _____ is observed as **World IVF Day**, commemorating the **birth of Louise Brown — the first baby to be born after successful IVF treatment in 1978.**

- A. 21st July
- B. 23rd July,
- C. 25th July
- D. 27th July
- E. None of these

- *Every year, July 25 is observed as World IVF Day, commemorating the birth of Louise Brown — the first baby to be born after successful IVF treatment in 1978.*
- *It became one of the most prominent landmarks in the field of infertility treatment and a ray of hope for couples struggling to get pregnant.*

169. **World Nature Conservation Day** is observed every year on _____ to increase awareness about the importance of preserving nature and natural resources.

- A. 26th July
- B. 27th July
- C. 28th July
- D. 29th July
- E. None of these

- *World Nature Conservation Day is observed every year on 28 July.*

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- *It is observed to increase awareness about the importance of preserving nature and natural resources.*
- *The main aim of the day is to protect various natural resources such as water, air, soil, energy, vegetation, minerals, and animal life.*
- *According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 90 percent of the Earth's topsoil is expected to be at risk by 2050.*
- *The theme for this year's World Nature Conservation Day is 'Living Sustainably in Harmony with Nature.'*
- *This year's theme is associated with the sustainable use of natural resources by humans and promoting conservation practices to protect it from mining, hunting, and other destructive activities.*

170. Every year on _____ **World Hepatitis Day** is celebrated to raise awareness and encourage global action against hepatitis viral.

- A. 26th July
- B. 27th July
- C. 28th July**
- D. 30th July
- E. None of these

- *Every year on July 28, World Hepatitis Day is celebrated.*
- *This day is observed to raise awareness and encourage global action against hepatitis viral.*
- *The theme of World Hepatitis Day 2022 is "Bringing hepatitis care closer to you."*
- *It was first celebrated in 2008.*
- *It is also celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Nobel Prize-winning scientist Dr. Baruch Blumberg.*

Sports Award Books News

171. Consider the following statement regarding the javelin throw event at the **World Athletics Championships**.

1. **Neeraj Chopra won a silver medal** in the javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships.
2. His best throw was **88.13 meters**.
3. **Anderson Peters of Grenada** won the gold medal with a **throw of 90.54 meters**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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E. None of these

Olympic champ Neeraj makes history with javelin silver

Becomes first Indian male medallist at Worlds; Grenada's Peters retains his title, Rohit finishes 10th; Eldhose ninth in triple jump

WORLD CHAMPIONS

SPORTS BUREAU

Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra made history winning the javelin silver at the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday but midway through the final he was in the fourth spot with 86.37m after opening the series with a foul.

For a man used to grabbing the lead with his opening effort – as he did at the Tokyo Olympics qualification and final rounds and also in the qualifiers here – Neeraj appeared to be stuck in a rather different world in the final.

'Could've been better'

"I was only thinking of how to hit the target I had imagined. With time, the competition also gets tougher. The fourth throw was good, but, I feel, it could have been better. Anyway, whatever I did, I am happy with the silver," said the 24-year-old, the country's greatest athlete and also the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games champion.



National treasure: Neeraj reiterated his status as India's best-ever track and field athlete. Right: Eldhose Paul missed the last-eight by 7cm. •REUTERS

"I was a little bit tense after the first two throws (a foul followed by an 82.39m)," Anju Bobby George, the country's only other World

Championships medallist with her long jump bronze in Paris 2003, told *The Hindu*. "And then, when he started the fourth throw I knew it

would end up being a big one," she added. For a country used to disappointments on the big stage, for a few minutes, it

felt as if its Olympic champion was also falling into the habit. But, suddenly misgivings were replaced by joy as Neeraj's 88.13m fourth attempt

made him the country's first-ever silver medallist and the first male medallist at the Worlds, pushing Czech Re-

public's Jakub Vadlejch (88.09) to bronze. Grenada's defending World champion Anderson Peters retained his title with

Anyway, whatever I did, I am happy with the silver

a massive 90.21m opener and then followed it with two more 90-plus throws (90.46 & 90.54) in what was perhaps the greatest series in Worlds history.

Below par Meanwhile, Rohit Yadav, the other Indian in the javelin final, could not touch 80m – a distance he had crossed in the qualification round (80.42) – and finished 10th with 78.72.

And in the men's triple jump, Eldhose Paul missed the last-eight by 7cm and had a best of 16.79m on the second of his three attempts to finish a decent ninth.

However, there was big disappointment in the men's 4x400m relay where Asian record-holder India (rec. 3:00.25s, Tokyo Olympics), comprising Muhammed Anas, Muhammed Ajmal, Naganathan Pandi and Rajesh Ramesh, clocked a poor 3:07.23s to finish sixth and last in its heat (12th overall) and failed to make the final.

Silver – a testament to Neeraj's grit, skill and determination | Stunning win for Canada, US relay teams

- **Neeraj Chopra won a silver medal in the javelin throw event at the World Athletics Championships.**
- **He created history by becoming the first Indian to win a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships.**
- **With a best throw of 88.13 meters, Chopra finished second in the competition held in the United States.**
- **Anderson Peters of Grenada won the gold medal with a throw of 90.54 meters.**
- **Former player Anju Bobby George won a bronze medal in the long jump in 2003 in Paris.**
- **Neeraj Chopra became the first Indian male and the second Indian to win a medal at the World Championships.**
- **He had also topped the Group A qualification round and qualified for the final at second place behind Peters by sending his spear to 88.39m for his third career-best throw. Peters had topped Group B with an effort of 89.91m.**
- **Meanwhile, the other Indian in the competition, Rohit Yadav finished at 10th with a best throw of 78.72m and had finished 11th overall in the qualification round with a best throw of 80.42m.**

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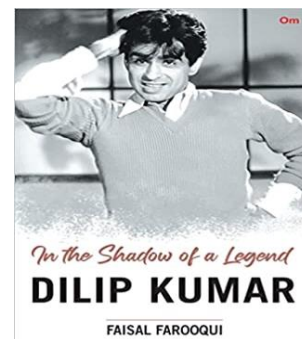
Hurling to glory



Full momentum: Olympic gold medallist Neeraj Chopra competing in the men's javelin throw final during the World Athletics Championships in Eugene, Oregon, in the U.S. on Saturday. His 88.13m throw won him the silver medal. ■ AFP (REPORT ON PAGE 15)

172. Who is the author of the book titled "*In the Shadow of a Legend: Dilip Kumar*"?

- A. Yusuf Khan
- B. Faisal Farooqui**
- C. Meenakshi Priya
- D. Drishti Rauth
- E. None of these



- In the book, *Dilip Kumar: In the Shadow of a Legend*, the author paints an intimate portrait of the actor, throwing light on some little-known anecdotes from his illustrious life.
- The book brings to us the real Dilip Kumar, away from the large screen that made him such an endearing figure for his fans. Dilip Kumar was much more than the actor that we have revered all these years.
- Dilip Kumar revealed some personal likes and dislikes in his autobiography, *Dilip Kumar, The Substance And The Shadow*, released in 2014. But this is a different take on his life, narrated by a person close to him, more a family member.
- His autobiography dealt a lot with the period before he became a film star while this book is based on the author's interactions with Dilip Kumar over a long period.

173. Recently *four times world champion Sebastian Vettel* announced his retirement from *Formula One* at the end of the season. He hails from which of the following countries?

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

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- **Four times world champion German racer Sebastian Vettel announced his retirement from Formula One at the end of the season.**
- **The 35-year-old said, his goals had changed and he wanted to focus more on family and interests outside the sport.**
- **Sebastian will end his final season with Aston**
- **Vettel made his debut in 2007.**
- **His first title win came in 2010 which also made him the youngest title winner.**
- **He won four titles for Red Bull between 2010 to 2013.**
- **Vettel who is a legend of the sport is third on the list of all-time Grand Prix winners with 53 victories to his name.**
- **Only Lewis Hamilton and Michael Schumacher have more titles than him.**
- **Sebastian made the announcement ahead of this weekend's Hungarian Grand Prix, the 13th round of the season and the last race before the August break.**

4-time F1 champion Vettel to retire at end of season



Four-time Formula One champion Sebastian Vettel (pictured) will retire at the end of the season to spend more time with his family, the German driver said on Thursday. Vettel won his four F1 titles from 2010–13 with the Red Bull team. His last race victory came with Ferrari in 2019. This season with Aston Martin, he has been largely unsuccessful with a best finish of sixth place.

Vettel factfile

- **World champion:** 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
- **Teams:** BMW-Sauber, Toro Rosso, Red Bull, Ferrari, Aston Martin
- **First race:** United States Grand Prix 2007
- **First win:** Italian Grand Prix 2008
- **Last win:** Singapore Grand Prix 2019
- **Wins:** 53; Podiums: 122

174. Recently _____ and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a long-term partnership to support Indian athletes in major multi-sport events, including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and the Olympics Games.

- A. Adani Sportsline
- B. Reliance Industries**
- C. Tata Power
- D. Bharti Airtel
- E. None of these

- **Billionaire Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries and Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced a long-term partnership to support Indian athletes in major multi-sport events, including the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games, and the Olympics Games.**
- **Under this partnership, RIL and IOA will also establish the first-ever India House at Paris Olympics 2024.**
- **Furthermore, in the run-up to the Paris 2024 Olympics, India will also be hosting the 140th IOC Session in June 2023 at the newly-developed multi-level center Jio World Centre in Mumbai.**
- **The IOC Session, which coincides with the 75th year of Independence, will highlight the role of sport in India and celebrate the contribution of India to the Olympic Movement.**
- **What is Olympic Hospitality House?**

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- Nations from across the world strengthen their Olympic Movement involvement during the Olympic Games, with the official Olympic Hospitality House that provides a vision and an understanding of the country and also serves as an avenue to engage officials, sportspeople, and their families and the public. The 2024 Paris Olympics will have India's first house.
- At the 2016 Rio Olympics, over 50 nations had set up their country-specific Hospitality House, bringing to the games a combination of their country's cultural and sporting history.

175. Under what brand name has **Coca-Cola** launched a no-fizz low-sugar lemon drink in India with Neeraj Chopra as the brand ambassador?

- A. Limca Fizz
- B. Limca Sportz**
- C. Limca Chopra
- D. Limca Crackz
- E. None of these



- **Coca-Cola's** lime beverage is all set to attract health-conscious customers. The latest addition, called **Limca Sportz**, brands itself as a low sugar variant energy drink with Neeraj Chopra as the ambassador.
- The move comes amid a surge in launches into the health space by food and beverage companies globally, as consumers choose these products, especially after the pandemic. The electrolyte and glucose beverage is a sports drink, a broad base for the company's portfolio beyond soft drinks.

176. Recently _____ was awarded the Winston Churchill Leadership Award from the International Churchill Society.

- A. Boris Jhonson
- B. Volodymyr Zelensky**
- C. Liz Truss
- D. Rishi Sunak
- E. None of these

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- *Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was honored with the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award.*
- *British Prime Minister Boris Johnson presented the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award to Volodymyr Zelenskyy.*
- *The award was handed over to the Ambassador of Ukraine to Britain Vadym Prystaiko.*
- *Boris Johnson said that Volodymyr Zelenskyy proved his leadership after the invasion of Russia in Ukraine.*
- *In March, Zelenskyy received a standing ovation in the British Parliament for his leadership.*
- *Winston Churchill was the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom from 1940 to 1945 and again from 1951 to 1955.*
- *Churchill leadership award:*
- *It was first presented in 2006.*
- *It is given to persons who have shown exceptional leadership skills like Winston Churchill.*



UK gives Churchill award to Zelenskyy

AP ■ LONDON

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday presented Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy with the Sir Winston Churchill Leadership Award, drawing comparisons between the two leaders in times of crises.

