

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding **UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. Dance form GARBA nominated to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list by India.
2. In 2021, 'Durga Puja' was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
3. As of 2021, 15 cultural heritages of India have been placed in UNESCO's Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.
4. Both 1 and 2.
5. All of the above.

- Dance form GARBA was nominated to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list by India.
- In 2021, 'Durga Puja' was included in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list.
- The next UNESCO meeting is in November and maybe Garba will be included in the list of UNESCO intangible cultural heritage.
- UNESCO selected India in July to serve on the distinguished Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Protection of the Intangible Cultural Heritage for the 2022-2026 cycle.
- India received 110 votes from the 155 state parties to get a place in the committee.
- The Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention is comprised of 24 members.
- Currently, UNESCO's Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity has 630 elements.
- As of 2021, 14 cultural heritages of India have been placed in UNESCO's Representative List of the intangible cultural heritage of humanity.

Aug 23, 2022, 8:06AM

India nominates GARBA to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list

India has nominated the dance form Garba to be inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list. UNESCO(United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Director Eric Falt said that after the inclusion of 'Durga Puja' on the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage representative last year, India has now nominated 'Garba' for 2022.

He said, the next meeting of UNESCO is in November & hopefully there will be yet another beautiful Indian festival Garba inscribed on UNESCO's intangible cultural heritage list. India was elected by UNESCO to serve on the distinguished Intergovernmental Committee of the 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage in July. India garnered a whopping 110 votes from 155 State Parties that finalised its selection.



2. Consider the following statement regarding n Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's pledge to India as a 'developed' country**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. PM Modi has urged citizens to focus on five resolutions ('Panchpran') to make India a developed nation in the next 25 years i.e. by 2047
2. World Bank classifies all countries into three broad categories as developed economies, economies in transition, and developing economies.
3. PM Modi gives the 'Jai Anusandhan' slogan to push for innovation.
4. India celebrated its 76 Independence Day on 15 August 2022.

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5. All of the above are correct.

3. *PM Modi has urged citizens to focus on five resolutions ('Panchpran') to make India a developed nation in the next 25 years i.e. by 2047 when the country celebrates 100 years of independence. Which of the following is not in the list given below?*

- A. To move forward with bigger resolves and the resolve of a developed India
- B. To erase all traces of servitude(enslavement)
- C. **To focus on corruption and make it free**
- D. To focus on India's unity, which is its strength
- E. To fulfill the duties of citizens with honesty

- *Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to make India a developed country in the next quarter-century on the eve of the 75th year of Indian independence.*

- *PM Modi has urged citizens to focus on five resolutions ('Panchpran') to make India a developed nation in the next 25 years i.e. by 2047 when the country celebrates 100 years of independence.*

- *About Panchpran', or five promises*

- *To move forward with bigger resolves and the resolve of a developed India*

- *To erase all traces of servitude(enslavement)*

- *To be proud of India's legacy*

- *To focus on India's unity, which is its strength*

- *To fulfill the duties of citizens with honesty*

- *The 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)' classifies all countries into three broad categories as developed economies, economies in transition, and developing economies.*

- *To categorize countries by economic conditions, the United Nations uses the World Bank's categorization based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (in current US dollars).*

- *The UN's nomenclature of "developed" and "developing" is often contested owing to the following reasons:*

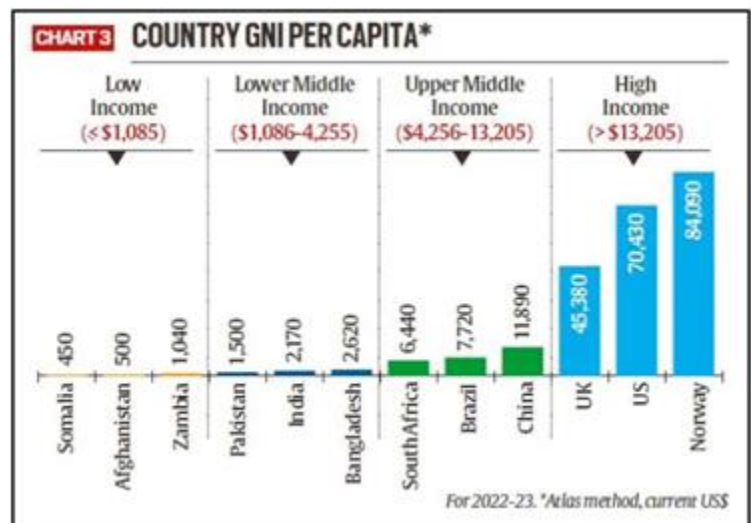
- *There are 31 developed countries according to the UN in all and the categorization of China as a "developing" country is disputed.*

- *All the rest, except 17 "economies in transition" are designated as "developing" countries.*

- *The 'World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)' classifies all countries into three broad categories as developed economies, economies in transition, and developing economies.*

- *To categorize countries by economic conditions, the United Nations uses the World Bank's categorization based on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita (in current US dollars).*

- *As per the 2018 diagnostic report on India by the World Bank, though India is the world's third-largest economy in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, only ten percent of Indians, at most, have consumption levels above the commonly used threshold of \$10 (PPP) per day expenditures for the global middle class.*



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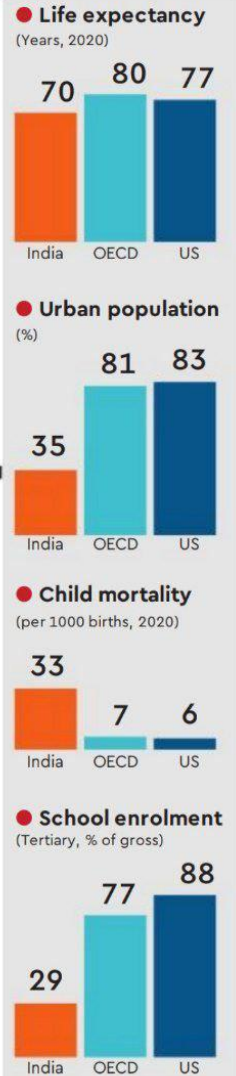
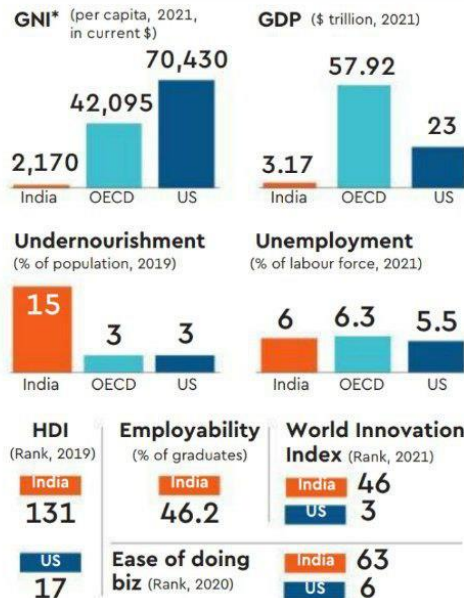
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- **China reached India's current per capita income mark in 2007. If India were to grow as fast as China did between 2007 and 2022, then, it will take India another 15 years to be where China is now.**
- **As per World Bank's 2018 report, by 2047, at least half of Indian citizens could join the ranks of the global middle class which means that households have access to better education, health care, clean water, improved sanitation, reliable electricity, affordable housing, and enough discretionary income to spend on leisure pursuits.**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday made a strong pitch for innovation with the slogan 'Jai Anusandhan' as India marches towards the centenary of Independence.**
- **Recalling the slogan given by former prime minister Lal Bahadur Shastri, Modi noted that former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee added 'Jai Vigyan' to it.**
- **The prime minister had given the slogan 'Jai Anusandhan' at the Indian Science Congress in Jalandhar in January 2019.**
- **From the Red Fort, Modi hailed the Digital India movement, saying innovations such as UPI BHIM have taken the fin-tech world by storm.**

REALITY CHECK

'Developed nation' tag by 2047 a tall order

ON THE INDEPENDENCE Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi resolved to turn India into a developed country by 2047. While it's a desirable goal, it will require elevated economic growth rates, sustained reforms push, tremendous political will and dexterous execution of ideas to propel India into the club of developed nations. From low per capita income, unimpressive rankings in human development gauges, limited innovation prowess to large-scale unemployment and low urbanisation, **Banikankar Pattanayak** elaborates India's performance vis-à-vis developed countries across key indicators



*Atlas method; source: World Bank (for GNI, GDP, undernourishment, EoDB, life expectancy, mortality, enrolment); UNDP (for HDI); India Skills Report (employability); ILO (unemployment); WIPO (innovation)

PM spells out five pledges

- 1 RESOLVE FOR DEVELOPED INDIA:** "This should be our great resolve that my country will be a developed country and we will develop a people-centric system..."
- 2 REMOVE TRACES OF COLONIALISM:** "In no part of our existence, not even in the deepest corners of our mind or habits should there be any ounce of slavery."
- 3 TAKE PRIDE IN LEGACY:** "It is this legacy that has an innate capability of transforming itself with time. It is this rich heritage that transcends tests of tide and times."
- 4 STRENGTH OF UNITY:** "Amongst the 130 million countrymen when there is harmony and bonhomie, unity becomes its (country's) strongest virtue."
- 5 FULFIL DUTIES OF CITIZENS:** "Duty of citizens, in which even the PM, CM cannot be an exclusion as they are also responsible citizens and have a duty towards the nation."

4. *India's first nocturnal zoo will be set up in _____ as the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to set up a night safari and biodiversity park on the lines of Singapore in the state capital.*
- Jim Corbett National Park
 - Kukrail Forest Reserve**
 - Rajtarangini Forest Reserve
 - Dudhwa National Park
 - None of these
- India's first nocturnal zoo will be set up in the Kukrail forest area as the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to set up a night safari and biodiversity park on the lines of Singapore in the state capital. There are 13-day safaris in the country but no night safari.*
 - The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday at Lok Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.*
 - Minister of Tourism and Culture Jaiveer Singh said the night safari would be developed on 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area, spread over 2027.46 hectares. The zoological park will be set up on 150 acres.*
 - Train and jeep ride with local guides will also be provided at the night safaris. Apart from this, facilities like canopy walk, camping activity, mountain bike track, wall climbing, tree-top restaurant, nature trail, and food court will also be developed.*
 - Singh said there are plans to make a leopard safari on 75 acres of land, a bear safari on 60 acres of area, and a tiger safari on 75 acres. The animals will not be kept in a cage but will roam free as they do in the wild.*
 - It will be an open-air nocturnal zoo which will be open only at night. A modern theme park will be built for tourists during the day. In setting up the zoological park and night safari, only open areas which are not currently in use will be used without impacting the existing flora and fauna. The Kukrail forest area will be connected to the outside world with four-lane roads so that there is no inconvenience to the tourists.*
5. *In August _____ will be the first in the country to bring a food truck policy on the lines of the US and the UK.*
- Uttar Pradesh
 - Punjab
 - Delhi**
 - Odisha
 - None of these

India's first night safari to come up in Lucknow

PNS ■ LUCKNOW

India's first nocturnal zoo will be set up in Kukrail forest area as the Yogi Adityanath government has decided to set up a night safari and biodiversity park on the lines of Singapore in the state capital. There are 13 day safaris in the country but no night safari.

The decision was taken in the cabinet meeting held on Tuesday at Lok Bhawan under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

Minister of Tourism and Culture Jaiveer Singh said the night safari would be developed in 350 acres in the Kukrail forest area, spread over 2027.46 hectares. The zoological park will be set up in 150 acres.

"Train and jeep rides with local guides will also be pro-



vided at the night safaris. Apart from this, facilities like canopy walk, camping activity, mountain bike track, wall climbing, tree-top restaurant, nature trail and food court will also be developed," the minister said. Singh said there are plans to make a leopard safari in 75 acres of land, bear safari in 60 acres area and tiger safari in 75 acres. The animals will not be kept in a cage but will roam free as they do in the wild.

"It will be an open-air nocturnal zoo which will be open

only at night. A modern theme park will be built for tourists during the day. In setting up the zoological park and night safari, only open areas which are not currently in use will be used without impacting the existing flora and fauna. The Kukrail forest area will be connected to the outside world with four-lane roads so that there is no inconvenience to the tourists," the tourism minister said.

He said a meeting would be held at the chairmanship of the chief secretary and the process would be decided soon. Kukrail river will be channelised and developed as an attractive riverfront. World-class facilities will be made available to tourists in the zoological garden and night safari, he added.

- Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said Delhi will be the first in the country to bring a food truck policy along the lines of the US and the UK.
- He said the government is in the process of finalizing the hotspots where food trucks will be allowed to park for the public.
- Sisodia held a review meeting with the concerned department officials on Tuesday which focussed on the upcoming Delhi shopping festival and the food truck policy.
- He asserted that Delhi will be the first to do so on the lines of the US and UK. "In our Rozgaar Budget, we announced various projects that can foster the growth of the economy and generate 20 lakh jobs in the next five years. Of them, Delhi Shopping Festival and Food Truck Policy are two priority projects which will be launched soon.
- Delhi's first shopping festival is scheduled to be held from January 28 to February 26, 2023.

Delhi first in country to bring food truck policy: Sisodia

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia on Tuesday said Delhi will be the first in the country to bring a food truck policy on the lines of US and the UK.

He said the government is in the process of finalizing the hotspots where food trucks will be allowed to park for the public.

Sisodia held a review meeting with the concerned department officials on Tuesday which focussed on upcoming Delhi shopping festival and the food truck policy.

Stakeholder consultation with various agencies has already been conducted in with regard to food trucks, he said. Even though business related to food trucks is not new to India, no state in the country has, however, made any policy to



streamline this business and increase employment opportunities in this sector, the minister said.