Zelenskyy accepted the award by video link during a ceremony at Johnson's London office that was attended by members of the Churchill family, Ukrainian Ambassador Vadym Prystaiko and Ukrainians who have received training from British soldiers.

Johnson recalled how Zelenskyy confirmed on February 24 that Russia had invaded, adding: "In that moment of supreme crisis, you faced a test of leadership that was, in its way, as severe as Churchill's challenge in 1940." Zelenskyy thanked

Johnson and Britain for their support.

The two men have formed a close relationship since Johnson became the first Western leader to visit Ukraine after Russia's invasion. Earlier this month, Zelenskyy said he was saddened when Johnson quit as Conservative Party leader after months of ethics scandals.

The Ukrainian leader received a standing ovation in the British Parliament in March, when he invoked one of Churchill's most famous speeches and vowed to fight Russian troops in the air, sea and on the streets.

The Churchill leadership award was first presented in 2006. Past recipients include Prince Charles, former British Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and John Major, and former US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

177. Consider the following match in the column and identify which of the following has been incorrectly matched for ICC

Women's ODI World Cup.

- A. 2024 Women's T20 World Cup - England
- B. 2026 Women's T20 World Cup - Bangladesh
- C. Women's T20 Champions Trophy - Sri Lanka
- D. 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup - India
- E. Both A and B
- F. Both B and C

- *India will host the 2025 ICC Women's ODI World Cup.*
- *The International Cricket Council (ICC) has selected four countries to host the ICC Women's World Cup from 2024 to 2027.*
- *These four countries are India, Bangladesh, England, and Sri Lanka.*
- *Bangladesh will host the 2024 Women's T20 World Cup. Its 2026 edition will be held in England.*
- *Sri Lanka will host the Women's T20 Champions Trophy in 2027 but it will depend on whether it qualifies for the competition.*
- *2022 ICC Women's Cricket World Cup was held in New Zealand in March and April.*
- *The Women's ODI World Cup 2025 will be the fifth time India will host an ICC Women's tournament. The ICC Women's ODI World Cup 2025 will comprise eight teams and a total of 31 matches. India had previously hosted four ICC Women's*

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World Cups, including One t20 in 2016 and ODI in 1978, 1997, and 2013.

- *Veteran cricketers VVS Laxman and Daniel Vettori have been appointed to the ICC Men's Cricket Committee as current player representatives. West Indies cricketer Roger Harper was also appointed as the second past player representative, joining former Sri Lanka skipper Mahela Jayawardena.*
- *The election for the ICC Chairman's position will take place in November 2022. The position is currently occupied by Greg Barclay. His term is scheduled to come to an end this year. The term of the ICC Chairman will run for a period of two years, from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2024.*

India to host 2025 women's ODI World Cup

Laxman named player representative

ICC MEETING
NEW DELHI
India will host the women's 50-over World Cup in 2025 as the BCCI successfully bid for the mega event during the ICC Annual Conference that concluded in Birmingham on Tuesday. India had previously hosted the event in 1978, 1997 and 2013. Three other ICC women's events were also awarded on the day. Bangladesh will host the 2024 T20 World Cup, England the 2026 edition, and Sri Lanka the inaugural T20 Champions Trophy in 2027.

"We were keen on hosting the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 and we are glad we have won the hosting rights for this marquee clash on the women's calendar," said BCCI president Sourav Ganguly. The ICC Board also approved both the men's and women's Future Tours Programme (FTP) from 2023 to

2027 and they will be published in the coming days. It is learnt that India will play 38 Tests during the said period.

WTC finals at Lord's
The Final of the World Test Championships in 2023 and 2025 will be played at Lord's. VVS Laxman has been appointed to the ICC Men's Cricket Committee as current player representative alongside former New Zealand skipper Daniel Vettori. Roger Harper has been selected as the second past player representative on the committee, joining Mahela Jayawardene.

The Board approved the process to elect the next Chair of the ICC which will take place in November 2022. The term of the elected Chair will run for a two-year period from December 1, 2022. Cambodia, Cote D'Ivoire and Uzbekistan were made associate members at the meeting.

178. Recently in **England**, the **Leicester Cricket Ground** has been named after which of the following Indian cricketer?

- A. Sachin Tendulkar
- B. Sourav Ganguly
- C. Sunil Gavaskar
- D. Ravi Shastri
- E. None of these

- *In England, the Leicester Cricket Ground has been named after India's legendary cricketer, Sunil Gavaskar. The former Indian cricket team captain Gavaskar is often considered one of the most skilled batters ever.*
- *He was the first cricketer to score 10,000 runs and once held the record for most number (34) of centuries.*
- *During the 70s and 80s, when West Indies were ruling world cricket, Gavaskar was impressed with his impressive technique against the Windies' fast bowlers. He was also part of the Indian team that won the 1983 World Cup.*
- *There has been a ground already named after Sunil Gavaskar in the Kentucky area of the United States of America (USA) and there is another ground going through its finishing touches in the Zanzibar area of the African nation Tanzania which is also named after the former Indian opener.*
- *Sunil Gavaskar later also became the first-ever Batter in the history of test cricket to cross the tally of 10,000 runs. His great contemporary G. R Viswanath was a more stylish player. But the compactness and precision of Gavaskar's batting made watching him a delightful experience.*

179. Consider the following statement regarding **Commonwealth Games 2022**.

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1. Indian hockey team skipper **Manpreet Singh** has been named India's second flagbearer after PV Sindhu for **Commonwealth Games 2022**.
2. The **colorful opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games will begin at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Indian hockey team skipper Manpreet Singh has been named India's second flagbearer after two-time Olympic medalist PV Sindhu for the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games 2022.**
- **The decision comes after the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) was intimated by the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Organising Committee that two Flagbearers - one male and one female - must be named by each nation for the Opening Ceremony.**
- **The colorful opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games will begin at Alexander Stadium in Birmingham.**
- **Notably, Manpreet led the Indian hockey team to a bronze-medal finish at the Tokyo Olympics last year. Earlier, Neeraj Chopra, gold-medalist at the Tokyo Olympics in Javelin was expected to be the hot favorite to be India's flagbearer, but the 24-year-old was ruled out of the CWG 2022, owing to an injury.**

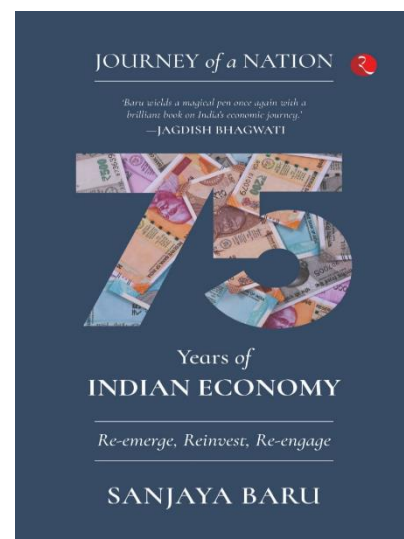
Manpreet, Sindhu named flagbearers

PV Sindhu and hockey team captain Manpreet Singh were named flagbearers of the Indian contingent for Thursday's opening ceremony. Olympic champion Neeraj Chopra, also the defending champion in the Commonwealth Games having won the gold in Gold Coast four years ago, was expected to be the flagbearer. But a groin injury following his silver medal at the World Championships forced him to pullout and the Indian Olympic Association picked Sindhu ^{20/26} Manpreet to be the flagbearers. The organisers have decided that each nation must name two flagbearers, one male and one female.

180. Who is the author of the book titled "**JOURNEY OF A NATION: 75 YEARS OF INDIAN ECONOMY**"?

- A. Subhash Jain
- B. Sanjaya Baru**
- C. Bimal Julka
- D. Amitav Ghosh
- E. None of these

- **As India celebrates 75 years of Independence, it is important to recall that as a democratic republic, it has been able to overcome the burden of colonialism and emerge as the world's third-largest economy.**
- **Sanjaya Baru, economist, and political analyst trace the nature of this transformation, introducing the ideas and events that have shaped economic policy, transforming a feudal, agrarian economy into a modern, industrial and services-based one.**



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- *75 Years of Indian Economy is a part of the series Journey of a Nation. This book is written for a general audience that wishes to be informed about the nature of India's economic transformation over the past 75 years.*
- *Sanjaya Baru has been editor of The Financial Express and Business Standard. He was the media advisor to former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.*

181. Consider the following statement regarding ICC Members List.

- 1. The three ICC members include Cote D'Ivoire from Africa and Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia.*
- 2. The total number of ICC members stands at 118 countries including 96 associates.*
- 3. Ukraine's application for ICC Membership has been postponed till cricket can safely resume within the country.*

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 ICC awarded membership status to three new countries during its ongoing annual conference in Birmingham on July 26, 2022. The three ICC members include Cote D'Ivoire from Africa and Cambodia and Uzbekistan from Asia.*
- *The addition of the three new member countries has taken the total number of ICC members to 108 countries including 96 associates.*
- *The two new Asian ICC members take the total number of Asian countries with ICC membership status to 25, while Cote D'Ivoire's addition takes the total number of African countries on the ICC Members List to 21.*
- *Uzbekistan, Cambodia, and Cote D'Ivoire were granted ICC Associate membership status after they satisfied the ICC membership criteria.*
- *One of the major criteria to gain ICC membership includes having a proper structure with minimum team requirements for 20 and 50-over tournaments.*
- *Uzbekistan-Uzbekistan is one of three new countries that was granted ICC Associate membership with the country's cricket federation laying out a women's cricket plan involving 15 teams playing organized competitions with a pathway program for Under-17 and Under-19 players.*
- *Cote D'Ivoire: The Cote D'Ivoire Cricket Federation also has a strong grassroots cricket program and runs a national league senior men's competition with eight teams.*
- *Cambodia: Cambodia's Cricket Association (CAC) was awarded the ICC membership status subject to it demonstrating a satisfactory pathway for women's cricket by the end of the year.*
- *The Cambodia cricket board is also planning a T20 tournament with eight teams for November 2022. The country also has 14 registered men's teams regularly playing senior domestic cricket in the country and a promising junior cricket program.*

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- *Ukraine's application for ICC Membership has been postponed till cricket can safely resume within the country. The ICC will though continue to support the Ukraine Cricket Federation through this process.*
- *Russia's ICC membership, which was suspended during the 2021 AGM has been terminated after the country's cricket board failed to resolve the issues and demonstrate compliance following the suspension.*

182. *Allyson Felix, who was recently appointed to the International Olympic Committee's athletes' commission belongs to which of the following country?*

- A. USA
- B. Jamaica
- C. Kenya
- D. Zimbabwe
- E. None of these

- *American sprint great Allyson Felix and a refugee cyclist originally from Afghanistan joined the International Olympic Committee's athletes' commission.*
- *Felix is the most decorated female track and field athlete in Olympic history with seven gold medals and joins the commission after winning her 14th career world championship title.*
- *Felix came out of retirement last week to run the prelims of the 4x400-meter relay. The American team went on to win the final Sunday at the world championships in Eugene, Oregon.*
- *Also appointed was cyclist Masomah Ali Zada, who was born in Afghanistan and competed in the women's cycling time trial on the IOC's refugee Olympic team last year in Tokyo. Ali Zada is now studying in France and will be the first refugee athlete on the commission.*
- *The other two new members are two-time Olympic triathlon champion Alistair Brownlee of Britain and Canadian athlete Oluseyi Smith, who has competed at both the Summer Olympics in track and the Winter Olympics in bobsled.*
- *The new members were all appointed to the IOC athletes' commission, which has a mix of members elected by other athletes and those appointed directly by IOC President Thomas Bach. Only the elected members typically also serve on the full IOC, which decides on Olympic host cities and will elect a new president to replace Bach in 2025.*

Felix joins IOC athletes' commission

Ali Zada, Brownlee and Smith also appointed

GENERAL

ASSOCIATED PRESS
LAUSANNE

American sprint great Allyson Felix and a refugee cyclist originally from Afghanistan joined the IOC's athletes' commission.