He asserted that Delhi will be the first to do so on the lines of US and UK. "In our Rozgaar Budget, we announced various projects that can foster growth of the economy and generate 20 lakh jobs in the next five years. Of them, Delhi Shopping Festival and Food Truck Policy are two priority projects which will be launched soon. "While the shopping festival will be a big opportunity for traders, shopkeepers, tourism

and hospitality industry to increase their business and revenue, the Food Truck Policy will open avenues for growth of the capital's night time economy," Sisodia added.

Sisodia directed officials to expedite the preparations for both the projects so that they can be launched within the stipulated deadline. During the meeting, Sisodia was informed that the agencies concerned have interacted with the representatives of various markets, trade circles at various levels regarding the Delhi Shopping Festival.

The market associations and traders are very enthusiastic and are eagerly waiting for Delhi's first shopping festival, said government statement.

The Delhi Shopping Festival which is scheduled to be held from January 28 to February 26, 2023.

6. In which city did Yogi Adityanath unveil the statue of Kalyan Singh?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Kanpur
- C. Gorakhpur
- D. Noida
- E. None of these

- Yogi Adityanath unveils the statue of Kalyan Singh in Lucknow.
- On the first death anniversary of former CM Kalyan Singh, Yogi Adityanath unveiled his grand statue in Lucknow.
- Yogi Adityanath said that the state government is working towards Kalyan Singh's vision of 'Samagra Grameen Vikas'.
- CM Yogi Adityanath also inaugurates the operation theatre block of Kalyan Singh Super Specialty Cancer Institute in Lucknow.

String of Kalyan Singh statues in U.P.

BJP has begun tacit outreach towards OBCs with an eye on 2024 Lok Sabha poll

MAYANK KUMAR
LUCKNOW

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiled a statue of Kalyan Singh in Lucknow on Sunday on the first death anniversary of the former Chief Minister and BJP leader from the Other Backward Classes.

Addressing a gathering after unveiling the statue at a cancer institute named after Singh, Mr. Adityanath recalled the role played by the leader for the development of Uttar Pradesh. "Under the able leadership of the late Babuji [Kalyan Singh], the road map for good governance was laid in the State."

Through the event, the ruling BJP has begun a tacit outreach towards the OBC community with an eye on the 2024 Lok Sabha election. "We have decided that the Bulandshahr medical college will be named after Babuji and a similar statue will be installed there," he said.

In the coming days, the installation of over half-a-dozen statues of Singh is planned in the districts of western and central Uttar



Paying homage: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath unveiling the statue of Kalyan Singh on Sunday. *TWITTER/@MAYOGADITYANATH

Pradesh which have a large population of the Lodhi or Lodhi community, to which Singh belonged. To the State's west, the Lodhis account for more than 6% of the electorate and influence results in at least eight Lok Sabha constituencies as a strong non-Yadav OBC group.

Singh, under whose watch Babri Masjid was demolished by a group of Hindu karsevaks (volunteers) on December 6, 1992, influenced a large chunk of OBC voters during the 1990s to join the saffron fold in Uttar Pradesh. Political analysts believe that his signifi-

cance was heightened because he helped the BJP partly neutralise the challenge from the Samajwadi Party (SP) and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) after the implementation of the Mandal Commission report.

"Kalyan Singh consolidated the Hindutva narrative within the OBC community, which helped the BJP in the long run. The alliance of upper castes and non-Yadav OBCs, which is the BJP's success mantra in North India, started during his regime," Manindra Nath Thakur, political scientist who teaches at Jawaharlal Nehru University, said. "The galaxy of back-

ward caste leaders who emerged in the BJP during the early 2000s, such as Narendra Modi, Shivraj Singh Chouhan, are the product of the successful Kalyan Singh experiment."

Singh was born on January 5, 1932, at Madhauri village in Aligarh. He joined the RSS during his school days. He contested his first Assembly election on Bharatiya Jana Sangh ticket from Atrauli in 1962. From 1967 to 2003, he represented Atrauli nine times. He left the BJP twice but finally rejoined it before the 2014 Lok Sabha election. Ahead of the 2009 Lok Sabha election, he left the BJP, and said he would campaign for the SP due to which the party lost a sizeable Muslim support, reducing the SP tally from 36 MPs in the Lok Sabha in 2004 to 23 in 2009.

Singh, who served as the Chief Minister for three-and-a-half years, carried out reforms in the education sector and enacted the Anti-Copying Act, which made the use of unfair means in exams a non-bailable and cognisable offence.

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- He said that the government is working to achieve the goal of 'One District, One Medical College'.
- Kalyan Singh is popularly known as 'Babuji' in Uttar Pradesh.
- He was the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh from 24 June 1991 to 6 December 1992 and then from 21 September 1997 to 12 November 1999.
- He worked for the empowerment of farmers, youngsters, and women.
- The demolition of the Babri Masjid in Ayodhya took place during his tenure.

7. Where did Union Home Minister Amit Shah chair the 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council?

- A. Lucknow
- B. Bhopal**
- C. Dehradun
- D. Raipur
- E. None of these

- Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired the 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- On the occasion, he said the number of left-wing extremist violence incidents has come down from 2,258 in 2009 to 509 in 2021.
- In 2009, 1,005 people died in extremist violence while 147 people died in 2021.
- The 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council discussed the significant progress made towards the expansion of banking facilities within five kilometers of all villages.
- Seamless integration of the Police Help Line number 112 with the Women Help Line number 181, and Child Help Line number 1098 was also discussed in the meeting.
- Shifting the cases related to women to Sakhi-One Stop Center on a real-time basis was also discussed in the meeting.
- The Central Zonal Council comprises Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh.
- The 22nd meeting of the Central Zonal Council was held at Raipur in Chhattisgarh.
- Zonal Councils: These are statutory bodies established under the State Reorganization Act 1956.
- There are five zonal councils i.e. Northern, Central, Eastern, Western, and Southern Zonal Councils. These councils were set up in 1957. While Northeast council was set up in 1971 under the Northeast Council Act, 1971.

'5,000 post offices and around 1,200 bank branches opened in Naxal-affected areas'

Development is key to wiping out Left-wing extremism, says Amit Shah



OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 22

The government has opened about 5,000 post offices and more than 1,200 bank branches in the last three years in Left-wing extremism affected areas, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday.

Chairing the 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Bhopal, Shah stated that more than 2,300 mobile towers are being installed in the first phase and another 2,500 mobile towers will be done in the second phase to provide better telecom services in the Naxal-affected areas.

'Focus on development'

Urging the States to focus on development schemes, Shah

At the 23rd meeting of the Central Zonal Council in Bhopal on Monday, Union Home Minister Amit Shah with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and other dignitaries

said, "The more development in Naxal-affected areas, the less there will be the recruitment of Naxalites and the sources of mobilisation of Left-wing Extremists will also be exhausted." He called upon the affected States to "focus more on dealing with this problem so that it can be rooted out".

According to the home ministry, the Central Zonal Council discussed the progress made towards the expansion of banking facilities within five km of all villages as per the

vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Shah also said that there has been a 27 per cent increase in resolving issues in the Zonal Council meetings since 2019, which is a great achievement.

Besides Shah, the meeting was attended by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel attended the meeting virtually.

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- *These councils are chaired by the Union Home Minister and the Chief Ministers of the respective states act as Vice-Chairman on a rotation basis for 1 year.*
- 8. *Which of the following statements is/are correct for the Puducherry budget for 2022-23?*
 1. *Puducherry CM N. Rangasamy recently presented a 10,696-crore rupee budget for 2022-23.*
 2. *CM also announced that National Forensic University will be set up in Puducherry.*
 3. *CM announced an increase in transport allowance for differently-abled persons from ₹100 to ₹1000.*
 4. *Only 1 and 2.*
 5. *None of the above.*
- *Puducherry CM N. Rangasamy presented a 10,696-crore rupee budget for 2022-23.*
- *CM said that central assistance will be 1729.77 crore rupees, with 500 crore rupees allocation under centrally sponsored schemes.*
- *He said the fiscal deficit will be overcome through borrowings.*
- *The government of India has permitted borrowings to the extent of 1,889.61 crore rupees.*
- *As on 31st March 2022, the total outstanding debt of the Union Territory of Puducherry is 9,859.20 crore rupees.*
- *The Chief Minister also announced various schemes, which are proposed to be implemented. They are listed below.*
- *Provision of free laptops to 11th and 12th standard students studying in government and government-aided schools in a phased manner.*
- *Re-implementation of free bicycle distribution scheme to students studying in 9th standard in government and government-aided schools.*
- *Provision of 1,000 rupees as financial assistance to women (head of the family) between 21 and 55 years of age living Below the Poverty Line.*
- *Regularisation of the service of employees working in government and government institutions for more than 10 years.*
- *CM also announced that National Law University will be set up in Puducherry.*
- *It has been decided to extend the Centre's Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana Health Insurance Scheme beyond BPL families from the current financial year.*
- *Families above the poverty line would be eligible to get health insurance coverage for renal transplants also.*
- *CM announced an increase in transport allowance for differently-abled persons from ₹100 to ₹3000.*
- *Marriage assistance for differently-abled persons has also been increased.*
- *With a record allocation of ₹1,036.51 crores for healthcare, the government has proposed to procure advanced equipment such as MRI and CT scans for all healthcare centers in the UT.*

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9. In August _____ state government announced to have its own Unicorn Logo.

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

Unicorn logo in Bengaluru



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday instructed officials to identify a suitable place in the city to put up a Unicorn logo, aimed at highlighting Bengaluru for having the

most number of startups and unicorns in the whole country. The design of the Unicorn logo structure is under progress by a financial solutions company.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai instructed officials to identify a suitable place in the city to put up a Unicorn logo, aimed at highlighting Bengaluru for having the most number of startups and unicorns in the whole country.
 - The design of the Unicorn logo structure is under progress by a financial solutions company.
 - This comes after Inc42, a media firm, named Bengaluru as the top and most funded start-up hub in the country in its 'The State Of Indian Start-up Ecosystem Report, 2022'.
 - The structure that officials hope to be a major attraction in the city is likely to be put up at some place near Vidhana Soudha, the seat of the state legislature and secretariat.
10. Consider the following statement regarding the **National Science Film Festival of India**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
- 1. It will be the 11th Edition of the festival.**
 2. It is being organized from 22-26 August at Bhopal.
 3. National Science Film Festival of India is a flagship event of Vigyan Prasara.
 4. Both 2 and 3.
 5. All of the above.
- Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology is hosting the 12th National Science Film Festival of India at Ravindra Bhawan in Bhopal.
 - It is India's first of its kind of film festival where documentaries and short films on popular science, technology, health, and environmental issues are screened.
 - It is the first time that the festival is being held in Madhya Pradesh.
 - For first, second, and third positions, the best films in each category will be awarded the Golden Beaver, Silver Beaver, and Bronze Beaver respectively.
 - It is a platform for interaction with filmmakers, scientists, and enthusiasts for developing a better public understanding of the universe.
 - This event will encourage citizen science and public participation and promote appreciation of science films.
 - The National Science Film Festival of India is a flagship event of Vigyan Prasara, an autonomous agency under the Department of Science and Technology.

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11. *Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre* was inaugurated recently by PM Narendra Modi in _____.

- A. **Mullanpur**
- B. Sangrur
- C. Faridabad
- D. Surat
- E. None of these

- PM Modi dedicated Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital & Research Centre to the nation in Punjab.
- PM Modi also inaugurated the Amrita Hospital in Faridabad, Haryana.
- It is built in an area of 133 acres with an outlay of six thousand crore rupees.
- The Amrita Hospital is the largest in the region. It was founded by Mata Amritanandamayi 'Amma'.
- Homi Bhabha Cancer Hospital and Research Centre are built in an area of 50 acres at Mullanpur in Punjab with an estimated cost of Rs 660 crores.
- It has been built by the Tata Memorial Centre, an aided institute under the Department of Atomic Energy.
- It will provide cost-effective cancer treatment facilities to the people of Northern India.

12. In August _____ announced to set up of *India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand*, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth.

- A. Shiprocket
- B. Garuda Aerospace
- C. **Digantara**
- D. Trinetra
- E. None of these

- Digantara, a space sector start-up of India, is going to set up India's first commercial space situational awareness observatory in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand, to track objects as small as 10 cm in size orbiting the earth.
- The space situational awareness (SSA) observatory will assist in tracking any activity in space including that of space debris and military satellites hovering over the region.
- At present, the United States is a dominant player in monitoring space debris. It has observatories in multiple locations with commercial companies providing additional inputs from across the world.
- The observatory will help to monitor events occurring in deep space, especially in the geostationary, medium-Earth, and high-Earth orbits.
- The observatory will also help in avoiding great losses since there is an increasing need for efficient collision avoidance systems in highly congested orbital regions like low earth orbit and geosynchronous earth orbit.

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- *The addition of the new observatory will be a part of Digantara's network of observational facilities and is expected to work in tandem with the currently planned constellation of space-based sensors.*
13. Consider the following statement regarding **UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. UDAN Scheme of Ministry of Civil Aviation completes 5 years of success
 2. It was launched by Prime Minister on 27th April 2017.
 3. **475 New routes started under the scheme.**
 4. 1000 Routes and 220 airports are planned to be facilitated under the scheme by 2026.
 5. All of the above are correct.
- *Ministry of Civil Aviation's flagship program Regional Connectivity Scheme UDAN (UdeDeshkaAamNagrik) has completed 5 years of success since the launch of its first flight by the Prime Minister on 27th April 2017.*
 - *The scheme was initiated on 21st October 2016 to fulfill the aspirations of the common citizen by following the vision of 'UdeDeshkaAamNagrik', with enhanced aviation infrastructure and air connectivity in tier II and tier III cities.*
 - *In the last five years, UDAN has significantly increased the regional air connectivity in the country. There were 74 operational airports in 2014. Because of the UDAN scheme, this number has increased to 141 now.*
 - *68 underserved/unserved destinations which include 58 Airports, 8 Heliports & 2 Water Aerodromes have been connected under the UDAN scheme.*
 - *With 425 new routes initiated under the scheme, UDAN has provided air connectivity to more than 29 States/ UTs across the length and breadth of the country.*
 - *220 destinations (airports/heliports/water aerodromes) under UDAN are targeted to be completed by 2026 with 1000 routes to provide air connectivity to unconnected destinations in the country. Under UDAN, 954 routes have already been awarded to connect 156airports.*
 - *RCS-UDAN was formulated based on the review of The National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP)-2016 and it was planned to remain in force for 10 years. It has a self-financing mechanism with the development of the Regional Connectivity Fund (RCF). Under this Scheme, RCF was created, which funds the VGF requirements of the scheme through a levy on certain domestic flights. This way, funds generated from the sector themselves stimulate the growth and development of the sector.*
 - *UDAN created a framework based on the need and led to the formulation of:*
 - *Lifeline UDAN (for transportation of medical cargo during the pandemic).*
 - *Krishi UDAN (value realization of agriculture products especially in Northeastern Region {NER} and tribal districts).*
 - *International UDAN routes for NER to explore International Connectivity from/to Guwahati and Imphal.*
14. In August _____ and _____ becomes the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State UT in the country respectively.
- A. Madhya Pradesh, Delhi
 - B. **Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu**
 - C. Punjab, Laddakh
 - D. Haryana, Chandigarh

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E. None of these

- Goa and Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu (D&NH and D&D) become the first 'Har Ghar Jal' certified State and UT in the country respectively, where people from all the villages have declared their village as 'Har Ghar Jal' through a resolution passed by Gram Sabha, certifying that all households in the villages have access to safe drinking water through taps, ensuring that 'No One is Left Out.
- State Public Works Department is the implementing agency for the scheme in Goa.
- All 2.63 lakh rural households of Goa & 85,156 of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have access to potable water through tap connection.
- Jal Jeevan Mission is a flagship program of the Government of India which was announced from the ramparts of Red Fort by the visionary Prime Minister on August 15, 2019. The mission aims to make provision for potable tap water supply in adequate quantity, of prescribed quality, and on a regular & long-term basis to every rural household in the country by 2024.
- The program is implemented by the Government of India in partnership with States/UTs.
- Following Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas aur Sabka Prayas", more than 52% of rural households in the country are now connected with tap water which was only 17% at the time of launch of this transformational mission on August 15, 2019.

15. Consider the following statement regarding the 'Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' event. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. Rs 30,000 crore have been sanctioned for cleaning Ganga and its tributaries.
2. 100 districts along the Ganga steps were taken to resolve the issues related to the river.
3. An MoU with Sahakar Bharati for natural farming launched under Arth Ganga.
4. Tourism-related portal ImAvatar to promote livelihood opportunities launched under Arth Ganga.
5. Namami gange project was launched in June 2016 to make Ganga clean and continuous.

- During the 'Yamuna Par Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' event, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat said that projects worth Rs 30,000 crore have been sanctioned for cleaning Ganga and its tributaries.
- Shekhawat said that in more than 100 districts along the Ganga steps were taken to resolve the issues related to the river.
- On the occasion, new initiatives were launched under Arth Ganga:
- An MoU with Sahakar Bharati for natural farming
- Tourism-related portal ImAvatar to promote livelihood opportunities.
- Jalaj initiative in association with WII to align the skill enhancement activities with Ganga conservation.
- A new river Champ course on the Continuous Learning and Activity Portal.
- Features of Namami gange: Namami gange project was launched in June 2014 to make Ganga clean and continuous.
- Its main objective is the effective abatement of pollution and the rejuvenation of the Ganga.
- It is being implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga and its state equivalent organizations.

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- Under this program, 1,632-gram panchayats on the banks of the Ganga are to be made open defecation-free by 2022.
- Urban Local Bodies and Panchayati Raj institutions are also involved in this project.
- In 118 urban habitations on the banks of Ganga, sewerage infrastructure will be strengthened.
- The main focus will be on involving people living on the banks of rivers.
- Ganga Knowledge Centre will be also set up and rational agricultural practices & efficient irrigation methods will be promoted.
- In the meeting, 13 projects of geo-mapping in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi, sewerage management in Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and West Bengal, riverfront development works in Uttarakhand, wetland conservation, Arth Ganga and refurbishment of gates of Belia Circular Canal in Kolkata were approved. The estimated cost of these projects is around Rs. 818 crores.

16. Which of the following state government built **India's first education township**?

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

- First, the Uttar Pradesh government is planning to build an education township in the state. As per the Yogi Adityanath government, the education township will be developed on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit'.
- The government said the move will provide high-quality education to the youth and equip them with a variety of professional skills in a single place. Besides, it will provide accommodation and many other facilities to both students and teachers.
- Yogi had recently directed authorities to prepare a comprehensive action plan for setting up five education townships in the state during a meeting with the representatives of consultancy firm Deloitte India to explore ways to make Uttar Pradesh a \$1 trillion economy.
- Built on the idea of 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit' (come like a blank paper and carry multiple skills), the focus of this township will be on high-end education, which will cater to students from not only the country but also African, Latin American and Central Asian countries.
- Here's what all will be included in Uttar Pradesh's education township:
- Prestigious government and private universities of the country and the world will be able to open their campuses in the township.
- There will be primary and secondary schools like Atal Residential Schools in the same place.
- With the introduction of the 'Single Entry, Multiple Exit' system in the state, students will be able to avail of cheap education loans.

17. **Jharkhand is India's first state to use blockchain technology** for which of the following purposes?

- A. For measuring electricity supply to households

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B. For the public food distribution system

C. For seed distribution to farmers

D. For tracking coal mining

E. None of these

- Jharkhand is India's first state to use blockchain technology for seed distribution to farmers.
- Directorate of Agriculture, Jharkhand, and SettleMint, India jointly announced the launch of seed distribution to farmers based on blockchain technology.
- SettleMint is a global blockchain technology company. Jharkhand is India's 1st state where blockchain is being used to track seed distribution.
- Blockchain technology is expected to be used to track the distribution of inputs, implements, etc. under all the schemes being implemented by the Directorate of Agriculture.
- Blockchain technology is a decentralized, distributed ledger that stores the record of ownership of digital assets.

18. Consider the following statement regarding **Indian Ports Bill, 2022**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022, has been released by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways for stakeholder consultation.
2. The proposed bill will repeal and replace the existing Indian Ports Act, of 1908.
3. India has a coastline about 7,500 km long.
4. National Maritime Boards will be incorporated into the national framework.
5. None of the above

- Government draughts Indian Ports Bill, 2022 to consolidate and reform port laws.
- The proposed bill will repeal and replace the existing Indian Ports Act, of 1908.
- Draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022, has been released by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways for stakeholder consultation.
- The Indian Ports Act, of 1908, is over 110 years old.
- In addition to harmonizing and streamlining the development of the maritime industry, the proposed bill will promote ease of doing business by removing unnecessary delays, disagreements, and defining responsibilities.

Draft Indian Ports Bill 2022 to promote ease of doing business

Bill, up for stakeholder feedback, seeks to streamline development of the sector

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 18

The draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022, which intends to consolidate and amend laws relating to ports, is now available for stakeholder consultation and feedback.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said it seeks feedback and suggestions from stakeholders.

It will also replace the more than century-old Indian Ports Act, 1908.

Primary objectives

The primary objectives of the proposed Bill are to promote integrated planning between the Centre and the States; ensure prevention of pollution at ports; address lacunae in dis-

pute resolution framework; and usher in transparency and cooperation in development through the use of data.

The proposed Bill intends to streamline development of the sector, promoting ease of doing business, eliminating unnecessary delays and disagreements, and defining responsibilities. It will incorporate State Maritime Boards into the national framework too.

Additionally, the Maritime State Development Council will ensure cooperative federalism with the Centre and State Governments and Union Territories working together. Existing penalties in the Act which are outdated have been updated with respect to amounts and offences relevant to the present-day scenario.



The Ports Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Act of 1908 vintage ports

Three earlier versions of the Bill were circulated by the Ministry to various stakeholders, including major ports, State governments, State Maritime Boards and various central government ministries.

The Draft IP Bill, 2022 has been formulated, keeping in view all the remarks that have been received, the Ministry said in a statement.

About 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 65 per cent by value is done through maritime transport facilitated by ports.

Under the government's Sagarmala programme of port-based development, several initiatives for port-led development have been identified and launched. The ongoing developments and committed investments (public and private) in ports need to be aided by scientific and consultative planning, with a keen focus on ever increasing safety, security, and environmental issues.

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- *State Maritime Boards will be incorporated into the national framework.*
 - *The primary objectives of the proposed Bill are:*
 - *Promote integrated planning between States inter-se and Centre-States through a purely consultative and recommendatory framework.*
 - *Ensure the prevention of pollution measures for all ports in India while incorporating India's obligations under international treaties.*
 - *Address lacunae in the dispute resolution framework required for the burgeoning ports sector.*
 - *Usher-in transparency and cooperation in the development and other aspects through the use of data.*
 - *India has a coastline about 7,500 km long, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways, and strategic bases on major international maritime trade routes.*
 - *About 95 percent of India's trade by volume and 65 percent by value is carried out through sea transport facilitated by ports.*
19. In August Sikkim **Chief Minister P S Tamang** recently announced the launch of the **Vatsalya Yojana** under which childless women will receive the aid of _____ for in vitro fertilization treatment.
- A. Rs one lakh
 - B. Rs two lakh
 - C. **Rs three lakh**
 - D. Rs four lakh
 - E. None of these
- *Schemes for women's welfare were launched by Sikkim Chief Minister P S Tamang on the occasion of the 75th anniversary of Independence.*
 - *He hoisted the national flag at Bhaichung Stadium in Namchi on the 75th anniversary of India's Independence.*
 - *The program was organized outside Gangtok for the first time since Sikkim joined Indian Union in 1975.*
 - *CM Tamang announced the launch of 'The Aama Yojana' and 'Vatsalya Yojana'.*
 - *Under Aama Yojana, Rs 20,000 will be provided annually to all unemployed mothers in the state.*
 - *Under Vatsalya Yojana, childless women will receive the aid of Rs three lakh for in vitro fertilization treatment.*
 - *CM also announced year-long maternity leave for women employees of the state in place of the six-month leave provided earlier.*
 - *The Mobile village clinic program was also launched to provide accessible medical facilities to people in remote areas in all six districts.*
20. Which city is also known as the **Yoga capital of the world**?
- A. Bhubneshwar
 - B. **Rishikesh**
 - C. Varanasi

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- D. Rourkela
E. None of these



- Rishikesh is the self-styled "yoga capital of the world," considered to be the birthplace of this widely popular practice that's said to benefit both mind and body.
- Recently, the central government has sent a proposal of Rs 1600 crore to German bank KfW for the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Project of Yognagri Rishikesh. This project will be funded by a German bank.
- On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Finance Ministry has sent a proposal of 160 million euros, i.e. about Rs 1295 crore, to the German funding agency KfW for the integrated development of Rishikesh city.
- The total cost of this project is about 200 million euros (about Rs 1600 crore). The financial ratio of the central government and the state government for the project will be 80:20.
- With the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Project in Rishikesh, better basic facilities will be available to the local citizens and tourists in Rishikesh city, which is known as Yoga Nagari in the world.
- It is worth mentioning that lakhs of tourists visit Rishikesh every year. During the Chardham Yatra, the traffic system is badly affected due to the rush of pilgrims. For this, elevated roads will be built in Rishikesh, which will help to get rid of traffic jams.

21. In August _____ launched a drive on tree plantation called 'Krishna Kunj'.

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

- The Bhupesh Baghel government in Chhattisgarh on Friday invoked the sentiment associated with Lord Krishna on Janmashtami and launched a drive on tree plantation.
- The campaign, called 'Krishna Kunj', was launched in all urban areas of the state.
- The government has earmarked a minimum of one acre in each urban municipal body to begin the environment-friendly initiative on the plantation of select venerated trees having traditional values.
- With works continuing on the state's 'Ram Van Gaman Path' (the route undertaken by Lord Ram's 14 years of exile in Chhattisgarh) and evolving as

key religious tourism, the Congress government is now going ahead to create 'Krishna Kunj' land where trees like Banyan, Peepal, Neem, Burflower (Kadam), Babul, mulberry, custard apple among others will be planted in all urban areas.

22. Consider the following statement regarding CSR Awards 2020. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. National CSR Awards 2020 winners were announced by the Ministry of Cooperation.
2. Grand Jury selected 20 award winners and 17 Honourable Mentions across three categories.
3. First National CSR Awards were given on 29 October 2019.
4. CSR stands for Corporate Social Responsibility.
5. All of the above.

- National CSR Awards 2020 winners were announced by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- CSR experts and the Grand Jury selected 20 award winners and 17 Honourable Mentions across three categories.
- The National Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Awards are given to recognize companies that have positively impacted society through their innovative & sustainable CSR initiatives.
- These awards are the apex level recognition by the Government of India.
- First National CSR Awards were given on 29 October 2019.
- The main categories of the CSR Awards are given below:
 - Corporate Awards for Excellence in CSR: Given to a company based on total eligible CSR spending.
 - CSR Awards for CSR in Aspirational Districts / Difficult Terrains: Given to a company based on their CSR efforts in Aspirational Districts, difficult terrains/ disturbed areas, challenging circumstances, etc.
 - CSR Awards for contribution in National Priority Areas: Winners are selected based on the contribution of CSR projects in National Priority Areas.