Felix is the most decorated female track and field athlete in Olympic history with seven gold medals and joins the commission after winning her 14th career world championship title.

Felix came out of retirement last week to run the prelims of the 4x400m relay. She went on to win the final Sunday at the world championships in Eugene.



Felix. AP

Also appointed was cyclist Masomah Ali Zada, who was born in Afghanistan and competed in the women's cycling time trial on the IOC's refugee Olympic team last year in Tokyo.

The other two new members are two-time Olympic triathlon champion Alistair

Brownlee of Britain and Canadian athlete Oluseyi Smith, who has competed at both the Summer Olympics in track and the Winter Olympics in bobsled.

"Athletes are at the very heart of the Olympic Movement, and it is therefore essential that their voices are heard within the IOC," Bach said in a statement. "Those voices must be as diverse as possible. The appointment of these four new members of the athletes' commission complements the outstanding skills and experience of the commission and ensures we have great representation across different sports and regions of the world."

183. Consider the following statement regarding the 44th Chess Olympiad.

1. All the matches will be played in the *Classical Swiss League Format*.
2. *AR Rahman* has released the anthem '*Vanakkam Chennai*' for the 44th International Chess Olympiad.

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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
- E. None of these

- 44th Chess Olympiad inaugurated by PM Modi in JLN Indoor Stadium, Chennai on 28 July.
- It is scheduled to be organized at Mamallapuram in Chennai from 28 July to 10 August.
- The chess Olympiad is being organized for the first time in India.
- 189 countries will participate in the tournament, the largest participation in any Chess Olympiad.
- All the matches will be played in the Classical Swiss League Format.
- A total of 30 players from India will participate in this edition of the tournament, these are divided into six teams.
- 187 countries have registered in the Open section while 162 countries in the Women's section.
- AR Rahman has released the anthem 'Vanakkam Chennai' for the 44th International Chess Olympiad.
- The prestigious competition, which has been organized since 1927, is being hosted in India for the first time and in Asia after 30 years.
- India is also fielding its biggest ever contingent in the competition comprising 30 players across 6 teams.
- Prime Minister will attend the 42nd Convocation of prestigious Anna University in Chennai on 29th July. During the program, he will award gold medals and certificates to 69 gold medalists. The Prime Minister will also address the gathering on the occasion.
- Anna University was established on 4 September 1978. It is named after C. N. Annadurai, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu
- NLC India Ltd. is joining hands with the Govt. of Tamil Nadu and the International (FIDE) and National (AICF) Chess Federations to organize the 44th Chess Olympiad to be held at Mahabalipuram, Chennai by taking the lead role in supporting the mega event as Associate Sponsor

184. Consider the following statement regarding **French Grand Prix 2022**.

1. **Max Verstappen won French Grand Prix 2022.**
2. **This is the seventh win for Verstappen in 12 races of this season.**

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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- Max Verstappen won French Grand Prix 2022.
- This is the seventh win for Verstappen in 12 races of this season. His total win reached 27, all with Red Bull.
- Lewis Hamilton, a Seven-time champion, finished second in his 300th Grand Prix.
- In the last laps, George Russell passed Sergio Perez's Red Bull to take third place and Perez finished fourth.
- Max Verstappen was also the winner of the French Grand Prix 2021.

185. Recently **Indian Sports Authority** has launched a new initiative _____ campaign to cheer for Team India.

- A. "Cheer for India"
- B. "Lead for India"
- C. "Create for India"**
- D. "Support for India"
- E. None of these

- Indian Sports Authority launched a new initiative "Create for India" campaign to cheer for Team India.
- A total of 215 Indian athletes representing 16 different sports will compete at the Commonwealth Games 2022 (XXII Commonwealth Games), which is beginning on July 28 in Birmingham.
- By July 26, 2022, participants can submit their creative entries using the hashtags #create4India and #cheer4India.
- The 2018 Commonwealth Games were organized in Gold Coast Queensland, Australia.
- Host nation Australia topped the event, and England and India finished second and third, respectively.
- India participated in the Commonwealth Games for the first time after independence in 1954.
- The Australian state of Victoria will host the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

186. Consider the following statement regarding (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.

1. Cabinet approves Signing of Guarantees for hosting Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India
2. It will be the seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament.
3. AIFF has proposed holding the competition matches in 3 venues namely; (a) Bhubaneshwar; (b) Navi Mumbai and (c) Goa.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Signing of Guarantees for hosting the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Under 17 Women's World Cup 2022 in India.
- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022 is scheduled to be held in India between 11th and 30th October 2022. The seventh edition of the biennial youth tournament will be the first-ever FIFA women's competition to be hosted by India.
- Carrying on the positive legacy from the FIFA Under-17 Men's World Cup 2017, the nation is preparing for a seminal moment for women's football when the best young female footballers from across the world will be showcasing their skills to lift the coveted trophy.
- Financial outlay of Rs. 10 crore assistance to All India Football Federation (AIFF) for Field of play Maintenance, Stadium power, Energy & Cabling, Stadia & Training Site Branding, etc. will be met from the budgetary allocation for the Scheme of Assistance to National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- The FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup is the world championship for female players under or up to the age of 17, organized by FIFA.
- The event started in 2008 and is traditionally held in even-numbered years.
- The 6th edition of the event was held in Uruguay from 13th November to 1st December 2018. Spain is the current champion of the FIFA Under-17 Women's World Cup.
- FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup India 2022 will be the 7th edition of the tournament in which 16 teams, including India, will participate. The AIFF has proposed holding the competition matches in 3 venues namely; (a) Bhubaneshwar; (b) Navi Mumbai and (c) Goa.

187. India's Sanket Mahadev Sargar has won India's first medal in weightlifting at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games with silver in the _____ Kg weight category.

- A. 48 Kg
- B. 55 Kg**
- C. 63 Kg
- D. 59 Kg
- E. None of these

- India's Sanket Mahadev Sargar has won India's first medal in weightlifting at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games with a silver in the 55 Kg weight category.
- He lifted a total of 248 Kg in the finals and landed the medal despite the injury.
- Malaysia's Aniq Kasdan won gold in the event with a combined lift of 249 kg.
- India's Sanket Sargar missed out on the weightlifting gold medal by just one kg. He managed to put up a silver-medal-winning performance despite getting an injury.

driven by sentiment, which is 15 per cent in the first half — are neither projecting a be



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188. *Bindyarani Devi won India a fourth medal at the Commonwealth Games weightlifting arena in Birmingham, bagging a silver medal in the Women's 55 kg weight class with a total lift of _____.*

- A. 202 Kg
- B. 210 Kg
- C. 212 Kg
- D. 220 Kg
- E. None of these

- *Bindyarani Devi won India a fourth medal on a successful day at the Commonwealth Games weightlifting arena in Birmingham, bagging a silver medal in the Women's 55 kg weight class.*
- *The 23-year-old created a Games record by lifting 116kg in the clean and jerk after a personal best of 86kg in the snatch section, totaling 202 kg.*
- *The gold medal expectedly went to Nigeria's Adijat Adenike Olarinoye, who lifted 203kg (92kg+111kg). She also smashed the Games record in snatch and total effort.*

189. *Mirabai Chanu claims India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with a total lift of 201 kg in the _____ kg category*

- A. 44 Kg
- B. 49 Kg
- C. 55 Kg
- D. 63 Kg
- E. None of these

- *Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-smashing spree, claiming four of them in a power-packed performance, to claim India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July 30, 2022.*
- *She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.*
- *The former world champion ended with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which is far from her personal best.*

Chanu wins India first gold at CWG



Weightlifter Mirabai Chanu equals the National Record and set the new Games Record and Commonwealth Record in Women's 49kg snatch category with a lift of 88kg

Lifter Sargar opens India's account with silver, Gururaja bags bronze at Birmingham

PTI ■ BIRMINGHAM

Star weightlifter Mirabai Chanu (49kg) went on a record-smashing spree, claiming four of them in a power-packed performance, to claim India's first gold medal at the Commonwealth Games here on Saturday.

In a remarkable performance, Chanu smashed the Commonwealth and CWG record in snatch. She obliterated the Games record in clean and jerk as well as total lift.

The former world champion ended with a total lift of 201kg (88kg+113kg), which is far better than her personal best. She equalled her national record lift of 88kg in the snatch section.

Earlier young Sanket Sargar won a silver medal while Gururaja Poojary won bronze.

The Olympic silver medalist, who has been working on her snatch technique, then attempted the much-anticipated 90kg but couldn't pull it off.

Sporting her famous 'lucky' earrings shaped like the Olympic rings, Chanu lifted more than twice her body weight (109kg, 113kg) in the clean and jerk, in which she holds the world record (119kg).

Continued on Page 2

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- She equaled her national record lift of 88kg in the snatch section.
- Mauritian weightlifter Marie Hanitra Roilya Ranaivosoa 172kg (76kg+96kg) won the silver.
- With this Chanu added a third CWG medal to her kitty, having won silver and gold in the Glasgow and Gold Coast editions respectively.

190. **Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary clinched the _____ medal in the men's 61 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.**

- A. Gold
- B. Silver
- C. **Bronze**
- D. None of the above

- **Weightlifter Gururaja Poojary clinched a bronze medal in the men's 61 kg category at the Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham.**
- **Gururaja had won a silver in the 56kg weight class at the 2018 Games on Gold Coast. At Birmingham, he won bronze with a total lift of 269kg.**
- **He made the best attempt of 118kg in the snatch round and 151kg in the clean and jerk round.**

191. **Who has won the prestigious Global Energy Prize for outstanding contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions?**

- A. Sanjiv Kumar
- B. Meenakshi Lekhi
- C. Inderjeet Gill
- D. **Kaushik Rajashekara**
- E. None of these

- **Kaushik Rajashekara has won the award for contributions to transportation electrification and energy efficiency technologies while reducing power generation emissions.**
- **This year, only three people from 119 nominations have been selected for this honor. The other two winners are – Mercuri Kanatzidis from the USA and Viktor Orlove from Russia.**
- **The awarding ceremony will be held during Russian Energy Week in Moscow on October 12-14.**
- **He is a renowned professor and has published more than 250 articles in international journals and co-authored one book with IEEE Press.**
- **In 2012, he was elected a member of the US National Academy of Engineering.**

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- Global Energy Prize is given by the Global Energy Association for outstanding scientific research and technological development in energy.
- It was started in 2002 at the initiative of Nobel Prize in Physics laureate Zhores Alferov.

192. Recently _____ refused for accepting the Banga Bibhushan award, the highest civilian honor conferred by the West Bengal government.

- A. Amartya Sen
- B. Ratan Tata
- C. Mukesh Ambani
- D. Gautam Adani
- E. None of these

Amartya Sen Refuses West Bengal Award

Nobel laureate says he has received many awards, wants it to go to other people

Our Political Bureau

Kolkata: Nobel laureate economist Amartya Sen on Sunday refused to accept the Banga Bibhushan award to be conferred upon by the West Bengal government on July 25.