Link Of News - <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1852885>

23. In August _____ to launch first virtual partition museum in the world.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Kolkata
- C. Pune

Chhattisgarh CM launches plantation drive on Janmashtami

Urban forests to be created at 162 spots across the State

SHUBHOMOY SIKDAR

Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel on Friday launched 'Krishna Kunj', a plantation drive aimed at creating urban forests comprising "culturally significant and other useful trees".

These 'Krishna Kunjs' will be set up at 162 spots across the State on the occasion of Janmashtami, a festival that celebrates the birth of Lord Krishna.

"Lord Krishna was also an expert economist who had connected agriculture with cattle rearing. We have encouraged cattle rearing in Chhattisgarh," he said.

An official statement described the event as "yet another initiative towards establishing a connect with the Hinduism and his government".

Referring to previous schemes and programmes of the Chhattisgarh government such as the Godhan Nyay Yojana, Ram Van Gaman Path Tourism circuit [that connects the State's northern and southern tribal belts to create a route which Lord Rama is believed to have taken while going on exile] and the announcement of developing Krishna Kunj, the government statement added that Mr. Baghel had succeeded in establishing "a link between the State and the Hindu deities like Lord Rama, Krishna or holy cow".

Sushil Anand Shukla, the Congress's State media head, said associating Lord Krishna's name with an environmentally beneficial project would help make

people connect with it better.

Eye on polls

Sources close to the government say these initiatives, and others such as the Kaushalya Mata Mandir renovation in Raipur, or organising competitions between Manas Gayan Mandalis (song troupes that sing bhajans dedicated to Lord Rama), are likely to yield dividends in next year's elections.

"Our 2018 manifesto did mention revival of culturally and historically significant sites but we did not include the name of any god or specific religion. From 2020, we started launching these initiatives," said the source.

He added that as the Assembly elections draw closer, the party sees merit in continuing with the strategy and expanding its footprint.

"It is almost certain that the BJP will not project a CM face in 2023, recent changes notwithstanding. And if they fight the elections in the name of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, our record will tell the people that we have nothing to be defensive about," said the source.

Senior Chhattisgarh BJP leader and MLA Ajay Chandrakar said these initiatives do not benefit the environment but have become a tool for corruption. "Some of the associations they make, such as Mata Kaushalya being born in Chandrakhuri or Champaran being a part of the Ram Van Gaman Path, are completely devoid of any historical proof. It needs to be probed if orange areas (lands over which both the forest and the revenue departments of the State exert control) were arbitrarily allotted for the Krishna Kunjs," he said.

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- D. Mumbai
- E. None of these

- *Just a week ago, India celebrated its 75th year of Independence but what people often miss out on is the fact that Independence and Partition coincided with one another, they are two faces of the same coin. The partition had deeply impacted hundreds and thousands of people, an impact that resonates to date.*
- *And, to memorialize the horrors of partition, Kolkata on August 24 will witness the advent of the first virtual partition museum in the world.*
- *The Virtual Kolkata Partition Museum (V-KPM) is a collaborative project between Kolkata Partition Museum Trust and Architecture Urbanism Research (AUR), an architecture firm. Both KPMT and AUR acknowledge the 1947 partition museum in bringing together Dr. Rituparna Roy and Aurgho Jyoti through this online event.*
- *The Kolkata Partition Museum Trust alongside AUR will try to primarily focus on Bengal's side of the story, shedding light on the experiences of partition as well as the aftermath of it but at the same time will highlight the similarities between West Bengal and Bangladesh with regards to familiar living heritage.*

24. The central government has planned to collaborate with the _____ government to develop a “district good governance portal” for monitoring the performance of each district of the state every month and help in benchmarking performance.

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

- *The Central government has planned to collaborate with the Arunachal Pradesh government to develop a “district good governance portal” for monitoring the performance of each district of the state monthly and help in benchmarking performance.*
- *Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) under the Ministry of Personnel will develop the “district good governance portal” in collaboration with the Arunachal Pradesh government.*
- *Union Minister Jitendra Singh announced during the two-day Regional Conference on “Bringing Citizens and Government Closer through Administrative Reforms” at Itanagar.*
- *Further, the National Centre for Good Governance under the DARPG will organize mid-career building programs in governance for 500 officers of the Arunachal Pradesh Administrative Services over the next five years.*
- *Arunachal Chief Minister Pema Khandu said, “We have declared 2022-23 as the year of e-governance and have already implemented 100 percent e-office in the state civil secretariat, besides adopting e-assembly and e-cabinet modules”.*

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25. Consider the following statement regarding **Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. NHA has decided to allocate funds to states/ UTs based on the number of doctors, nurses, etc., and health facilities.
2. The funds will be allocated based on performance in recording data in the Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR).
3. Rs 5000 will be allocated for entries verified in HFR & HPR after 31st March 2023.
4. Only 1 and 2.
5. All of the above.

• **NHA announces performance-based funding to states and UTs for implementing Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.**

Aug 16, 2022, 7:09PM

NHA announces performance-based fund allocation to states, UTs for strengthening registries of healthcare professionals, health facilities

National Health Authority has announced performance-based fund allocation to State and Union Territories for strengthening the registries of healthcare professionals and health facilities.

• **National Health Authority (NHA) will allocate funds to States/UTs based on their performance in recording data in the Health Facility Registry (HFR) and Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR).**

This performance-based fund allocation will help in structured implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

CEO of National Health Authority Dr RS Sharma said, the benefits of digital health services can be further extended to masses with the enthusiastic support from the States and UTs in registering more healthcare professionals and health facilities.

He said, States and UTs support will help in building national-level registries of healthcare professionals and health facilities. Five hundred crore rupees had been demarcated for setting up of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission's offices at State and UTs by the financial year 2025-26.



- **The performance-based fund allocation will help in the structured implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.**
- **For meeting the objective of the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, the population of the Health Facility Registry (HFR) and the Healthcare Professionals Registry (HPR) is necessary.**
- **According to earlier guidelines, Rs. 500 crores had been allocated for the setting up of ABDM offices at the State/ UT level over 5 years.**
- **NHA has decided to allocate funds to states/ UTs based on the number of doctors, nurses, etc., and health facilities like hospitals, clinics, and health & wellness centers.**
- **NHA has defined new parameters for fund allocation, which are given below:**
- **Rs 100 for each verified entry in HFR & HPR till 31st December 2022.**
- **Rs 50 for each verified entry in HFR & HPR between 1st January 2023 till 31st March 2023.**
- **No funds will be allocated for entries verified in HFR & HPR after 31st March 2023.**

26. In August **Technology Development Board** funded its first ever '**Aquaculture**' project using 'state of the art Israeli technology' for production of _____.

- A. Silver carp
- B. Guppy Fish
- C. Gold Fish

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D. *Tilapia Fish*

E. *None of these*

- *Fisheries is one of the fastest growing sectors amongst the primary producing sectors. The sector plays a vital role in the economic and overall development of the country, also referred to as the “sunrise sector”, it is poised to bring immense potential through equitable and inclusive growth.*
- *To promote this, the cabinet under the chairmanship of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, came up with ‘Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)’ to bring about the ‘Blue Revolution’ through sustainable and responsible development of the fisheries sector in India. The scheme targets to enhance fish production to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024-25, at an average annual growth rate of about 9%.*
- *The ambitious scheme also aims to double the export earnings to Rs.1,00,000 crore and generate about 55 lakhs of direct and indirect employment opportunities in the fisheries sector for the next five years.*
- *Realizing the potential of the Fisheries sector, the Technology Development Board, a statutory body under the Department of Science and Technology, Govt. of India supports M/s Fountainhead Agro Farms Private Limited, Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra for ‘Advanced, Intensive, All Male Tilapia Aquaculture Project with Israeli Technology. The board has penned a mutual agreement, to provide loan assistance of Rs. 8.42 crores out of the total project cost of Rs. 29.78 crores to the company.*
- *‘Tilapia’ has emerged to be one of the most productive and internationally traded food fish in the world. The culture of tilapia has become commercially popular in many parts of the world and fishery experts have dubbed the tilapia as “aquatic chicken” due to its quick growth and low maintenance cultivation.*
- *The company has adopted advanced Israeli Technology from Aquaculture Production Technology Limited (APTIL), Israel (under Technology Service Agreement signed in October 2020) for land-locked locations through closed loop farming for an arid zone with seasonal water supply from rivers, which may be replicated throughout India in multiple arid landlocked locations with reasonable water sources.*

27. Consider the following statement regarding the **15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA)**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. *India secured the third rank in the medal tally.*
2. *India held the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning three gold and two silver medals.*
3. ***It was held in Kutaisi, Ireland.***
4. *Only 1 and 3.*
5. *None of the above.*

- *India secured the third rank in the medal tally at the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA).*
- *India held the third position jointly with Singapore with students winning three gold and two silver medals. The 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) 2022 held in Kutaisi, Georgia, from 14 to 21 August 2022.*
- *The team was accompanied by two leaders: Prof. Sarita Vig (Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram), Prof. Ajit Mohan Srivastava (Institute of Physics, Bhubaneswar), and two Scientific Observers: Dr.*

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Shriharsh Tendulkar (Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai) and Mr. Tejas Shah (Fr. Agnel Multipurpose School & Jr. College, Navi Mumbai).

- *In the medals tally, India was placed jointly in the third position along with Singapore, behind Iran's official team (5 golds) and guest team (4 golds, 1 silver). In all, 28 gold, 38 silver, and 55 bronze medals were awarded at this IOAA. Raghav Goyal won a special prize for the best solution to the most challenging theoretical question.*

28. In August **Dr. S Jaishankar unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Asunción** which is the capital and the largest city of _____.

- A. **Bolivia**
- B. **Paraguay**
- C. **Uruguay**
- D. **Peru**
- E. **None of these**

Aug 22, 2022, 8:11AM

EAM Dr S Jaishankar unveils bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Asuncion, Paraguay

External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Asuncion, Paraguay. In a tweet, he appreciated the Asuncion Municipality's decision to locate it at the prominent waterfront of the city.

Dr Jaishankar said this is a statement of solidarity that was so strongly expressed during the Covid pandemic. The Minister also visited the historic Casa de la Independencia, from where Paraguay's Independence movement started more than two centuries ago. The Minister said, it is fitting testament to our common struggle and growing relationship.

- *External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar has unveiled a bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Asuncion, Paraguay. The Minister also visited the historic Casa de la Independencia, from where Paraguay's Independence movement started more than two centuries ago.*
- *Paraguay is a landlocked country in South America. It is bordered by Argentina to the south and southwest, Brazil to the east and northeast, and Bolivia to the northwest.*
- *It is a founding member of Mercosur, the United Nations, the Organization of American States, the Non-Aligned Movement, and the Lima Group.*
- *Asunción is the capital and the largest city of Paraguay.*

29. In August which ministry and the National Museum in collaboration with the Abheraj Baldota Foundation organized an exhibition 'Sutr Santati', celebrating 75 years of India's birth as an independent nation, by bringing together diverse textile traditions of the country.

- A. **Ministry of Culture**
- B. **Ministry Of Tribal Affairs**
- C. **Ministry Of Education**
- D. **Ministry Of Women and child development.**
- E. **None of these**

- Ministry of Culture and the National Museum in collaboration with the Abheraj Baldota Foundation organized an exhibition ‘Sutr Santati’, celebrating 75 years of India’s birth as an independent nation, by bringing together diverse textile traditions of the country.
- Sutr Santati means the continuity of yarn. As a title to the exhibition, it is a metaphor for ongoing dialogues in Indian culture and society, which shape its evolution, bridging the past with the future. On display are more than 100 textiles by 75 prominent artisans, craftspeople, designers, and artists.

30. In August _____ state government launched a national mission to make India the number one country in the world and called on all citizens and political parties to join it.

- A. Punjab
- B. Delhi
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Odisha
- E. None of these

- Delhi chief minister and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) national convener Arvind Kejriwal launched a “mission to make India No. 1” at the national Capital’s Talkatora stadium.
- While outlining five subjects that need to be addressed at the national level, Kejriwal said the country will have to come together as a family on the lines of the struggle for Indian independence to achieve the goal of “making India great again.”
- He stated that the country will have to ensure five conditions namely, free and good education for 25 crore school children, ensuring free quality healthcare, providing jobs to every single youngster, adequate compensation for the farmers, and ensuring that every woman gets respect, equality and security.

Kejriwal launches campaign to ‘Make India No. 1’, seeks support

BJP accuses CM of false claims and propaganda, says he is trying to fool people

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

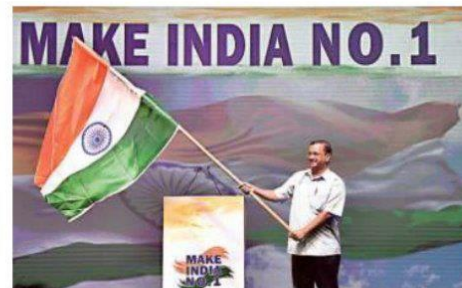
Setting his eyes on the 2024 Lok Sabha polls, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal launched AAP’s “Make India No. 1” campaign here on Wednesday.

The AAP national convener announced that the campaign would be driven by five “targets” – free and quality education, healthcare for all, equality and safety of women, jobs for youth and a fair price for farmers’ produce.

“We are on a mission to make India the strongest and greatest nation in the world. Let’s come together for the cause and Make India No. 1,” Mr. Kejriwal said, urging all 130 crore Indians to come together for the campaign. He was speaking at an event organised by AAP at the Talkatora stadium.

‘End hatred’

The last 75 years, the Delhi CM said, had been “wasted” in political wrangling and the time had come to “end



Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal at the Talkatora Stadium in Delhi on Wednesday. •SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

hatred” and live in peace. Mr. Kejriwal said he will travel “to every nook and corner of the country” to connect with the people and garner support for his campaign.

Mr. Kejriwal said, “These politicians and their parties are incompetent. They will ruin the country. If it is up to the will of these politicians, India will lag behind for another 75 years.”

AAP, which won its last Assembly election in Punjab by a landslide, has been trying

to expand its footprint across the country with an eye on the next general election.

While the party performed poorly in the other State polls it contested this year – Goa, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand – it is trying to make an impact in the upcoming elections in Gujarat and Himachal Pradesh, where its principal opponent is the BJP.

“We do not want to indulge in [political] fights anymore,” the Delhi CM said.

Without naming the BJP

and the Congress, Mr. Kejriwal accused the two national parties of having been “blinded” by love for “their friends and families”.

‘Promoting his politics’

Mr. Kejriwal came under heavy attack from the BJP. The Leader of the Opposition in the Delhi Assembly Ramvir Singh Bidhuri accused the CM of making false claims and peddling false propaganda, “to promote his politics”.

“Kejriwal is offering advice to the whole world, but in Delhi, he himself is not following what he preaches. He is trying to fool the people of Delhi as well as the entire country with his formula,” Mr. Bidhuri said.

North East Delhi BJP MP Manoj Tiwari said the party would soon approach the Lokayukta and the Lieutenant-Governor demanding a forensic probe by the Comptroller and Auditor General into core Delhi government sectors such as power, water and transportation.

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- While addressing a gathering of AAP volunteers and workers Kejriwal said we are launching this as a national mission. it will be called Make India number 1 and every citizen of the country should join this mission.
 - He said the country will have to prioritize the education of 27crore children while thinking about 130crore citizens as a family.
31. In August which *state government has given the status of a game to Dahi Handi*?
- A. Odisha
 - B. Maharashtra**
 - C. Andra Pradesh
 - D. Delhi
 - E. None of these
- Like Kho-Kho and Kabaddi, Dahi Handi has now been given the status of a game in Maharashtra. It will be considered a type of adventure sport.
 - Chief Minister Eknath Shinde told in the Vidhan Sabha that Govindas who join Dahi Handi will be given benefits of government schemes, 5 percent reservation in government jobs.
 - Soon Dahi Handi competition will also be started in the state based on the rules of Pro Kabaddi.
 - CM Shinde had announced to declare the day of the Dahi Handi festival as a public holiday. The government has also issued a government order in this regard.
 - The special thing is that Dahi-Handi can now be played as an adventure sport not only during Gokulashtami or Janmashtami but 365 days a year.
 - This festival is celebrated on the birth anniversary of Shri Krishna.
 - Dahi Handi was first started here in 1907 on the occasion of Krishna Janmashtami. The Dahi Handi festival held every year in Mayanagari is celebrated all over the world. Not only the country but people from abroad also come here to see the Dahi Handi festival. Some circles also give a reward of crores for breaking the handi.
32. Which among the following has *launched Operation Yatri Suraksha*’?
- A. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
 - B. National Highways Authority of India
 - C. Railway Protection Force**
 - D. Border Roads Organisation
 - E. None of these
- Indian Railways launched Operation Yatri Suraksha’ to improve the security of passengers.
 - The Railway Protection Force (RPF) will take several steps under the ‘Yatri Suraksha’ operation to provide more security to passengers.

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- RPF will ensure the security of passengers through CCTV at stations, checking on active criminals, escorting the train, identifying black spots, etc.
- For the security of passengers, regular coordination will be conducted by all the stakeholders.
- In July 2022, the RPF launched a month-long pan-India drive against criminals. The RPF caught 365 suspects for illegal activities.
- Under the Seva Hi Sankalp initiative, RPF maintains the safety of passengers with the help of drive, quick response to queries, and technology.
- Railway Protection Force: Railway Police was formed in 1854 and was given legal status under the Police Act of 1861.
- It was established as RPF under Railway Protection Force Act 1957.

33. In August Haryana and Punjab governments agreed to name Chandigarh International Airport after _____.

- A. Shaheed Bhagat Singh
- B. Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- C. Madan Mohan Malaviya
- D. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- E. None of these

- Haryana and Punjab governments agreed to name Chandigarh International Airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
- Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann held a meeting with Haryana Deputy CM Dushyant Chautala, in which this agreement was reached.
- The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) has shown explicit support for freedom fighter Bhagat Singh's sacrifices.
- AAP convenor Arvind Kejriwal had also pledged to put up photographs of BR Ambedkar and Bhagat Singh in all government offices of Punjab post the victory in the state legislative election. And, after winning the election, the party proposed to keep the name of Chandigarh airport after Bhagat Singh only.
- The naming of the Chandigarh international airport was earlier drawn into a controversy.

Punjab and Haryana agree to rename Chandigarh airport after Bhagat Singh

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

CHANDIGARH: Punjab and Haryana on Saturday agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport after freedom fighter Bhagat Singh. The decision was taken during a meeting between Punjab chief minister Bhagwant Mann and Haryana deputy CM Dushyant Chautala.

Mann tweeted, "Punjab and Haryana have agreed to name the Chandigarh International Airport after Shaheed Bhagat Singh. A meeting in this regard took place with the Haryana deputy CM."

Chautala in a statement said he has recommended adding Panchkula with the name of the Chandigarh airport. He said the collective contribution of the Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh is involved in the construction and modernisation of the Chandigarh airport and after expansion, the airport will boost the development and industrialisation of the area.

THE DECISION WAS TAKEN DURING A MEETING BETWEEN PUNJAB CM AND HARYANA DEPUTY CM

"Since Haryana also had an equal share in its construction, the name of Panchkula should also be added to its name," he said. Chautala said on behalf of Haryana, he has sent a recommendation to the Punjab government for the same. He said the same request will also be sent to the central government.

Chautala said: "In future, the Chandigarh airport will be a major airport in north India and will witness progress hence all the differences related to its naming should end soon."

Both states were engaged in a war-of-words over the naming of the airport. There had been reports that Haryana, which is a partner state in the airport, is unhappy with Punjab's demand to name the new airport as Shaheed-e-Azam Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali.

Haryana had repeatedly said the airport could be named after Bhagat Singh but the Centre should ensure that the airport contains the word Chandigarh and not Mohali. In his tweet about declaring the consensus on the issue, Mann mentioned the airport as Chandigarh airport.

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- The Punjab government in 2017 had demanded that the airport should be named "Shaheed-e-Azam Sardar Shaheed Bhagat Singh International Airport, Mohali".
- The Haryana government had no objection to the use of Bhagat Singh's name but it had raised its concerns about the use of 'Mohali' in the airport's name.
- The airport's terminal building falls in Punjab's Mohali town. The Rs 485-crore airport project is a joint venture of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) and the governments of Punjab and Haryana.

34. In August **Border Road Organization (BRO)** planned to build **Steel Slag Road** in **Arunachal Pradesh** on a **Pilot project** basis. India is the _____ producer of Steel in the world.

- A. 2nd
- B. 3rd
- C. 5th
- D. 4th
- E. None of these

- **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** will build **Steel Slag Road** in **Arunachal Pradesh** on a **pilot project** basis. The **Steel Slag Road** will be a **first-of-its-kind** project and will be able to withstand heavy rains and adverse climatic conditions.
- The construction of the **Steel Slag Road** in **Arunachal Pradesh** is being done by the **Border Roads Organization** to identify a possible durable road connectivity solution for the region.
- The project, if successful, will resolve the connectivity issues faced by remote parts of **Arunachal Pradesh** and strategic locations in the **North Eastern Sector**.
- Roads built using cement and concrete last about 30 years as compared to bitumen and steel slag roads which last around 15 years.
- Moreover, India being the 2nd largest producer of Steel in the world, using steel slag for the construction of roads will also help reduce the cost of construction.
- Before the **BRO's** project in **Arunachal Pradesh**; a 1.2-kilometer stretch of road was built in **Hazira, Surat** using **Steel Slag Material**. The project was built as part of an **R&D** project of the **Union Ministry of Steel** in collaboration with the **CSIR** and **CRRRI**. 1 lakh tonnes of processed steel slag was used in the construction of a six-lane highway which was made to connect **Hazira Port** with **Surat City**. The road was formally inaugurated in **June 2022**. The project was executed with the goal of "converting waste to wealth" and it made it to the **India Book of Records** and **Asia Book of Records**.
- Along similar lines, **National Highways Authority India (NHAI)** also plans to use steel slag for building a portion of the **Mumbai-Goa** highway. **Surat Airport** is also planning to use **Steel Slag** for the construction and strengthening of its airstrip by the **International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO)** recommendations.

35. Consider the following statement regarding **Grameen Udyami Project**. Which of the following is correct?

1. **Skill Development Corporation (NSDC)** in partnership with **Seva Bharti** and **Yuva Vikas Society**, launched the second phase of the **Grameen Udyami Project**.

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2. Under the initiative, the endeavor is to multiskill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods
3. The project is being implemented in six states— Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.
4. Grameen Udyami Yojana is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.
5. All of the above are correct.

Grameen Udyami Project launched to boost Skill India Mission

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 20 AUGUST

To augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth, the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with the Seva Bharti and the Yuva Vikas Society, today launched the second phase of the Grameen Udyami Project.

Under the initiative, the endeavour is to multiskill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has emphasised the involvement of tribal communities in the workforce, ensuring their holistic development to make them self-reliant and contained within their respective geographies.

Grameen Udyami is a



Skill India

कौशल भारत - कुशल भारत

unique multiskilling project, funded by NSDC that aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The project is being implemented in six states— Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat. This

concept was crystallised by Union Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar and tribal MPs.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Tribal affairs Arjun Munda stated that the government's focus was on strengthening sustainable

livelihood for tribal populations. With this, the central government has sanctioned a budget of Rs 85000 crores exclusively for tribal areas.

"There is also a dire need of increasing ownership so that there is awareness built around such schemes and initiatives. There is so much potential and ability in the tribal youth that all we need to do is lay down the right avenues for them to use their talent in the right places," he said. The minister expressed confidence that the Grameen Udyami project will prove to be a game-changer for the tribal communities of Jharkhand and provide them the right opportunities to stand on their own feet. He urged gram panchayats, villages, and blocks to bring these initiatives to youth for their progress.

- To augment skill training in tribal communities for their inclusive and sustainable growth, National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) in partnership with Seva Bharti and Yuva Vikas Society, today launched the second phase of the Grameen Udyami Project.
- Under the initiative, the endeavor is to multiskill India's youth and impart functional skills to them for enabling livelihoods. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has emphasized the involvement of tribal communities in the workforce, ensuring their holistic development to make them self-reliant and contained within their respective geographies.

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- **Grameen Udyami is a unique multiskilling project, funded by NSDC that aims to train 450 tribal students in Madhya Pradesh and Jharkhand. The project is being implemented in six states— Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, and Gujarat.**
- **In Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh, the training of 157 candidates started in seven batches in May 2022 and approximately 133 candidates completed the training successfully on June 27th, 2022. The phase-II of the pilot project launched in Ranchi today is being implemented by Yuva Vikas Society, through Seva Bharti Kendra in Ranchi. NSDC under the aegis of MSDE has supported in setting up of labs and classrooms through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) in Seva Bharti Kendra Skill Development Center.**
- **Grameen Udyami Yojana is implemented under Sansadiya Parisankul Yojana.**

36. In August 10th National Conference of Women Police is being held in _____.

- A. Delhi
- B. Rishikesh
- C. Shimla
- D. Jaipur
- E. None of these

- **In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla on August 21, 2022.**
- **More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.**
- **The conference is being organized by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and the Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.**
- **The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges.**
- **State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present, the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.**

Aug 21, 2022, 8:03AM

Himachal Pradesh: 10th National Conference of Women Police to begin in Shimla today

In Himachal Pradesh, the 10th National Conference of Women Police will begin in Shimla today. More than two hundred women police officers and employees across the country are participating in this two-day National conference.

The conference is being organised by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) and Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPRD) in collaboration with Himachal Police.

Union Minister of State for Home affairs Nityanand Rai will inaugurate the conference.

The main objective of this conference is to enhance the leadership potential of women police officers and discuss their problems and challenges. It will also highlight and discuss the new roles and responsibilities of women in terms of changing technology and crime.

State Director General of Police Sanjay Kundu said, at present the strength of women in the police force in Himachal is 13 percent and the women quota in the police has been increased to 25 percent.



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37. In August *Mudhol hounds*, a breed of hunting dogs native of _____ state was inducted into the *Special Protection Group (SPG)*, the elite force protecting the Prime Minister of India.

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

- *Mudhol hounds*, a breed of hunting dogs native to north Karnataka, could be inducted into the *Special Protection Group (SPG)*, the elite force protecting the Prime Minister of India.
- The dogs already serve with the Indian armed forces and some paramilitary forces and could become the first indigenous breed to be part of the SPG.
- The *Mudhol hounds* are believed to have been bred first by Raja Malojirao Ghorpade of the erstwhile Deccan kingdom of *Mudhol*.
- Known for their hunting and guarding skills, the characteristically lanky *Mudhol hounds* get their name from the erstwhile kingdom of *Mudhol* (in present-day *Bagalkot*), whose rulers first began to breed them. The dogs are fast runners, with excellent stamina and agility, and have sharp vision and a keen sense of smell.
- For the specific qualities that they possessed, the Indian Army took a batch of *Mudhol hound* puppies into its *Remount and Veterinary Corps (RVC)* training center in *Meerut* in February 2016. This was the first time that an indigenous breed was trained at the *RVC Centre* — which has a long history of training foreign breeds such as *Labrador* and *German Shepherd* — for possible induction into service with the Army.
- The *Special Protection Group* is an agency of the Government of India whose sole responsibility is protecting the Prime Minister of India and in some cases, his or her family. It was formed in 1988 by an Act of the Parliament of India.
- Headquarters: *New Delhi*
- Agency executive: *Arun Kumar Sinha, IPS, Director, SPG.*

Mudhol hounds join protection force

Karnataka veterinary varsity hands over two pups to SPG authorities

RISHIKESH BAHADUR DESAI
BELAGAVI

India's elite protection force, the *Special Protection Group*, which guards very very important persons (VVIPs), including the Prime Minister and Central Ministers, is the latest entrant in the list of agencies trying to induct the *Mudhol hounds*.