"I spoke to my father this morning. He told me that he has received innumerable awards throughout his lifetime. He wants these awards to go to other people," Amartya Sen's daughter Antara Deb Sen said. Earlier, the Left Front had appealed to intellectuals, including Nobel laureates Amartya Sen and Abhijit Binayak Sen, to refuse the award by the 'corrupt' state government for the sake of job seekers and victims of the alleged West Bengal School Service Commission (WBSSC) scam. Sen was nominated for the Banga Bibhushan award by the state government and his name was announced on Saturday. Banga Bibhushan Samman is a title awarded by the West Bengal government to honour the services of personalities in various fields.

- Nobel laureate Amartya Sen will not be accepting the Banga Bibhushan award, the highest civilian honor conferred by the West Bengal government.
- The Banga Bibhushan was introduced by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in 2011, soon after she took over the reins of the state government. It is the higher one among the Banga Samman honors, the other being the Banga Bhushan.
- While Sen is learned to have declined the award, another Nobel laureate from the state, Abhijit Vinayak Banerjee — who shared the 2019 Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences with Esther Duflo and Michael Kremer — is said to have accepted the honor. A resident of the US, however, his Banga Bibhushan award is expected to be received by his mother, Nirmala, at Monday's ceremony.
- Banerjee is among 16 Banga Bibhushan and 20 Banga Bhushan recipients this year.
- Amartya Sen has already received the Bharat Ratna; there can be no bigger honor for any citizen.
- Sen is not the first to have refused the award. The late actor Soumitra Chatterjee once termed it a "bogus award" while turning it down, although he finally accepted it a few years later.

193. The *Badminton Asia Championships*, the showpiece continental event for the sport, will take place in _____ for the next five years.

- A. Singapore
- B. Malaysia
- C. UAE
- D. India
- E. None of these

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- *The Badminton Asia Championships, the showpiece continental event for the sport, will take place in UAE for the next five years after Dubai-based sports management and consultant company 'Beyond Boundaries' signed a deal with Badminton Asia (BA).*
- *The two organizations inked the deal last month in Singapore for the hosting of the event in the UAE from 2023 until 2027, according to the report. Manila held the most recent Championships in April 2022.*
- *The two organizations inked the deal last month in Singapore for the hosting of the event in the UAE from 2023 until 2027, according to the report. Manila held the most recent Championships in April 2022.*
- *Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia and Wang Zhiyi of China clinched the men's and women's singles titles at the 2022 event.*
- *The 2022 edition of the Asia Cup, which was scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka, has been shifted to the UAE.*
- *Earlier, the Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) had informed the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) about their inability to host the upcoming edition of the Asia Cup T20 because of the economic and political crisis in the island nation.*
- *Asia Cup is set to be played from August 27 to September 11, in the T20 format, this year.*

194. Recently In July **International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the All-India Chess Federation** partnered with _____ to launch **FIDE's first ever app "Fan Nxt. Now"** for iOS and Android built on the digital platform.

- A. Infosys
- B. **Tech Mahindra**
- C. Wipro
- D. Reliance Industries
- E. None of these

- *The International Chess Federation (FIDE) and the All-India Chess Federation have strengthened their partnership with Tech Mahindra, a leading provider of digital*

Dubai to host Badminton Asia Championships for next 5 yrs

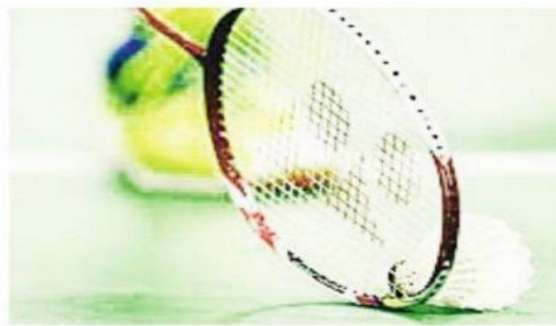
INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
DUBAI, 25 JULY

The Badminton Asia Championships, the showpiece continental event for the sport, will take place in UAE for the next five years after Dubai-based sports management and consultant company 'Beyond Boundaries' signed a deal with the Badminton Asia (BA), a report in insidethegames.biz said.

The two organisations inked the deal last month in Singapore for the hosting of the event in the UAE from 2023 until 2027, according to the report. Manila held the most recent Championships in April 2022.

This will be the first time the Championships will be held in the UAE. The tournament has been held annually since 1991, with the only break coming in 2020 and 2021 due to Covid-19.

The report added that Badminton Asia chief, Anton Subowo, its secretary-general Moosa Nashid and Beyond Boundaries chief



This will be the first time the Championships will be held in the UAE

executive Sathya Menon were present at the signing ceremony. "Badminton is one of the most popular sports with an all-time high participation and fan base," said Subowo. "It will be exciting to host the Badminton Asia Champi-

onships in a new arena." Malaysia's Lee Zii Jia and Wang Zhiyi of China clinched the men's and women's singles titles at the 2022 event, while Indonesia's Pramudya Kusumawardana and Yerima Rambitan bagged the men's doubles gold. Chen Qingchen and Jia Yifan of China bagged the women's doubles title, while the Chinese pair of Zheng Siwei and Huang Yaqing won the mixed doubles gold.

Asia Cup moved to UAE

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
COLOMBO

The Asia Cup T20 tournament will be staged in the United Arab Emirates after it was moved from Sri Lanka due to political turmoil in the island nation, the Asian Cricket Council (ACC) said on Wednesday.

The six-team Asia Cup will be played in the T20 format between August 27 and September 11. UAE, Kuwait, Singapore and Hong Kong will play in the qualifying round.

The winner will join Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Bangladesh in the main draw.

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transformation, consulting, and business re-engineering services and solutions, to launch FIDE's first-ever app for iOS and Android built on a digital platform, Fan Nxt. Now, on the sidelines of the 44th Chess Olympiad.

- The International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation, commonly referred to by its French acronym FIDE, is an international organization based in Lausanne Switzerland that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of international chess competition.
- President: Arkady Dvorkovich, Founded: 20 July 1924, Paris, France.

195. Consider the following statement regarding the 2022 World Athletics Championships.

1. Sydney McLaughlin became the first woman in history to run 400m hurdles under sub-51 seconds as she clocked 50.68s.
2. Nigeria's Tobi Amusan ran a sensational 12.12s in the heat of Women's 100m Hurdles to set a new world record.
3. Armand 'Modo' Duplantis further established his name as the greatest pole vaulter in the world as he leaped a best of 6.21m to be crowned the World Champion.
4. the United States topped the competition with a total of 33 medals, this includes 13 golds, the most of any nation.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Final Medals Table (Top 5)

	Country	G	S	B	Total
1	USA	13	9	11	33
2	Ethiopia	4	4	2	10
3	Jamaica	2	7	1	10
4	Kenya	2	5	3	10
5	China	2	1	3	6
33	India	0	1	0	1

PEERLESS!
 Sydney McLaughlin broke the world record for the 1st time in June 2021, running 51.90 at the US Olympic trials to beat Dalilah Muhammad's mark of 52.16. The 22-year-old still holds the U18 and U20 records.

McLaughlin's improvement of 0.73 seconds over her last world record is the second-best ever. The top spot is held by Tatyana Storozheva of the Soviet Union who improved the record by 0.77 seconds in 1977.

McLaughlin now owns the 3 fastest 400m hurdles times in history. In fact, she features six times in the top-10 list.

In the fast lane
 Time (in seconds)

SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN (USA) Hayward Field, Eugene, July 22, 2022	50.68
SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN (USA) Hayward Field, Eugene, June 25, 2022	51.41
SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN (USA) National Stadium, Tokyo, August 4, 2021	51.46
DALILAH MUHAMMAD (USA) National Stadium, Tokyo, August 4, 2021	51.58
SYDNEY MCLAUGHLIN (USA) Vanderbilt Track, Nashville, June 5, 2022	51.61

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- *The World Athletics Championships were held in America for the first time. And in terms of medals, Team USA made the most of their time over the last 10 days.*
- *India came up at number 33 overall and fourth in Asia, just behind China, Japan, and Kazakhstan. More than three times as many as any other nation in the competition, and more than any other nation has ever won at a global championship, the United States finished the competition with a total of 33 medals. This includes 13 golds, the most of any nation.*
- *India registered their best-ever show in the biannual event. Neeraj Chopra ended the nation's 19-year medal drought bagging a silver medal in the men's javelin throw.*
- *Sweden Armand 'Modo' Duplantis further established his name as the greatest pole vaulter the world has ever seen by improving his world record during the Men's Pole Vault Final at the 2022 World Athletics Championships.*
- *The 20-year-old leaped a best of 6.21m to be crowned the World Champion, going past his own 6.20m. What makes the Swede's feat even more astounding is the fact that the silver medal went to American Chris Nilsen for a mere 5.94m.*
- *Sydney McLaughlin became the first woman in history to run 400m hurdles under sub-51 seconds in the final of the World Championships. The American clocked 50.68s going past her world record of 51.41s set in the US Championships earlier this year.*
- *Nigeria's Tobi Amusan ran a sensational 12.12s in the heat of Women's 100m Hurdles at the 2022 World Athletics Championships to set a new article. The 25-year-old yet again broke the world record with a timing of 12.06s in the final, but the wind reading stood at +2.5m/s making it ineligible for a world record.*

Fraser-Pryce makes history with fifth 100m title

Crouser leads another American 1-2-3, this time in men's shot put

WORLD C'SHIPS

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
EUGENE

Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce made history on Sunday as she bagged a fifth World 100m title. Fraser-Pryce, a 35-year-old mother, led from gun to tape in a consummate display of sprinting that belied her age.

The Jamaican – with golds in the blue riband event in 2009, 2013, 2015 and 2019 – won in a championship record of 10.67s.

Shericka Jackson took silver in a personal best of 10.73s, with four-time Olympic sprint champion Elaine Thompson-Herah claiming bronze (10.81s).

First instance

It was the first time a nation had swept the medals in the women's 100m at the Worlds and came just a day after Fred Kerley led a US sweep of the men's 100m.

Meanwhile, Ryan Crouser led another American clean sweep, this time in the shot put alongside Joe Kovacs and Josh Awotunde.

There were also US 1-2 finishes in the women's pole vault thanks to Katie Nageotte and Sandi Morris, and the 110m hurdles as Grant Holloway retained his title ahead of teammate Trey Cunningham.

Holloway's victory in the



Peerless: Jamaicans Fraser-Pryce, Jackson and Thompson-Herah complete a first ever clean sweep of the women's 100m. **AFP**

It was definitely something on the cards. It's special, it's my fifth world title in the 100m, and doing it at 35, yes I said 35!

—FRASER-PRYCE

hurdles was marred by the withdrawal through injury of Jamaican Hansle Parchment while Devon Allen was dramatically ruled out after a heart-breaking false start on the same track where he starred as a college athlete.

Parchment, who had stunned Holloway to win Olympic gold last year,

clipped a hurdle during the warm-up and left clutching his thigh.

Earlier, Uganda's Joshua Cheptegei retained the men's 10,000m, Ethiopia's Tamirat Tola won the men's marathon and American Brook Andersen claimed gold in the women's hammer throw.

The results:

Men: Marathon: 1. Tamirat Tola (Eth) 2:05:36s; 2. Mosinet Geremew (Eth) 2:06:44s; 3. Bashir Abdi (Bel) 2:06:48s.