The *Canine Research and Information Centre (CRIC)* of the *Karnataka Veterinary, Animal and Fisheries Sciences University (KVAFSU)* handed over two pups to the SPG authorities who visited the centre a few weeks ago. The SPG will raise and train the litter and induct them on an experimental basis.

With this, the *CRIC* has supplied puppies to the remount veterinary corps of



Going places: A file photo of Minister Govind Karjol handing over *Mudhol* pups to Indian Air Force officers.

the Indian Army, Indian Air Force, Border Security Force, Central Reserve Police Force, *Seema Suraksha Bal*, and Central Industrial Security Force, apart from several State government agencies. Outposts and vigilance squads of the Police and Forest departments in

Karnataka are also engaging *Mudhols*.

"The canine units of these agencies are breeding and training our pups. We have received very positive feedback from all these agencies. Several agencies have come back to us for more dogs," *Sushant Hande*, director,

CRIC, told *The Hindu*. Unlike other popular breeds of dogs, the *Mudhols* are sight-hounds. They can notice the minutest movement from 2 km away. The *CRIC* issues pups after verifying the genealogy and after implanting a microchip under the collar of each dog. This lets the handlers track the animal's movements and health.

"*Mudhol* dogs have broken the national testing standards set by the government for induction into various security agencies. Our native breeds have higher tenacity, and disease resistance than exotic breeds. Their adaptability to changing environmental conditions is also larger than others," said *B.V. Shivaprakash*, director of research, *KVAFSU*.

38. Where did Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurate the two-day National Security Strategies Conference 2022 on 17 August 2022?

- A. **New Delhi**
- B. Chennai

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- C. Mumbai
- D. Lucknow
- E. None of these

- *Two-day National Security Strategies Conference 2022 was inaugurated by Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi on 17 August 2022.*
- *600 officers from all over India are physically and virtually attending the conference.*
- *On the first day of the conference, discussions were held on counter-terrorism, radicalization, issues about cryptocurrencies, and challenges posed by Maoist outfits.*
- *National Automated Fingerprint Identification System was also inaugurated by the Home Minister.*
- *It will help in the quick and easy disposal of cases using the centralized fingerprint database.*

39. Which of the following state government recently announced that their **government will provide 2% reservation in all state departments to sportspersons?**

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

- *Karnataka government will provide 2% reservation in all state departments to sportspersons.*
- *Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai recently said that his government will provide 2% reservation in all state departments to sportspersons.*
- *He said Karnataka is the first state to adopt athletes. It has adopted basketball as a state sport.*
- *He felicitated Ashwini Ponnappa, Rajeshwari Gayakwad, Gururaj Poojary, Ankitha Suresh, Priya Mohan, and other athletes.*
- *Its Governor is Thawarchand Gehlot.*

40. Which of the following statements is/are incorrect regarding **'Medicine from The Sky'**?

1. It is a pilot drone service project launched by Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
2. It is funded by United Nations Agency for International Development (UNAID).
3. **Both 1 and 2**
- 4.. None of the above

IN BRIEF



Shah inaugurates meet on national security

NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated a two-day National Security Strategies Conference, attended by 600 police officers in virtual and physical mode, on Wednesday. Deliberations were held on various national security issues, including the use of crypto currencies, an official said. It is organised by the Intelligence Bureau.

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- Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu launched 'Medicine from The Sky'.
- It is a pilot drone service project. Arunachal Pradesh has launched a drone service as a pilot project for supplying medicines and other essential services.
- The first successful flight was conducted from Seppa to Chayang Tajo in the East Kameng district.
- The focus of the pilot project would be on transporting essential medicines, vaccines, and diagnostic samples using drones.
- The pilot project is funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and executed by Redwings Labs.

41. In August Union Cabinet approved the enhancement in the limit of Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by _____ with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.

- A. Rs 20,000 crore
- B. Rs 50,000 crore**
- C. Rs 25,000 crore
- D. Rs 75,000 crore
- E. None of these

- The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs. 4.5 Lakh crore to Rs. 5 Lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors.
- ECLGS is a continuing scheme. The additional amount of Rs. 50,000 crores would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till the validity of the scheme which is 31.3.2023.
- ECLGS is an already operational scheme and on account of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic on hospitality and related sectors, the Government has specifically earmarked several Rs. 50,000 crores for enterprises in these sectors.
- The enhancement is expected to provide much-needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivizing lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs. 50,000 crores at low cost, thereby enabling these business enterprises to meet their operational liabilities and continue their businesses.
- Loans of about Rs. 3.67 Lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till 5.8.2022.

Cabinet enhances ECLGS corpus by Rs 50,000 crore

AGENCIES
New Delhi

The government on Wednesday approved an additional Rs 50,000 crore under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) to ensure low-cost credit flow to hospitality and related segments hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Union Cabinet has approved the enhancement in the limit of ECLGS by Rs 50,000 crore from Rs 4.5 lakh crore to Rs 5 lakh crore, with the additional amount being earmarked exclusively for enterprises in hospitality and related sectors. Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Singh Thakur told reporters here. The increase has been done on account of the severe disruptions suffered by hospitality and related enterprises due to the pandemic.

The enhancement is expected to provide much needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivising lending institutions to provide additional credit of up to Rs 50,000 crore at low



cost, an official statement said.

The ECLGS was announced in May 2020 in wake of the outbreak of COVID-19 to help various sectors, especially in the MSME segment, to get credit at a concessional rate of 7 per cent. Loans of about Rs 3.67 lakh crore have been sanctioned under ECLGS till August 5, 2022.

In Union Budget 2022-23, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced extending the validity of ECLGS till March 2023 and an increase in the limit of guaranteed cover by Rs 50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till the validity of the scheme (March 31, 2023).

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42. Consider the following statement regarding **Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. Union Cabinet approved an enhancement in the ECLGS of ₹50,000 crores, raising its limit to ₹5 lakh crore.
 2. Borrowers with credit outstanding up to Rs. 50 crore as of 29th February 2020, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs. 250 crores are eligible.
 3. The scheme will remain valid for these sectors till March 31, 2023.
 4. Loans provided are 5 years, including a moratorium of 1 year on principal repayment.
 5. None of the above.

- The Centre has announced raising the allocation under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) by Rs 50,000 crore to Rs 5 lakh crore.
- The ECLGS was unveiled as part of the comprehensive package announced by the Finance Ministry.
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was launched in different phases - ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0, ECLGS 3.0, ECLGS 4.0.
- This scheme was launched to aid the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector because of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The ECLGS was unveiled as part of the comprehensive package announced by the Finance Ministry.
- Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS) was launched in different phases - ECLGS 1.0, ECLGS 2.0, ECLGS 3.0, ECLGS 4.0.
- This scheme was launched to aid the Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector because of the economic distress caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Eligibility: Borrowers with credit outstanding up to Rs. 50 crore as of 29th February 2020, and with an annual turnover of up to Rs. 250 crores are eligible.
- The tenor of loans provided is 5 years, including a moratorium of 1 year on principal repayment.
- Interest rates are capped at 9.25% for Banks and Financial Institutions (FIs), and 14% for NBFCs.

Credit guarantee plan expanded to aid hospitality, related sectors

'Loan cover of ₹50,000 cr. for sustenance, recovery of firms dented by COVID-19'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved an enhancement of ₹50,000 crore in the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), raising its limit to ₹5 lakh crore, with the additional amount set to be deployed for enterprises in the hospitality and related sectors that were hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of August 5, loans of ₹3.67 lakh crore had been sanctioned under the ECLGS, which was introduced to provide guarantees for additional credit needs of businesses hit by lockdowns and disruptions since the onset



A leg up: Demand remains subdued for the contact-intensive sectors while others have recovered faster. • VIBHAV BIRWATKAR

of the pandemic in 2020.

The Cabinet decided that the additional amount of ₹50,000 crore would be made applicable to enterprises in hospitality and related sectors till March 31,

2023. This step had been announced in this year's Union Budget. "The enhancement is expected to provide much needed relief to enterprises in these sectors by incentivising lending institutions to

provide additional credit of up to ₹50,000 crore at low cost," the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

The pandemic had adversely affected contact-intensive sectors, and demand has continued to be subdued for them even as other sectors have returned to the recovery path faster.

Justifying the need for interventions for such businesses' 'sustenance and recovery', the Ministry added that their revival was also necessary for supporting the overall economic rebound, taking into account their high employment intensity as well as their linkages with other sectors.

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- The ECLGS aims to provide 100% guaranteed coverage to banks, non-banking financial institutions (NBFCs), and other lending institutions.
- As of August 5, 2022, loans of ₹3.67 lakh crore have already been sanctioned under the scheme.
- More than 1.14 crore borrowers have been issued a guarantee under the scheme.
- The scheme will remain valid for these sectors till March 31, 2023.

43. Consider the following statement regarding the **Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL)**.

1. The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001.
2. The Cabinet has approved the “Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices”.
3. It was jointly established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and the Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH).

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 Cabinet has approved the “Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices”.

- The opening up of the TKDL is also envisaged to inculcate thought and knowledge leadership through Bharatiya Gnana Parampara, under the New Education Policy 2020.

Cabinet approves widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices

Posted On: 17 AUG 2022 3:20PM by PIB Delhi

The Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has approved the “Widening access of the Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) database to users, besides patent offices”. The opening up of the TKDL database to users is an ambitious and forward-looking action by the Government of India. This will be a new dawn for Indian traditional knowledge, as the TKDL will drive research & development, and innovation based on India’s valued heritage across diverse fields. The opening up of the TKDL is also envisaged to inculcate thought and knowledge leadership through Bharatiya Gnana Parampara, under the New Education Policy 2020.

Indian traditional knowledge (TK) offers immense potential to serve national and global needs, therewith providing societal benefits as well as economic growth. For example, the traditional systems of medicine and wellness from our country, namely Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga are serving the needs of people from India and abroad even today. The recent COVID-19 pandemic has also been witnessing extensive use of Indian traditional medicines whose benefits range from immune-boosting to symptoms-relief to anti-viral activity. Earlier this year in April, the World Health Organization (WHO) established its first off-shore Global Centre for Traditional Medicines (GCTM) in India. These demonstrate the continued relevance of traditional knowledge in address the current and emerging needs of the world.

The approval of the Cabinet to widen the access of the database beyond patent offices lays emphasis on integrating and co-opting traditional knowledge with current practices towards enhancing innovation and trade. The TKDL will act as an important sources of TK information for advancing knowledge and technology frontiers. The current contents of TKDL shall facilitate wider adoption of Indian traditional medicines, while also propelling new manufacturers and innovators to gainfully build enterprises based on our valuable knowledge heritage.

- The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) is a prior art database of Indian traditional knowledge established in 2001, jointly by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Department of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy (ISM&H, now Ministry of AYUSH).
- The TKDL is a first of its kind globally and has been serving as an exemplary model to other nations. The TKDL currently contains information from existing literature related to ISM such as Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa, and Yoga.

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- The information is documented in a digitized format in five international languages which are English, German, French, Japanese, and Spanish.
44. Which of the following statements is correct regarding **Pravasi Bhartiya Divas**?
- A. Lucknow will host the 17th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas in January 2023.
 - B. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.**
 - C. The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was celebrated on 9th January 2022.
 - D. It is being celebrated since 2006.
 - E. All of the above
- An MoU has been signed by Madhya Pradesh's Chief Secretary Iqbal Singh Bains and Ausaf Sayeed, Secretary of the Consular, Passport, and Visa Division to host the Pravasi Bhartiya Divas.
 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention is organized by the Ministry of External Affairs.
 - It provides an opportunity to connect with overseas Indians.
 - The 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention was organized on 9th January 2021.
 - Pravasi Bharatiya Divas: It is celebrated on 9 January to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of India.
 - It is being celebrated since 2003.
 - On this day in 1915, Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa.
 - From 2015 onwards, it is celebrated once every two years.
45. In August _____ - **tribal-dominated region of Madhya Pradesh has become the first "functionally literate" district in the country.**
- A. Seoni
 - B. Shahdol
 - C. Mandla**
 - D. Chhindwara
 - E. None of these
- Tribal-dominated Mandla region of Madhya Pradesh has become the first "functionally literate" district in the country.
 - According to a survey in 2011, the literacy rate in the district was 68 percent.
 - Another report in 2020 stated that more than 2.25 lakh people in the district were not literate and most of them were tribals living in forest areas.
 - Tribals often complained to the authorities about fraudsters taking money from their bank accounts, and the root cause was that they were not functionally literate.
 - A person can be said to be functionally literate when he can write his name, count, and read and write in Hindi.
 - A major campaign was launched from Independence Day 2020 to make women and senior citizens functionally literate, involving the Department of School Education, Department of Women and Child Development, Anganwadi, and social workers.
 - Within two years, the entire district has become functionally literate and Mandla has become the first district in the country to achieve this feat.

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46. In August Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Seminar on 'Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal' which was organized by the Armed Forces Tribunal (Principal Bench) Bar Association on 20 August was held in

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Srinagar
- C. **New Delhi**
- D. Kanpur
- E. None of these

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the National Seminar on 'Introspection: Armed Forces Tribunal'.
- It was organized by the Armed Forces Tribunal (Principal Bench) Bar Association on 20 August.
- Its main objective is to examine the functioning of the Armed Forces Tribunal, which was set up for speedy and inexpensive justice to Ex-Servicemen, their families, and War-Widows.
- The recommendations for remedies for any shortcomings were also given. It also aims to resolve problems and difficulties faced by the litigants.
- Armed Forces Tribunal: It was established under the Armed Forces Tribunal Act 2007.
- Its Principal Bench is in New Delhi while regional benches are at Chandigarh, Lucknow, Kolkata, Guwahati, Chennai, Kochi, Mumbai, Jabalpur, Srinagar, and Jaipur.
- It has original jurisdiction in service matters relating to the Army, Air Force, and Navy and appellate jurisdiction in court martial cases.
- Rajendra Menon is the current Chairperson.