10,000m: 1. Joshua Cheptegei (Uga) 27:27.43s; 2. Stanley Waihaka Mburu (Ken) 27:27.90s; 3. Jacob Kiplimo

(Uga) 27:27.97s.

Shot put: 1. Ryan Crouser (USA) 22.94m; 2. Joe Kovacs (USA) 22.89m; 3. Josh Awotunde (USA) 22.29m.

110m hurdles: 1. Grant Holloway (USA) 13.03s; 2. Trey Cunningham (USA) 13.08s; 3. Asier Martinez (Esp) 13.17s.

Women: 100m: 1. Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (Jam) 10.67s; 2. Shericka Jackson (Jam) 10.73s; 3. Elaine Thompson-Herah (Jam) 10.81s.

Pole vault: 1. Katie Nageotte (USA) 4.85m; 2. Sandi Morris (USA) 4.85m; 3. Nina Kennedy (Aus) 4.80m.

Hammer: 1. Brooke Andersen (USA) 78.96m; 2. Camryn Rogers (Can) 75.52m; 3. Janee Kasanavold (USA) 74.86.

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Kerley leads US sweep of men's 100m

Fajdek claims record fifth hammer title; Gidey stuns Hasan

WORLD C'SHIPS

REUTERS
EUGENE
 Fred Kerley led an American clean sweep in the men's 100 metres final at the World Championships in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday and Chase Ealey helped give home fans a night to remember with the first U.S. victory in the women's shot put.



A dip in time...Kerley emerged the fastest man despite trailing Bracy, right, for most of the race. •REUTERS

Kerley, the Tokyo Olympics silver medalist, timed his dip perfectly to clock 9.86 seconds and pip compatriots Marvin Bracy and Trayvon Bromell in front of an underwhelming home crowd at Hayward Field. "It's amazing to do it on home soil with the home crowd behind us. It's a wonderful blessing to get a clean sweep," said Kerley, who had run the fastest-ever World Championships heat on Friday with 9.79.

Bracy edged Bromell for silver by two thousandths of a second after both ran 9.88. Another American, defending champion Christian Coleman, finished sixth.

Jacobs pulls out
 Italy's Olympic 100m champion Lamont Jacobs, who has battled a thigh injury for

several weeks, pulled out of the semifinals earlier on Saturday. In shot put, Ealey threw her opening attempt to win the U.S. team's first World Championships gold medal on home soil and deny China's Gong Lijiao a third successive title. Ethiopian world record holder Letesenbet Gidey beat defending champion Sifan Hassan to win the women's 10,000m gold in 30:09.94, the fastest time of the year.

In men's hammer, Poland's Pawel Fajdek produced the best throw of the

year to claim his fifth World title.

The results: Men: 100m: 1. Fred Kerley (USA) 9.86s; 2. Marvin Bracy (USA) 9.88s; 3. Trayvon Bromell (USA) 9.88s. **Hammer:** 1. Pawel Fajdek (Pol) 81.98m; 2. Wojciech Nowicki (Pol) 81.03m; 3. Eivind Henriksen (Nor) 80.87m.

Long jump: 1. Wang Jianan (Chn) 8.36m; 2. Miltiadis Tentoglou (Gre) 8.32m; 3. Simon Ehammer (Sui) 8.16m.

Women: 10000m: 1. Letesenbet Gidey (Eth) 30:09.94s; 2. Hellen Obiri (Ken) 30:10.02s; 3. Margaret Chelimo Kipkemboi (Ken) 30:10.07s. **Shot put:** 1. Chase Ealey (USA) 20.49m; 2. Gong Lijiao (Chn) 20.39m; 3. Jessica Schilder (Ned) 19.77m.

Indian wicketkeeper Karuna announces retirement

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE
 BENGALURU, 24 JULY

India wicketkeeper Karuna Jain on Sunday announced her retirement from all forms of cricket. Karuna featured for India in 25 Tests, 44 ODIs and nine T20Is from 2005 and 2014, making 195,987 and nine runs respectively.

On her ODI debut in 2004, she made 64 against the West Indies in Lucknow, which made her an integral part of the Indian team.

"I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been a part of my cricketing journey from the very beginning to all my coaches, support staff and my team mates whose been a part throughout my career."

"Each one of them has taught me something different about the game and life



that made me the player and person I am today.

It's been an incredible journey I've been able to have and it would not have been possible without everyone who supported me during my ups and downs," said Karuna in a statement posted on her official Instagram account.

In women's Tests, she

effected 17 dismissals behind the stumps, which is the second-best tally among Indian keepers after Anju Jain, who made 23 dismissals.

Karuna, the Bengaluru-based wicketkeeper, went on to thank everyone in her family as well the BCCI and state associations she represented in domestic circuit.

"My family being the

'My family being the biggest support and my brother being a cricketer himself made it easy and challenging for me to adopt the game and deliver the best in every time I stepped onto the grounds'

biggest support and my brother being a cricketer himself made it easy and challenging for me to adopt the game and deliver the best in every time I stepped onto the grounds.

I could continue to play the sport and contribute for a very long time because of unflinching support and sacrifices done by them."

Science Technology Defence And Environment

196. Recently seen in the news **Sakurajima volcano** is situated in which of the following country?

- A. Indonesia
- B. Spain
- C. Japan
- D. Iceland
- E. None of these



A file photo of Mount Sakurajima captured during a volcanic eruption. •REUTERS

Volcano erupts in southern Japan

A volcano on Japan's main southern island of Kyushu erupted Sunday night, spewing ash and rocks. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries in nearby towns but residents were advised to evacuate.

Japan's Meteorological Agency said Sakurajima volcano erupted at around 8:05 pm, blowing off large rocks as far as 2.5 km (1.5 miles) away in the southern prefecture of Kagoshima. Footage on Japan's NHK public television showed orange flames flashing near the crater and dark smoke of ash billowing from the mountaintop high up into the night sky.

"We will put the people's lives first and do our utmost to assess the situation and respond to any emergency," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihiko Isozaki told reporters. He called on residents in the area to pay close attention to the latest update from the local authorities to protect their lives. The agency said it has raised the eruption alert to the highest level of five and about 120 residents in two towns facing the volcano were advised to leave their homes. The agency warned of falling volcanic rocks in areas within 3 km of the crater and possible flow of lava, ash and searing gas within 2 km. AP

- Japan's Sakurajima volcano erupted for three straight days.
- The Japan Meteorological Agency (JMA) has announced the highest 'Level-5' alert.
- According to JMA officials, larger volcanic rocks could fall in parts of Kagoshima City within 3 kilometers of two craters.
- Sakurajima is one of the most active volcanoes in Japan and has erupted several times in recent decades.
- This volcano is located in the Kagoshima Prefecture on the southern tip of Japan.
- Mt. Shirane, Mt. Hakone, Mt. Taisetsu, and Mt. Aso are some other active volcanoes in Japan.

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197. Recently _____ became the *first Bangladeshi to reach the highest peak of K2.*

- A. **Wasifa Nazreen**
- B. Samina Baig
- C. Afsaneh Hesamifard
- D. Nushrat Jhan
- E. None of these

Jul 25, 2022, 11:38AM

Wasifa Nazreen becomes first Bangladeshi to scale world's second highest peak K2

Mountaineer Wasifa Nazreen became the first Bangladeshi to scale the second highest mountain peak K2 in Pakistan. She climbed the 8611 metres or 28,251 feet high K2 mountain peak and returned to the base camp on Friday. A summit is technically complete when the climber returns back to the base camp from the peak.



On completing this historic task, the 39-year-old mountaineer Wasifa paid tribute to all the known and unknown martyrs of Bangladesh from the language movement to the liberation war. She encouraged her countrymen to take inspiration from the past and never give up. From the summit of the world's most dangerous mountain, Wasifa thanked everyone who helped her in this and congratulated Bangladesh by saying, 'Happy 50th Bangladesh, here's to the next glorious

earlier, while entering the summit to K2, Wasifa wrote on her Facebook page, 'When the time comes for me to exit the planet, please rejoice knowing I lived or aspired to live...my life free from society and other people's judgment. I made my own rules. My mind is free. I live under no captivity. And I wish for each of you to live with the same FREEDOM. May all beings be free.'

Wasifa Nazreen climbed Mount Everest in 2012. She is the second woman from Bangladesh to do so.

- **Wasifa Nazreen became the first Bangladeshi to reach the highest peak of K2.**
- **Wasifa Nazreen climbed Mount Everest in 2012 and she is the second Bangladesh woman to do so.**
- **Samina Baig becomes the first Pakistani woman to climb K2 while Afsaneh Hesamifard became the first Iranian woman to do so.**
- **47-year-old Nepali Sherpa sets a record by climbing all the world's 14 peaks that are higher than 8,000 meters (26,247 ft) for a second time.**
- **Last year, Shehroze Kashif became the world's youngest mountaineer to climb K2.**
- **K2: It is located in the Karakoram Range.**
- **It is also called Mount Godwin Austen.**
- **It is the second-highest mountain in the world at 8,611 meters (28,251 ft).**

198. Recently *Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)* and _____ have signed an agreement to boost start-ups in the maritime sector.

- A. IIM Ahmedabad
- B. **IIM Kozhikode**
- C. IIT Madras
- D. IIT Ropar
- E. None of these

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- *The Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and the Indian Institute of Management-Kozhikode (IIMK) have signed an agreement to boost start-ups in the maritime sector. The CSL and IIMK's business incubator Laboratory for Innovation Venturing and Entrepreneurship (LIVE) plan to augment initiatives to develop an ecosystem for supporting the startups in the maritime sector from the technical, regulatory, financial, and marketing points of view by bringing the stakeholders together.*
- *The agreement in this regard was signed on Friday(22nd July 2022) between Executive Director of IIMK LIVE, Prof. Rajesh Upadhyayula, and General Manager (C-SAS) of CSL, Deepu Surendran, in presence of IIMK Director, Prof. Debashis Chatterjee and Chairman and Managing Director of CSL, Madhu S Nair. CSL said that under this initiative, start-ups can get up to Rs 50 lakh as seed grants, Rs one crore as prototyping grants, and equity funding for start-ups at the scale-up stage.*
- *IIMK LIVE will act as an implementation partner of this initiative and will provide incubation, mentorship, and training to startups selected under this program.*

199. Recently which flagship initiative of the **Department of Defence Production, the Ministry of Defence** signed the 100th contract for defense innovation?

- A. **Innovations for Defence Excellence**
- B. **Defence Innovation Organisation**
- C. **Defence India Start-up Challenges**
- D. **Defense Acquisition Council**
- E. **None of these**

- *iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, ceremoniously embarked upon the milestone of signing its 100th contract on 26 July 2022.*
- *iDEX framework was launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2018 with the objective that it would provide the platform for co-creation and co-development in the Defence sector, and would engage start-ups to contribute to the defense sector and develop defense and aerospace set up in the country.*
- *iDEX is being implemented by Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), established under the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence.*
- *To date, iDEX has launched iDEX Prime, seven rounds of DISC (including DISC SPRINT), and five rounds of OC, receiving more than 4,000 applications from individual innovators, MSMEs, and start-ups.*
- *More than Rs 250 crore worth of projects have been allocated and procurement of 14 items worth over Rs 400 crore has been cleared. iDEX has also been able to generate thousands of jobs and attract India's talent back to the country.*

IDEX SIGNS ITS 100TH CONTRACT

New Delhi: In a major boost to promote ingenuity in defence manufacturing, the iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence), the flagship initiative of the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, ceremoniously embarked upon the milestone of signing its 100th contract on Tuesday. The 100th contract was signed by Additional Secretary (Defence Production) and CEO, DIO Sanjay Jaju with CEO Pacify Medical Technologies Pvt Ltd Saiprasad Poyarekar.

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200. Consider the following match of the column in respect to the annual awards function of the Western Fleet (WF), Fleet Evening 2022, or 'FLING'. Which is matched incorrectly?

- A. INS Chennai - Best Ship
- B. INS Talwar - Most Spirited Ship
- C. INS Aditya - Best Ship in Tankers & OPVs category.
- D. All are correct**
- E. None of these

- The annual awards function of the Western Fleet (WF), Fleet Evening 2022, or 'FLING' as the event is popularly called, commemorating the accomplishments of the 'Sword Arm of the Indian Navy, over the past year, was held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 24 July 2022.
- Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command was the chief guest at the event, hosted by Rear Admiral Sameer Saxena, Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet.
- In the Fleet award ceremony, a total of 21 trophies, representing varied dimensions of maritime operations were awarded to meritorious ships.
- These include INS Chennai - Best Ship, INS Talwar - Most Spirited Ship, and INS Aditya - Best Ship in Tankers & OPVs category. All awards recognized the overall excellence and valuable contribution of individual ships and the gallant crew, who have maintained a constant vigil in service to the Nation.

201. Recently in July an MoU was signed by _____ and the Airport Authority of India in Port Blair to boost inter-island connectivity under Udaan Scheme.

- A. Western Command
- B. Northern Command
- C. Andaman Nicobar Command**
- D. Eastern Command
- E. None of these

- An MoU was signed by Andaman Nicobar Command and Airport Authority of India in Port Blair to boost inter-island connectivity under Udaan Scheme.
- As per the MoU, naval airfields at Shibpur (in Diglipur) in North Andaman and Campbell Bay will be utilized for civil operations. Passenger flights will be connecting Port Blair directly to Diglipur and Campbell Bay, the two extreme corners of the archipelago.
- A low-cost 20-passenger flight to be operated between these islands as per the vision of the Udaan Scheme.
- Presently, Heli services are available to Diglipur and Campbell in a very limited capacity. Diglipur is the third most populous town in Andaman while a major transshipment port is to come up in Campbell Bay.

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- **Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik, known by its acronym UDAN is a regional airport development program of the Government of India and part of the Regional Connectivity Scheme for upgrading under-served air routes. Its goal is to make air travel affordable and improve economic development in India.**
- **Launched: 21 October 2016.**

202. Consider the following statement regarding India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant.

- 1. India's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier INS Vikrant handed over to the Indian Airforce.**
- 2. Prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant is built by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd.**
- 3. The 262-meter-long aircraft carrier is the largest ever warship to be built in the country.**

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

- **Maritime history was created yesterday with the Indian Navy taking delivery of the prestigious Indigenous Aircraft Carrier Vikrant, built by the Cochin Shipyard.**
- **The Commanding Officer Designate of Vikrant, Commodore Vidyadhar Harke, and the Chairman and Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Madhu S Nair signed the documents relating to the delivery of the vessel.**
- **The name of India's first Aircraft Carrier was also INS Vikrant which played a vital role in the 1971 war. It was decommissioned in 1997 after 36 years of glorious service to the Navy.**
- **The Defence Ministry said in a release that the reincarnation of Vikrant is a true testimony to the country's zeal and fervor in pursuing capability build-up towards enhanced maritime security.**
- **The 262-meter-long aircraft carrier is the largest ever warship to be built in the country.**
- **The vessel, which has a displacement of 45,000 tonnes, has been built at an overall cost of close to 20,000 crore rupees.**



CSL delivers indigenous aircraft carrier *Vikrant* to Indian Navy

OUR BUREAU

Kochi, July 28

Cochin Shipyard Ltd on Thursday delivered the first indigenously built aircraft carrier, IAC-1, to the Indian Navy.

The acceptance form was signed between Madhu S Nair, Chairman and Managing Director, CSL, and the Commanding Officer (Designate) of the vessel, Commodore Vidyadhar Harke, VSM.

The aircraft carrier is sched-

uled to be commissioned and inducted into service in August. With this, India has joined the elite club of nations capable of designing and constructing an aircraft carrier. Considering its complexity and developmental nature, the project was executed in three phases and the last phase of the contract was signed in October 2019.

IAC-1 is the largest warship ever to be built in India having a deep displacement of

45,000 tonne. The 21,500-tonne mammoth vessel is made with special grade steel, used for the first time by the Indian Navy. It has over 2,300 km of cabling, 120 km of piping and over 2,300 compartments or

The b 13/17 as developed by Cochin Naval Design and the entire detailed engineering, construction and system integration was undertaken by the Cochin Shipyard Limited.

	262 METRES long carrier
	45,000 TONNES Weight
	4 Gas turbines totalling 88MW power
	28 knots maximum speed
	₹ 20,000 CR Cost

Navy officers at the handing-over ceremony in Kochi. PTI

LAUNCHED IN 2013	
1999: Work on the ship's design begins	
FEB 2009: Keel laid	
DEC 29, 2011: Carrier floated out of its dry dock	
AUG 12, 2013: INS Vikrant launched	
DEC 2020: Basin trials over	
AUG 2021: Sea trials begin	

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- The IAC is capable of operating 30 aircraft comprising MIG-29K fighter jets, Kamov-31, and MH-60R multi-role helicopters, in addition to indigenously manufactured Advanced Light Helicopters and Light Combat Aircraft.
- The vessel is powered by four Gas Turbines totaling 88 MW power and has a maximum speed of 28 Knots.
- The Vikrant's fixed-wing aircraft operate by using the STOBAR (short take-off with barrier arrested landing) principle.
- The aircraft carrier will be initially commissioned in the western naval command.

203. To commemorate the victory of the **Indian Armed Forces** and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in "Operation Vijay", Point 5140 at Dras in the Kargil sector has been christened as _____.

- A. Shikha Hill
- B. Gun Hill**
- C. Swaraj Hill
- D. Azadi Hill
- E. None of these

- To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in "Operation Vijay", Point 5140 at Dras in the Kargil sector has been christened as Gun Hill.
- Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defenses including Point 5140, which was the key factor in the early completion of operations.
- To commemorate the victory of the Indian Armed Forces and pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice of the Gunners in "Operation Vijay", Point 5140 at Dras in the Kargil sector has been christened as Gun Hill.
- Regiment of Artillery of the Indian Army, with lethal and accurate firepower, was able to have a telling effect on the enemy troops and their defenses including Point 5140, which was the key factor in the early completion of operations.

204. Consider the following statement regarding **MH 60R multi-role helicopters**.

1. The Indian Navy received **5 MH 60R multi-role helicopters** from the United States at the Cochin International Airport.
2. The helicopters were part of the **24 MH 60 R Multirole helicopters** being procured by India from the United States at **2.2 Bn (Over 14000 Cr)**.
3. These helicopters will be initially based at the **Naval Air Station INS Garuda in Pune**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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- *The Indian Navy received two MH 60R multi-role helicopters from the United States at the Cochin International Airport procured from US defense major Lockheed Martin.*
- *The copters were delivered by the Special Air Assignment Mission Flight of the US Air Force.*
- *The helicopters were part of the 24 MH 60 R Multirole helicopters being procured by India from the United States at 2.2 Bn (Over 14000 Cr).*
- *The first three helicopters delivered last year in the US are being utilized for training the Indian Navy crew.*
- *Another helicopter is scheduled to be delivered on the 22nd of next month.*
- *These helicopters will be initially based at the Naval Air Station INS Garuda in Kochi and will be put through intensive flying trials for integration into the Navy's fleet operations.*

2 submarine-hunting copters arrive from US

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, JULY 28

The first lot of two MH 60R multi-role helicopters, equipped with submarine-hunting capability, arrived at Cochin while a third copter is scheduled to be delivered in August.

Besides, three MH 60Rs delivered in the US in 2021 are being utilised for training Indian Navy crew.

India and the US, in February 2020, agreed for the sale of 24 such copters at a cost of nearly Rs 14,000 crore under the framework of foreign military sales.

The all-weather helicopters come armed with Hellfire missiles and lethal rocket systems. The helicopter, manufactured by Lockheed Martin, is also fitted with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors to pick out submarines. China has a fleet of some 60 such under-sea vessels. The induction of the



ALL 24 MH 60Rs TO ARRIVE BY 2025

- The all-weather helicopters come armed with Hellfire missiles and lethal rocket systems
- These are also fitted with state-of-the-art avionics and sensors to pick out submarines
- All 24 copters scheduled for delivery by 2025, will boost anti-sub warfare capability

state-of-the-art copters will significantly boost the anti-submarine warfare capability of the Navy. All 24 helicopters are scheduled for delivery by 2025.

- *The delivery of all the 24 MH 60 R multirole helicopters will be completed by 2025.*
- *The induction of these helicopters will significantly boost the integral Anti-Submarine Warfare capability of the Indian Navy.*
- *These helicopters would serve as replacements for the Sea King 42/42A helicopters that were already decommissioned in the 1990s.*

205. Recently _____ IIT collaborated *with the Government of Tamil Nadu to implement a scientific enforcement approach to road safety.*

- A. IIT Ropar
- B. IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIR Bombay
- E. None of these

- *Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras will collaborate with the Government of Tamil Nadu to implement a scientific enforcement approach to road safety.*
- *TN Special Task Force, Road Safety, and the Centre of Excellence for Road Safety (CoERS), IIT Madras signed an agreement on the collaboration recently.*
- *The key outcomes targeted from this collaboration include: A design framework for conducting empirical ground studies, identification of gaps in data collection, and providing a structured methodology for data collection and analysis*
- *Provide recommendations on data-driven process improvements in enforcement strategies.*

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206. Recently NASA announced to launch _____ mini helicopters to Mars in its effort to return Martian rocks and soil samples to Earth.

- A. 2
- B. 5
- C. 3
- D. 6
- E. None of these

- NASA is launching two more mini helicopters to Mars in its effort to return Martian rocks and soil samples to Earth.
- Under the plan announced NASA's Perseverance rover will do double duty and transport the cache to the rocket that will launch them off the red planet a decade from now.
- If Perseverance breaks down, the two helicopters being built and launched later this decade would load the samples onto the rocket instead.
- The helicopters will be modeled after NASA's successful Ingenuity, which has made 29 flights since arriving with Perseverance at Mars early last year.
- The chopper weighs just 4 pounds (1.8 kilograms). The new versions would have wheels and grappling arms.
- NASA is collaborating with the European Space Agency on the retrieval mission. If all goes as planned, as many as 30 samples would blast off from Mars in 2031 and arrive at Earth in 2033.

207. Consider the following statement regarding MiG-21 Bison aircraft.

1. MiG-21 Bison will be phased out of IAF by 2025.
2. The IAF is looking towards reviving these squadrons back into service with the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Helina.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- There are four squadrons of MiG-21 Bison aircraft currently in service in the IAF with each squadron comprising 16-18 aircraft, including two trainer versions.

{ PERSEVERANCE }

NASA TO LAUNCH TWO MORE MINI CHOPPERS TO MARS IN BID TO BRING BACK ROCKS

Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

CAPE CANAVERAL, FLORIDA: Nasa is launching two more mini helicopters to Mars in its effort to return Martian rocks and soil samples to Earth.