47. Consider the following statement regarding **Interest Subvention on short-term agriculture loans**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. The Union Cabinet has approved to restore Interest Subvention on short-term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions.
2. This increase in Interest Subvention support requires additional budgetary provisions of Rs 34,856 crore for the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25 under the scheme.
3. **It's applicable for lending short-term agri-loans up to Rs 5 lakh to the farmers.**
4. Recently, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, over 3.13 Crore farmers have been issued a new Kisan Credit Card (KCC) against the target of 2.5 Crore.
5. None of the above.

- The Union Cabinet has approved to restore Interest Subvention on short-term agriculture loans to 1.5% for all financial institutions.
- Thus, an Interest Subvention of 1.5% will be provided to lending institutions (Public Sector Banks, Private Sector Bank, Small Finance Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Cooperative Banks, and Computerized PACS directly ceded with commercial banks) for the financial year 2022-23 to 2024-25 for lending short term agri-loans up to Rs 3 lakh to the farmers.

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- This increase in Interest Subvention support requires additional budgetary provisions of Rs 34,856 crore for the period of 2022-23 to 2024-25 under the scheme.
- An increase in Interest Subvention will ensure the sustainability of credit flow in the agriculture sector as well as ensure the financial health and viability of the lending institutions especially Regional Rural Banks & Cooperative Banks, ensuring adequate agricultural credit in the rural economy.
- Farmers will continue to avail of short-term agriculture credit at an interest rate of 4% per annum while repaying the loan in time.
- Under this scheme, short-term agriculture loan up to Rs. 3.00 lakh is available to farmers engaged in Agriculture and other allied activities including Animal Husbandry, Dairying, Poultry, fisheries, etc. at the rate of 7% p.a.
- An additional 3% subvention (Prompt Repayment Incentive - PRI) is also given to the farmers for prompt and timely repayment of loans.
- Therefore, if a farmer repays his loan on time, he gets credit at the rate of 4% p.a.

● BANKS TO CONTINUE OFFERING LOANS OF UP TO ₹3 LAKH

Govt clears ₹34,856 cr more for farm loan interest scheme

Farmers given an additional subvention of 3% for timely repayment of loans

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, August 17

THE CABINET ON Wednesday approved an additional outlay of ₹34,856 crore towards the interest subvention scheme to help banks continue offering short-term farm loans of up to ₹3 lakh at 7%, even in a rising interest rate scenario.

It has decided to restore an interest subvention of 1.5% on short-term agriculture loans, to be provided to financial institutions in FY23 and FY24. This support to banks for the interest subvention scheme was stopped in May 2020, as lenders were themselves able to provide such loans at 7%.

However, with the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raising the benchmark lending rate thrice by 140 basis points since May (it has now exceeded the pre-pandemic level to hit 5.4%), it has become necessary to compensate banks, so that they can continue providing the short-term farm loans at 7%.



■ The Cabinet has decided to restore an interest subvention of 1.5% on short-term agriculture loans, to be provided to financial institutions in FY23 and FY24

■ With the RBI raising the benchmark lending rate thrice by 140 bps since May, it has become necessary to compensate banks

■ This support to banks for the interest subvention scheme was stopped in May 2020, as lenders were themselves able to provide such loans at 7%

Of course, an additional subvention of 3% is given to farmers for timely repayment of loans, which effectively implies that these farmers get credit at a 4% interest rate.

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, information and broadcasting minister Anurag Singh Thakur also said

the government has not let domestic fertiliser prices rise despite the increase in global rates.

Further, the ministersaid the fertiliser subsidy in the current fiscal year is likely to be more than ₹2 trillion. In the Union Budget for 2022-23, fertiliser subsidy was estimated at ₹1.05

trillion, against ₹1.62 trillion in the last fiscal. However, with a spurt in global fertiliser prices in the wake of the Ukraine war, the government has decided to substantially raise its subsidy to soften the blow for farmers.

“Increase in interest subvention will ensure sustainability of credit flow in the agriculture sector, as well as ensure financial health and viability of the lending institutions, especially regional rural banks and cooperative banks, ensuring adequate agriculture credit in the rural economy,” the statement noted.

To enable credit facility to farmers, the government provides interest subvention to the financial institutions offering Kisan Credit Card (KCCs). The fund allocated under the interest subvention is also the second biggest scheme being implemented by the department of agriculture and farmers welfare, as per budget outlay and coverage of beneficiaries.

Recently, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, over 31.3 million farmers were issued new KCCs, out of which 27.4 million KCC holders were engaged in crop cultivation, while 1.3 million card holders were engaged in dairying.

- For enabling this facility to the farmers, the Government of India provides Interest Subvention (IS) to the Financial Institutions offering this scheme. This support is 100% funded by the Centre, it is also the second largest scheme of DA&FW as per budget outlay and coverage of beneficiaries.
- Recently, under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat campaign, over 3.13 Crore farmers have been issued a new Kisan Credit Card (KCC) against the target of 2.5 Crore.

48. Raja Ji National Park where Asia's longest elevated wildlife corridor (12km) is being constructed is in which of the following state?

A. Uttarakhand

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Breakthrough achieved on Delhi-Dehradun Expressway project

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

- Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways informed through a series of tweets that the last 20km stretch passes through an eco-sensitive zone of Raja Ji National Park where Asia's longest elevated wildlife corridor (12km) is being constructed which includes a 340m Daat Kali tunnel.
 - He said sustainable development is the motto of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Government.
 - The Minister said the tunnel intends to protect the surrounding wildlife. Once completed, the expressway would reduce travel time between Dehradun-Delhi from 6 hrs to 2.30 hours & Delhi-Haridwar from 5 hours to 2 hours.
49. Ministry of coal has set a production of _____ million ton this financial year.
- A. 900 million ton
 - B. 800 million ton
 - C. 500 million ton
 - D. 600 million ton
 - E. None of these
- Union Minister of Coal, Mines and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Pralhad Joshi said that shortly more than 107 coal blocks will be made available for auction by the Ministry of Coal.
 - He was addressing a function in which the Ministry of Coal has executed agreements with the successful bidders for 16 coal mines under the sale of coal of the 13th tranche, 14th tranche, and second attempt of the 12th tranche.
 - The Minister said that during the last four months Coal India Ltd has set a new record by producing around 207 million tons of coal.
 - Ministry of coal is targeting production of 900 million tons this financial year and the target of CIL comes to 700 million tons.
 - By the year 2030 India's coal requirement will be 1.5 billion tons, the minister stated.
50. Consider the following statement regarding **National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
 2. NAMASTE aims to achieve Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
 3. Five hundred cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of NAMASTE
 4. National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation(NSKFDC) would be implementing an agency for NAMASTE.
 5. The Scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 350 crores for four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26.
- Namaste is a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE) as a joint initiative of the MoSJE and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

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- **NAMASTE would also aim at providing access to alternative livelihood support and entitlements to reduce the vulnerabilities of sanitation workers and enable them to access self-employment and skilled wage employment opportunities and break the intergenerational in sanitation work.**
- **In addition, NAMASTE would bring about a behavior change amongst citizens towards sanitation workers and enhance demand for safe sanitation services.**
- **NAMASTE aims to achieve the following outcomes: Zero fatalities in sanitation work in India**
- **Five hundred cities (converging with AMRUT cities) will be taken up under this phase of NAMASTE. The list of cities will be notified at an appropriate time. Ten Cities from hill states, islands, and tourist destinations (not more than one from each State). All Cities and Towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities, including Cantonment Boards (Civilian areas),**
- **NAMASTE envisages identifying the Sewer/Septic Tank Workers (SSWs) with a focus on the informal workforce who are engaged in hazardous cleaning operations. The database will enable MoSJE, NSKFDC, and MoHUA (including DAY-NULM, SBM 2.0, and AMRUT) to reach the SSWs and their families and provide them with the necessary support for collectivization, skill building, and linking with social and financial benefits.**
- **The Survey would be conducted by the City NAMASTE Managers and validated by the concerned ULB. The survey would be held in digital mode in a pre-approved format.**
- **For providing a safety net to identified SSWs and their families they will be covered under the Ayushman Bharat- Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).**

(a) The rate of interest chargeable from the beneficiaries will be as follows:-

Project cost	Rate of Interest per annum
Projects upto Rs. 100000 /-	5% (4% for women beneficiaries)
Projects above Rs 100000/-	6%

(b) Upfront Capital subsidy as under.

Range of Project Cost (Rs.)	Capital Subsidy
For individuals	
Upto Rs. 5,00,000	50% of project cost
5,00,000 to 15,00,000	Rs. 2.50 lakh + 25% of remaining project cost
For Group Projects:	
Upto Rs. 10,00,000 lakh per beneficiary with maximum project cost upto Rs. 50,00,000	Same as admissible to individuals subject to maximum Rs. 3.75 lakh per beneficiary.

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- **National NAMASTE Management Unit: National Safai Karamchari Financial Development Corporation(NSKFDC) would be implementing an agency for NAMASTE. The Scheme will operate as a joint initiative of MOSJE and MoHUA, with a dedicated national team. At the apex of the structure will be the National NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (NNMU) under the Managing Director, NSKFDC, which will report to the concerned Division head in the MoSJE, Government of India.**
- **State Namaste Management Unit: The State Govt. will decide on a suitable officer to be designated as State Namaste Director to head State Namaste Management Unit (SNMU). The officer may be from SBM, NULM, AMRUT or the ULB, or any other relevant Department of the State.**
- **City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit: While constituting the Project Management Unit as an implementation body at the city level, the PMU would be organized in clusters of municipalities to work as City NAMASTE Monitoring Unit (CNMU) to coincide with the SBM clusters.**
- **Campaigns would be undertaken jointly by the ULBs & NSKFDC to spread awareness about the enumeration of target sanitation workers and other interventions of NAMASTE.**
- **The Scheme has been approved with an outlay of Rs. 360 crores for four years from 2022-23 to 2025-26.**

51. **The Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL), which was set up jointly between erstwhile OFB of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) of Russia, is located at _____.**

- A. Kanpur
- B. Hardoi
- C. **Amethi**
- D. Raebareli
- E. None of these

- **The production of the AK-203 assault rifles by the Indo-Russian joint venture at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, is set to begin by year-end and the manufacturing equipment required for it will be dispatched from Russia shortly, according to a senior official of Kalashnikov, the Russian company which manufactures the rifles.**
- **The production was originally scheduled to begin early this year. As per the contract, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles costing over ₹5,000 crores will be manufactured by a Joint Venture, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL), at Korwa, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh.**

Amethi unit all set to make AK-203 rifles

Russia to send equipment shortly

DINAKAR PERI
MOSCOW

The production of the AK-203 assault rifles by the Indo-Russian joint venture at Amethi, Uttar Pradesh, is set to begin by year-end and the manufacturing equipment required for it will be dispatched from Russia shortly, according to a senior official of Kalashnikov, the Russian company which manufactures the rifles.

The production was originally scheduled to begin early this year.

“Training of Indian workers of the factory will begin shortly and the manufacturing process will reach 100% indigenisation in three years,” the official who did not wish to be identified said.

He stated that earlier issues with regard to the ammunition for the rifles have been resolved.

Confirming this, Dmitry Shugaev, Director of the Federal Service for Military-Technical Cooperation (FSMTC) of Russia, said, “Work is under way to organise the production of the AK-203 assault rifles in India, the serial production of which is expected to begin in late 2022 or early 2023.”

Delayed due to war

As reported by *The Hindu* earlier, as part of pre-production activities, retrials were scheduled to be done with ammunition from the Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) in Russia in the first half of February,



AK-203 assault rifle.

but got delayed by few months due to the war in Ukraine. On this, officials said this issue had now been resolved and a local manufacturer of ammunition had been identified in India.

As per the contract, over 6.1 lakh AK-203 assault rifles costing over ₹5,000 crore will be manufactured by a Joint Venture, Indo-Russian Rifles Private Ltd (IRRPL), at Korwa, Amethi in Uttar Pradesh. IRRPL was set up jointly between erstwhile OFB [now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL)] of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) and concern Kalashnikov of Russia.

A modern 13/20 line and a small arms range has been set up where acceptance tests of rifles will be carried out. The full-scale production is expected to be reached within 2-3 years, Director-General of Rosoboron export Alexander Mikheev had stated earlier.

As per contractual terms, first 70,000 AK-203 rifles will be produced in India with a phased increase in the extent of localisation from 5% to 70%. The remaining rifles will be produced with 100% localisation.

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- IRRPL was set up jointly between erstwhile OFB [now Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWEIL) and Munitions India Limited (MIL)] of India and Rosoboronexport (RoE) and concern Kalashnikov of Russia.
- As per contractual terms, the first 70,000 AK-203 rifles will be produced in India with a phased increase in the extent of localization from 5% to 70%. The remaining rifles will be produced with 100% localization.

52. In August Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy-2022, which suggests that the State would be targeting the generation of _____ of renewable power by 2026-27.

- A. 16,000 Mega Watt
- B. 26,000 Mega Watt
- C. 36,000 Mega Watt
- D. 46,000 Mega Watt
- E. None of these

- The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy-2022, which suggests that the State would be targeting the generation of 16,000 Mega Watt of renewable power by 2026-27.
- The policy was released by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA).
- The government has proposed to meet the ambitious 16,000 MW target by generating 4,000 MW from solar rooftop projects, 2,000 MW from distributed solar generation, and the rest (10,000 MW) from utility/grid-scale solar projects and solar parks.
- Under the proposed policy, the government would develop 20 solar cities covering 10 lakh households with rooftop installations. The draft also proposes rooftop solar installations in government buildings and 21,000 unelectrified primary schools.