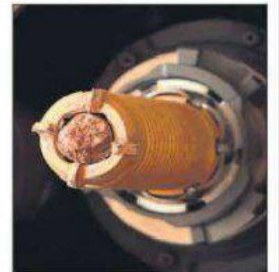
Under the plan announced Wednesday, Nasa's Perseverance rover will do double duty and transport the cache to the rocket that will launch them off the red planet a decade from now.

Perseverance already has gathered 11 samples with more rock drilling planned. The most recent sample, a sedimentary rock, holds the greatest promise of containing possible evidence of ancient Martian life, said Arizona State University's Meenakshi Wadhwa, chief scientist for the retrieval effort.

If Perseverance breaks down, the two helicopters being built and launched later this decade would load the samples onto the rocket instead.

The helicopters will be modelled after Nasa's successful Ingenuity, which has made 29 flights since arriving with Perseverance at Mars early last year. The chopper weighs just 4 pounds (1.8kg). The new versions would have wheels and grappling arms.

Nasa officials said Perseverance's impressive performance at Mars prompted them to ditch their plan to launch a separate fetch rover. Jeff Gramling, director of Nasa's Mars sample return programme, said the revised path forward is simpler. Each helicopter will be designed to lift one sample tube at a time, making multiple trips back and forth.



This photo provided by Nasa shows a rock collected by the Perseverance rover on Mars. AP

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- **Out of these one squadron, Srinagar-based No 51 Squadron, is going to be retired from service or 'number plated' in IAF jargon on September 30 this year, leaving three squadrons in service.**
- **Out of these three squadrons, one will be number plated each year and, thus, MiG-21 Bison will be phased out of IAF by 2025.**
- **To help the IAF replace its aging fighter fleet, the Defence Ministry in February last year sealed a ₹48,000 crore deal with the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) for the procurement of 83 Tejas fighter aircraft.**
- **There have been six MiG-21 Bison crashes in the last two 20 months, with five crashes in 2021 and one in 2022.**
- **The squadron, also known as 'Swordarms', was part ' of 'Operation Safed Sagar' during the Kargil conflict in 1999 as well as the operation to repulse Pakistan's retaliatory action on February 27, 2019, a day after India's air strike in Balakot inside the neighboring country.**
- **The first fleet of the Mig variant was inducted into the IAF in 1963 and India procured over 700 Mig-variants in the subsequent decades.**

IAF to phase out MiG-21 fighters by 2025

With death of two more pilots on Thursday, 34 have died in crashes in the last 5 years



OUR BUREAU
New Delhi, July 29

The death of two pilots in a MiG-21 trainer crash at Barmer last evening raised questions about the airworthiness of the ageing platform. The Indian Air Force is now going to retire one more squadron of the Bison stationed at Srinagar on September 30. IAF sources stated that the other three squadrons will also fly into history in batches till 2025.

Two pilots, Flight Lieutenant Aditya Bal and Wing Commander M Rana, were killed in the crash on Thursday adding to the tally of 34 deaths of Air Force personnel in 29 crashes in the last five years.

Tejas to replace MIG 21s
"The 51 Squadron based out of Srinagar air base is being number plated on September 30. IAF sources said that after this, only three squadrons of the planes would be left in service and they would be phased out by the year 2025."

Every year, the IAF sources added, one squadron of single-engine Bisons would be phased out. The LCA Tejas is expected to fill in the void post MiG-21s getting into the boneyard from the 51st squadron, which had a share of glory for repulsing Pakistan's counter aerial attack on India on February 27, 2019. Then Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman, who has since been promoted to Group Captain, flew a Bison to take out Pakistan's F-16, but his jet was shot down after he ventured onto the other side of the border. He, however, ejected and was in Pakistan's custody before being released to return to India. The delay in retiring the ageing MiG-21s has been attributed to a delay in procurement of the LCA. The IAF officials said that the exact cause of the crash in Barmer, on Rajasthan's border with Pakistan, would emerge in an inquiry. The Ministry of Defence informed the Rajya Sabha in a written reply in March that 45 aircraft and helicopters of the armed forces have crashed, leading to the deaths of 42 servicemen, including Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, in the last five years. While the IAF lost a maximum of 34 personnel, the Army accounted for 12 accidents which took away seven lives, and the Navy lost one life in four air crashes, Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt said.

1960s vintage
The MiG-21 are of 1963 vintage, with the IAF inducting 874 since then. Over 400 of them were lost to accidents that snuffed out the lives of at least 200 pilots, according to a former IAF officer.

208. A big pink diamond of 170 carats called the "Lulo Rose," has been discovered in _____ which is claimed to be the largest such gemstone found in 300 years.
- Angola
 - Egypt
 - Bermuda
 - Australia
 - None of these

Big pink diamond discovered in Angola, largest in 300 yrs

AGENCIES / Johannesburg

A big pink diamond of 170 carats has been discovered in Angola and is claimed to be the largest such gemstone found in 300 years.

Called the "Lulo Rose", the diamond was found at the Lulo alluvial diamond mine, the mine's owner, the Lucapa Diamond Company, announced on Wednesday on its website.

The Lulo mine has already produced the two largest diamonds ever found in Angola, including a 404-carat clear diamond.

The pink gemstone is the fifth largest diamond found at the mine where 27 diamonds of 100 carats or more have been found, according to Lucapa, which is based in Australia.

The pink diamond will be sold by international tender by the Angolan state diamond marketing company, Sodiam.



- **A big pink diamond of 170 carats has been discovered in Angola and is claimed to be the largest such gemstone found in 300 years.**
 - **Called the "Lulo Rose," the diamond was found at the Lulo alluvial diamond mine, the mine's owner, the Lucapa Diamond Company.**
209. What is the name of the satellite built by 750 girl students of 75 schools across India as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence?

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- A. **AzaadiSAT**
- B. SwadhintaSAT
- C. SwaraSAT
- D. IndiSAT
- E. None of these

- **Built by 750 girl students of 75 schools across India, AzaadiSAT is all set for launch early next month onboard the maiden flight of ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).**
- **The eight-kg satellite has 75 Femto experiments, selfie cameras to click pictures of its solar panels, and long-range communication transponders.**
- **The project, with a mission life of six months, is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence.**
- **This is the first of its kind space mission with an all-women concept to promote women in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) as this year's UN theme is 'Women in Space.'**
- **The Indian Space Research Organisation has developed the SSLV to put in low earth orbit satellites weighing less than 500 kg, which is much in demand for applications such as earth observation and providing internet connectivity in remote areas.**
- **The primary payload of the first demonstration flight of SSLV is an earth observation satellite MicroSat 2A.**

AzaadiSat, built by 750 girl students, to reach orbit next week onboard ISRO's SSLV

NEW DELHI: Built by 750 girl students of 75 schools across India, AzaadiSAT is set for launch early next month onboard the maiden flight of ISRO's Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). The 8-kg satellite has 75 Femto experiments, selfie cameras to click pictures of its own solar panels and long-range communication transponders. Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (INSPACE), in a tweet, said 750 girl students from 75 schools across India will be "cheerfully looking at the maiden launch of India's latest launch vehicle SSLV, as it carries their AzaadiSat onboard as a co-passenger". "This is the first of its kind space mission with an all-women concept to promote women in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) as this year's UN theme is 'Women in Space,'" Rifath Sharook, chief technology officer, at Space Kidz India, which has developed the satellite, told PTI.

210. Tadoba Anderi Tiger Reserve which was seen in the news recently as it plays host for National Global Tiger Day Celebrations 2022 is situated in which of the following state?

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

- **Tadoba Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra plays host to National Global Tiger Day Celebrations 2022**
- **Union Minister of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Bhupender Yadav, and Minister of State for Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Shri Ashwini**

{ **MOST IN MADHYA PRADESH** }

1,059 tiger deaths in 10 yrs: NTCA

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: There were 1,059 tiger deaths in India since 2012, with Madhya Pradesh recording the highest number of deaths, according to data published by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) on their website.

According to NTCA, 75 tigers have died across the country this year, while 127 died last year, the highest in the last decade.

Madhya Pradesh, which has six tiger reserves, and the highest population of tigers in the country, recorded 202 deaths between 2012 and 2020, followed by Maharashtra (141), Karnataka (123), Uttarakhand (93), Assam (60), Tamil Nadu (62), Uttar Pradesh (44) and Kerala (45).

Madhya Pradesh has lost 68 tigers in the last one-and-a-half years, while Maharashtra has



Raja, one of the oldest tigers in India, died at a rescue centre in north Bengal on July 11.

seen 42 tiger deaths during this period.

"While these numbers seem alarming, MP's tiger population has gone up in the past ten years. MP has the highest tiger numbers in the country. For obvious reasons, it will also have a higher number of natural deaths. Having said this, one needs to keep a watch on the number of deaths because with high tiger numbers inside and outside tiger reserves,

MP can be a soft target for poachers," said Anish Andheria, president of Wildlife Conservation Trust.

According to the tiger census of 2019, India has 2,967 tigers, of which 526 are in Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh principal chief conservator of forest (wildlife), JS Chauhan, added: "The population of tigers has increased in the past few years in MP. Many tigers die naturally either due to ageing or in territorial fight. A few unnatural deaths happened due to electrocution. The forensic and expert team closes cases on the basis of evidence only. As of now, MP is doing good work for conservation of tigers." According to NTCA, 106 tiger deaths occurred in 2020, 96 in 2019, 101 in 2018, 117 in 2017, 121 in 2016, 82 in 2015, 78 in 2014, 68 in 2013 and 88 in 2012. 193 tigers died due to poaching in 2012-2020 period.

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Kumar Choubey attended the Global Tiger Day 2022 Celebrations held today at Chandrapur Forest Academy, Maharashtra.

- *The declaration to celebrate Global Tiger Day was taken on 29th July 2010 at St Petersburg to bring all tiger range countries together for increased thrust on tiger conservation and management globally. Since then this day is symbolically celebrated as Global Tiger Day.*
- *According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), 75 tigers have died across the country this year, while 127 died last year, the highest in the last decade.*
- *Madhya Pradesh, which has six tiger reserves, and the highest population of tigers in the country, recorded 202 deaths between 2012 and 2020*
- *According to the tiger census of 2019, India has 2967 tigers, of which 526 are in Madhya Pradesh.*

211. Recently _____ *received the 2nd Annual IUCN WCPA International Ranger Award 2022.*

- A. *Siriska National Park*
- B. *Buxa National Park*
- C. *Kuno National Park*
- D. *Orang National Park***
- E. *None of these*

- *Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve received the 2nd Annual IUCN WCPA International Ranger Award 2022.*
- *The award has been given by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).*
- *Orang National Park & Tiger Reserve has been awarded for its efforts to protect wild places and wildlife and to support local communities.*
- *The award was presented at the IUCN African Protected Areas Congress in Kigali, Rwanda.*
- *This year, seven individual rangers and three ranger teams have been awarded. Additionally, two rangers who work in tiger-inhabited areas were given special prizes.*
- *Orang National Park: It is spread over an area of 79.28 km².*
- *It is the oldest wildlife reserve in Assam and is also known as the mini Kaziranga National Park.*
- *It was established as a sanctuary in 1985 and declared a national park in 1999.*
- *International Ranger Award: It was established to recognize the courage and commitment of forest rangers.*
- *The individual winner or winning team gets US\$10,000 to support the conserved areas in which they work.*

212. Consider the following statement *regarding the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients.*

1. *ISRO earned \$279 million in forex through satellite launches*
2. *ISRO launched 245 foreign satellites from 34 countries on board Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).*

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3. The latest PSLV mission was on June 30 when ISRO's warhorse launch vehicle placed three Singaporean satellites into orbit.

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 Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), through its commercial arms, has earned \$279 million in foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients.
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), through its commercial arms, has earned \$279 million in foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients.
- Total foreign exchange revenue earned through the launching of foreign satellites amounts to \$56 million (one million=10 lakh) and 220 million Euros approximately,
- As per current exchange rates, 220 million euros are equivalent to 223 million dollars.
- The latest PSLV mission was on June 30 when ISRO's warhorse launch vehicle placed three Singaporean satellites into orbit. PSLV-C53 mission by ISRO, successfully launched three Singapore customer satellites namely DS-EO, NeuSAR, and SCOOB-1.
- The PSLV-C53 was the second dedicated commercial mission for NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), a Central Public Sector Enterprise under the administrative control of the Department of Space (DOS).

213. Consider the following statement regarding *Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope*.

1. Elon Musk's SpaceX has been awarded a NASA launch services contract for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope mission
2. Nancy Grace Roman is currently set for a 2024 launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida
3. The \$225 million telescope is named for NASA's first female executive, a pioneer, and astronomer who advanced the field and planned for Hubble.

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

ISRO earns \$279 m in forex through satellite launches

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, July 27

The Indian Space Research Organisation has earned \$279 million in foreign exchange by launching satellites for global clients, Union Minister Jitendra Singh told the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

In a written reply to a question, Singh said ISRO along with its commercial arms has successfully launched 345 foreign satellites from 34 countries using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle. "Total foreign exchange revenue from launching foreign satellites amounts to \$56 million and €220 million (\$223 million) approximately," Singh said. The latest mission was on June 30 when PSLV-C53 mission successfully launched three Singapore customer satellites namely DS-EO, NeuSAR and SCOOB-1 into the orbit.

The PSLV-C53 was the second dedicated commercial mission for NewSpace India Ltd, Singh said.

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- *Elon Musk's SpaceX has been awarded a NASA launch services contract for the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope mission that will explore the mysteries of dark energy and dark matter, as well as look for new exoplanets.*
- *The contract is considered an indefinite-delivery and indefinite-quantity contract because the mission itself is currently targeted to launch in 2026 on a Falcon Heavy rocket from Launch Complex 39A at NASA'S Kennedy Space Center in Florida.*
- *The total cost for NASA to launch the Roman telescope is approximately \$255 million, which includes the launch service and other mission-related costs.*
- *The telescope's program will include dedicated investigations to grapple with a range of outstanding questions in cosmology, including the effects of dark energy and dark matter, which scientists know very little about, and exoplanet exploration.*
- *The telescope, previously known as the Wide Field InfraRed Survey Telescope (WFIRST), was later renamed in honor of Dr. Nancy Grace Roman for her extraordinary work at NASA, which paved the way for large space telescopes.*
- *Nancy Grace Roman was the first female executive at NASA and was the agency's first chief of astronomy in the 1960s and 70s, playing a foundational role in the planning process for the Hubble Space Telescope.*
- *As a scientist, she was well published, including one paper about the fundamental structure of the galaxy that was cited by the Astrophysical Journal as one of the 100 most important papers in the last century.*
- *During her tenure at NASA, Roman developed and prepared the budgets for a range of programs and she organized their scientific participation.*
- *NASA's Launch Services Program at Kennedy is responsible for the launch vehicle program management of the SpaceX launch service.*
- *The Roman Space Telescope project is managed by NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Maryland.*

214. Recently in July _____ and the *Indian Navy signed an MoU to collaborate on aviation research and development, and to ramp up self-reliance efforts for the Indian Navy, in line with the goals of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.*
- A. *IIT Bombay*
 - B. *IIT Madras*
 - C. *IISc Bengaluru*
 - D. *IIT Delhi*
 - E. *None of these*
- *The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and the Indian Navy have signed MoU to collaborate on aviation research and development, and to ramp up self-reliance efforts for the Indian Navy, in line with the goals of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'.*
 - *The areas of collaboration under this MoU will fall under the domain of Aerospace/Aeronautical Engineering, including design and education technology*
 - *The MoU, signed on July 29, provides a formal basis for the Indian Navy to interact with relevant faculty members at IISc and will promote joint research programs in areas of mutual interest.*
 - *The Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Navy. Motto(s): शंनोवरुणः (Sanskrit); Sham No Varunah (ISO); transl. 'May the Lord of Water be auspicious unto us.*

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215. Recently _____ launched the 'Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat' to promote the state of Indian language technology to create a societal impact.
- IIT Delhi
 - IIT Madras**
 - IIT Bombay
 - IIT Ropar
 - None of these
- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras today launched the 'Nilekani Centre at AI4Bharat' to promote the state of Indian language technology to create a societal impact.
 - This Centre, inaugurated by Nandan Nilekani, is being supported by Rohini and Nandan Nilekani with a grant of Rs 36 crore through Nilekani Philanthropies.
 - The AI4Bharat was set up as an initiative of IIT Madras to build open-source language AI for Indian languages.
 - At the center, the focus will be to conduct foundational work which can benefit society at large
 - Since the idea is to energize the ecosystem to do more for Indian languages, all the researched data will be available for start-ups and other industries working on Indian language technology.

216. Consider the following statement regarding the seaplane service ride to the Statue of Unity.
- Gujarat government is all set to relaunch the seaplane service between Ahmedabad and Kevadia (now Ektanagar).
 - It has signed a new contract with Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Private Ltd. (MEHAIR).
 - It is set to procure a nine-seater amphibious Cessna Grand Caravan 208 aircraft from the US.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Gujarat to resume seaplane ride to Statue of Unity with amphibious aircraft

ADITIRAJA
VADODARA, JULY 30

MORE THAN a year after it was suspended, the Gujarat government is all set to relaunch the seaplane service between Ahmedabad and Kevadia (now Ektanagar) — home to the Statue of Unity (SoU) — by a new contract with the Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Private Ltd. (MEHAIR), which is set to procure a nine-seater amphibious Cessna aircraft. The aircraft will arrive in Gujarat by mid-August.

The service has been suspended since April 10, 2021, after



The seaplane service has been suspended since April 10, 2021, after SpiceJet pulled out. file

SpiceJet pulled out and now MEHAIR, which had bid for the tender of the project issued by the Gujarat government in January, is in the final stage of procuring an amphibious Cessna aircraft from the US. Following the termination of seaplane services by SpiceJet, the Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GJSAIL), a Gujarat government undertaking, will now oversee the operations of the service instead of Union Civil Aviation Ministry.

Gujarat Director for Civil Aviation and CEO of GJSAIL, Captain Ajay Chauhan confirmed that MEHAIR is in the process of importing a pre-owned Cessna

Grand Caravan 208 amphibious aircraft. MEHAIR will operate the aircraft under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme of the Gujarat government instead of the RCS-UDIAN scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which launched the service through SpiceJet in 2020.

Officials confirmed that MEHAIR, under VGF, will operate only two nine-seater flights per day — one onward and one return flight — between Sabarmati Riverfront and Dyer 3 of Sardar Sarovar Dam, near the Statue of Unity, to resume services.

Hareet Shukla, Secretary, Aviation, told *The Sunday Express*,

"The services started in October 2020 could not be sustained although SpiceJet tried its best... Covid-19 pandemic had a major role to play in the failure of the seaplane service as the tourism industry was perpetually closed. Things are different now. We have also picked out reasons that caused the service to fail earlier and this time we are working out better viability for the project to sustain itself. We have not set a deadline but it will happen soon."

The seaplane service connecting Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad to Statue of Unity in Ekta Nagar in Narmada, had a rough ride during its operations

from October 31, 2020, to April 10, 2021 — remaining suspended for 47 days due to maintenance requirements. In March this year, state Transport Minister Purnesh Modi replied to questions by Congress MLA Himmatsinh Patel from Bapunagar and admitted in the Assembly session that the project had seen a total spend of Rs 7.77 crore. While the government has not put a deadline for the resumption of the seaplane service, the website of the Statue of Unity states that the service was "to make a splash again in June 2022".

The website also announced the opening of bookings for the service, each ticket costing Rs 4,800.

Chauhan said, "The letter of operations has been handed out to MEHAIR and they were given 120 days to procure the aircraft from the US. They are currently in the last phase of the procedure for procurement of a pre-owned Cessna Grand Caravan. Since procuring new amphibious aircraft are not manufactured in big numbers, we have approved the procurement of a pre-owned aircraft. We are expecting it to arrive in Gujarat by mid-August, following which, the formalities for the registration, technical acceptance, and flying tests by the DGCA will begin."

FULL REPORT ON
www.indianexpress.com

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- More than a year after it was suspended, the Gujarat government is all set to relaunch the seaplane service between Ahmedabad and Kevadia (now Ektanagar) — home to the Statue of Unity (SoU) — by a new contract with the Maritime Energy Heli Air Services Private Ltd. (MEHAIR), which is set to procure a nine-seater amphibious Cessna aircraft.
- The service has been suspended since April 10, 2021, after SpiceJet pulled out and now MEHAIR, which had bid for the tender of the project issued by the Gujarat government in January, is in the final stage of procuring an amphibious Cessna aircraft from the US.
- Following the termination of seaplane services by SpiceJet, the Gujarat State Aviation Infrastructure Company Limited (GUSAIL), a Gujarat government undertaking, will now oversee the operations of the service instead of the Union Civil Aviation Ministry.
- MEHAIR will operate the aircraft under the Viability Gap Funding (VGF) scheme of the Gujarat government instead of the RCS-UDAN scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, which launched the service through SpiceJet in 2020.
- Officials confirmed that MEHAIR, under VGF, will operate only two nine-seater flights per day — one onward and one return flight — between Sabarmati Riverfront and Dyke 3 of Sardar Sarovar Dam, near the Statue of Unity, to resume services.

217. Recently in July Vice President Venkaiah Naidu presented the President's color to the _____ state Police and released a Special Cover to honor the occasion.

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

- Vice President Venkaiah Naidu today presented the President's color to the Tamil Nadu Police and released a Special Cover to honor the occasion.
- The President's Colour is the highest honor given to the military, paramilitary, and police forces of States and Union Territories. Delivering his speech on the Occasion, Mr. Naidu appreciated the Tamil Nadu state Police for receiving the prestigious color as the first in Southern India.
- He said that the State ranks second in the list of more women in the police force and observed that the State was the first to create a women commando force.
- The Vice President appreciated the formation of the State Marine Police Force to prevent crimes and protect the 1076 km long coastline of Tamil Nadu.

218. The _____ Edition of India Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH-IV between contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman is scheduled to take place at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in _____.

- A. 4th, Rajasthan**
- B. 3rd, Jammu & Kashmir

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- C. 5th, Jharkhand
- D. 7th, Uttarakhand
- E. None of these

- *The fourth Edition of India Oman Joint Military Exercise AL NAJAH-IV between contingents of the Indian Army and the Royal Army of Oman is scheduled to take place at the Foreign Training Node of Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan starting tomorrow.*
- *The Royal Army of Oman contingent comprising 60 personnel from the Sultan of Oman Parachute Regiment has arrived at the exercise location.*
- *The Indian Army is represented by troops from the 18 Mechanised Infantry Battalion. The previous edition of Ex AL NAJAH IV was organized at Muscat from 12 to 25 March 2019.*
- *The joint exercise would focus on Counter Terrorism Operations, Regional Security Operations, and Peace Keeping Operations under the United Nations charter apart from organizing joint physical training schedules, tactical drills, techniques, and procedures. It would conclude on August 13.*