U.P. to generate 16 GW solar power in five years

State aims to develop 20 solar cities

STAFF REPORTER
LUCKNOW

The Uttar Pradesh government unveiled the draft of its Solar Energy Policy-2022 on Friday, which suggests that the State would be targeting generation of 16,000 Mega Watt of renewable power by 2026-27.

The policy was released by the Uttar Pradesh New and Renewable Energy Development Agency (UPNEDA). The government has proposed to meet the ambitious 16,000 MW target by generating 4,000 MW from solar rooftop projects, 2,000 MW from distributed solar generation and the rest (10,000 MW) from utility/grid scale solar projects and solar parks.

Under the proposed policy, the government would

develop 20 solar cities covering 10 lakh households with rooftop installations. The cities include Meerut, Varanasi, Bareilly, Moradabad, Saharanpur, Firozabad, Mirzapur, Kanpur, Lucknow, Agra, Ghaziabad, Jhansi, Muzaffarnagar, Mathura, Azamgarh, Ayodhya and Aligarh. The draft also proposes rooftop solar installations in government buildings and in 21,000 unelectrified primary schools.

“The policy aims to develop solar parks, promotion of small decentralized grid connected solar power, promotion of solar installations and strengthening of transmission network for evacuation of solar projects by development of Green Energy Corridor in Bundelkhand region,” the proposal reads.

53. Consider the following statement regarding Jal Jeevan Mission. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. 20 crore rural households (52% of total rural households) to piped clean water under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
2. The JJM rests on four pillars - people’s participation, stakeholder participation, political will, and optimum utilization of resources.
3. The Mission, which was launched on August 15, 2019.
4. It is an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
5. None of the above.

- PM Modi recently declared that India had reached a landmark by connecting 10 crore rural households (52% of total rural households) to piped clean water under the Jal Jeevan Mission.
- The PM was speaking at an event to commemorate Goa, Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu becoming the first 'Har Ghar Jal' (water to every household) certified state and UT.
- JJM was introduced in 2019. It is unique as it emphasizes the significance of reaching 100% Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) in a short period (2024).
- JJM - an initiative of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, is envisioned to provide -
- Safe and adequate drinking water through individual household tap connections by 2024 to all households in rural India (Har Ghar Jal) at affordable service delivery charges leading to improvement in living standards of rural communities.
- The Mission, which was launched on August 15, 2019, also implements source sustainability measures (such as recharge and reuse through greywater management, water conservation, and rainwater harvesting) as mandatory elements.
- The JJM rests on four pillars - people's participation, stakeholder participation, political will, and optimum utilization of resources.

54. Consider the following statement regarding the **Ocean Diversity pact**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations are in New York to deliberate on a one-of-its-kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas
 2. United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea also called the Law of the Sea Convention, is an international agreement that was adopted in 1982 to establish jurisdictional limits over the ocean areas.
 3. India became a signatory to the UNCLOS in 1982.
 4. Only 1 & 2.
 5. None of the above.

- A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations is in New York to deliberate on a one-of-its-kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity on the high seas.
- High seas are the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters.
- The high seas are the parts of the ocean that are not included in the exclusive economic zones, territorial sea, or internal waters of a State.

10 cr rural households connected to piped water facility, says PM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
PANAJI, AUGUST 19

PRIME MINISTER Narendra Modi on Friday congratulated the Goa government for becoming the first state to be Har Ghar Jal certified, which means every household in the state had a piped water connection. In a virtual address, he said the Union Territories of Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu had achieved the feat as well.

"Today 10 crore rural households of the country have been connected to piped clean water facility. This is a big success of the government's campaign to deliver water to every household. This is a great example of *Sabka Prayas* (everyone's efforts)," the Prime Minister said. He said the Jal Jeevan Abhiyan was not just a government scheme, but a scheme run by the community, for the community. Many states will join Goa in achieving this mission soon, he added.



PM Narendra Modi virtually addresses the Har Ghar Jal Utsav on Friday. *PTI*

The coastal state of Goa has a population of about 15 lakh.

The Har Ghar Jal Utsav under the Jal Jeevan Mission was held in Panaji and attended by Chief Minister Pramod Sawant and Union minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. Sawant said this is a "matter of pride for the people of Goa", and congratulated various government departments that "worked continuously through the two years of Covid".

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- High seas are the areas of the ocean for which no one nation has sole responsibility for management.
- The agreement is expected to be the final in a series set in motion since 2018 to draft an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).
- The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea also called the Law of the Sea Convention, is an international agreement that was adopted in 1982 to establish jurisdictional limits over ocean areas.
- It defines the rights and responsibilities of nations to their use of the world's oceans, establishing guidelines for businesses, the environment, and the management of marine natural resources.
- It defines a distance of 12 nautical miles (approx. 22 km) from the baseline as the Territorial Sea limit and a distance of 200 nautical miles distance as the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) limit.
- India became a signatory to the UNCLOS in 1982.
- Location: Montego Bay, Jamaica, Signatories: 157.

Indian team deliberating on ocean diversity pact

A key aspect of the agreement is deciding on the rights of companies that undertake exploration for marine resources

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A delegation from India and other member countries of the United Nations are in New York to deliberate on a one-of-its-kind agreement to conserve marine biodiversity in the high seas, namely the oceans that extend beyond countries' territorial waters.

The agreement follows a resolution by the UN General Assembly in May and is expected to be the final in a series set in motion since 2018 to draft an international legally binding instrument under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The high seas comprise nearly 45% of the Earth's surface.

The Indian delegation comprises officials from the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Centre for Marine Fisheries and Research Institute and the Ministry of External Affairs.

A key aspect of the agreement is deciding on the rights of companies that undertake exploration for biological resources in the high seas. Do companies have absolute rights on any discovery or extraction in these regions or should they share their gains, in terms of intellectual property and royalties with a UN-prescribed bo-



Blue expanse: Oceanic research vessels undertake exploration to survey and study marine resources. •FILE PHOTO

dy, said M. Ravichandran, Secretary, MoES.

Typically, the focus of mining activity in the sea has been for gas hydrates, precious metals and other fossil

fuel resources. However, with advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering, several companies see potential in exotic microbes and other organisms – sever-

al of them undiscovered – that abide in the deep ocean and could be used for drugs and vaccines.

Last June, the Union Cabinet approved a 'Blue Economy' policy for India, a nearly ₹4,000-crore programme spread over five years. This among other things will develop a manned submersible vessel as well as work on "bio-prospecting of deep-sea flora and fauna including microbes".

Studies on sustainable utilisation of deep sea bio-resources will be the main focus.

Mr. Ravichandran said that there were already companies carrying out such ex-

ploratory activities though little was known about them. "Hence, an international agreement that spells out obligations and permissible activities is important," he told *The Hindu*.

K.M. Gopakumar, legal advisor and an expert on intellectual property matter with the Third World Network, said that there was a "race" among international corporations for biological resources from the sea, making it critical to have an agreement on benefit-sharing. "These resources are the common heritage of mankind and we can't allow it to be monopolised by a few entities," he told *The Hindu*.

55. In August Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the flagship program of the Government of India recorded another milestone of 101462 villages declaring themselves as ODF Plus. What does D stand for in ODF?

- Disinfection
- Defecation
- Diluteration
- Dismentalation
- None of these

- Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the flagship program of the Government of India, today recorded another milestone – of 101462 villages declaring themselves as ODF (open defecation free) Plus.
- These villages are sustaining their ODF status and have systems in place for managing solid and/or liquid waste and they would continue on their sanitation journey as they work towards making their villages cleaner, greener and healthier.
- Almost eight years ago, Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission from the ramparts of the Red Fort, with a vision to make the country open defecation free as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary. Under his visionary leadership, the country came together in the world's largest behavior change campaign and achieved its aim, and on 2nd October 2019.

- One lakh ODF Plus villages are no small achievement, given that the process of solid and liquid waste management is technical, is relatively new to rural India, and is a second-generation issue.
- In the ODF Plus - Aspiring category today are 54734 villages in which all households and institutions besides having access to sanitation through individual household latrines, have arrangements for either SWM or LWM; those in ODF Plus – Rising are 17121 villages that have arrangements for both LWM and SWM in addition to the criteria in Aspiring. Those that are declared ODF Plus - Model are 29607 villages that have all the above and where IEC messages are prominently disseminated and displayed.
- The top five performing states are Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, and Himachal Pradesh where a maximum number of villages have been declared as ODF Plus.
- The campaign reinforces the Government's commitment to promoting hygiene and safe sanitation and thereby improving the quality of life of its citizens and fulfilling our dream of a Sampoon, Swachh, and Swasth Bharat by 2024-25.

India achieves another milestone in hygiene & safe sanitation: Over 1L ODF Plus villages

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 19 AUGUST

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the flagship programme of the Centre, today recorded another milestone - of 101462 villages declaring themselves as ODF (open defecation free) Plus. These villages are sustaining their ODF status and have systems in place for managing solid and/or liquid waste and they would continue on their sanitation journey as they work towards

making their villages cleaner, greener and healthier. Almost eight years ago, Prime Minister Modi launched the Swachh Bharat Mission from the ramparts of the Red Fort, with a vision to make the country open defecation free as a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi on his 150th birth anniversary.

Under his leadership, the country came together in the world's largest behaviour change campaign and achieved its aim, and on 2nd October 2019, 11 years ahead

of the SDG-6 target set by the United Nations, rural India became open defecation free. However, this was not the end of the mission, it laid the foundation to take on a much more challenging, yet necessary task; the need to ensure sampoon swachhata, or complete cleanliness, to make the country's villages ODF Plus.

One lakh ODF Plus villages is no small achievement, given that the process of solid and liquid waste management is technical in nature, is relatively new to rural India,

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), the flagship programme of the Centre, on Friday recorded another milestone of 101462 villages declaring themselves as ODF (open defecation free) Plus

and is a second-generation issue.

The provision of toilets has led to the need to manage faecal waste. Also, with a potable water supply, more

Under PM's leadership, the country came together in the world's largest behaviour change campaign and achieved its aim, and on 2nd October 2019, 11 years ahead of the SDG-6 target set by the United Nations, rural India became open defecation free



greywater is being generated that needs to be treated and reused; and with lifestyle changes and the use of packaged food products, the menace of plastic waste is rearing

its ugly head in rural areas and that needs to be managed effectively.

And this is what the second Phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen

(SBM-G) is about – to appropriately manage all types of waste that will not only make villages clean but also create avenues for generating incomes for rural households and create new livelihood opportunities, while fulfilling the requirements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The SBM-G reinforces the government's commitment to promote hygiene and safe sanitation and thereby improve the quality of life of its citizens.

International / Report News

56. Recently, the Indian government has signed an agreement with which of the following to bring back seven artefacts?

- Glasgow Museum
- British Museum
- Louvre Museum
- National Gallery
- None of these

- UK's Glasgow museum and the Indian government signed an agreement to bring back seven artefacts.
- After 18 months of talks, the UK's Glasgow museum, and the Indian High Commission, London signed the agreement.
- The seven artefacts include a 14th-century Indo-Persian sword, three carved stone pillar fragments from 10th-century India, an inlaid marble pillar with foliate design, a 10th-century black chlorite stele of Surya, and Hindu goddess Uma or Durga.

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- Most of these artefacts were stolen from temples and shrines in northern India during the 19th century. One of them was purchased following a theft from the owner.
 - These stolen artefacts are supposed to be from Kanpur, Kolkata, Gwalior, Bihar, and Hyderabad.
 - According to Glasgow Life, a charitable organization that runs the city's museums, all seven artefacts were later gifted to Glasgow Museum.
 - The Glasgow City Council has also decided to return a total of 51 items to other countries, including 19 Benin bronzes from Nigeria.
57. Consider the following statement regarding the **Mother Heroine** title. Which of the following statement is correct?
1. Russian President Vladimir Putin on 16 August revived the Soviet-era award of 'Mother Heroine'.
 2. The 'Mother Heroine' title will be bestowed on women who bear and raise 10 or more children.
 3. The honorary title was first established in 1944, But, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the title stopped being awarded.
 4. Only 1 and 2.
 5. All of the above.
- Amid the country grapples with a demographic crisis fueled by plunging birth rates, Russian President Vladimir Putin on 16 August revived the Soviet-era award of 'Mother Heroine'.
 - The honorary title was first established in 1944 in the wake of massive population losses during World War II by Soviet leader Josef Stalin. But, after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the title stopped being awarded.
 - Now, the 'Mother Heroine' title – similar to the Soviet-era title – will be bestowed on women who bear and raise 10 or more children.
 - According to Putin's decree signed on Monday, the qualifying mothers will be awarded a one-time payment of 1 million rubles (around ₹13,12,000 or \$16,000) following their 10th living child turns one year old.
 - Russia's population has been on the decline for decades and in early 2022, the population stood at 146 million. Since 2021, the population declined almost doubled due to Coronavirus, and its decline nearly tripled since 2020.
58. In August Union Cabinet approved the **signing of a Contract between the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India, and _____** to support the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian Transport Sector.
- A. Japan
 - B. **France**
 - C. Australia
 - D. Bangladesh
 - E. None of these
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi was apprised of the signing of a Contract between the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, France on behalf of the International Transport Forum and

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the Technology Information, Forecasting and Assessment Council (TIFAC), India to support the International Transport Forum (ITF) activities on the Indian Transport Sector.

- **The Contract was signed on 6th July 2022.**
- **The activities to be carried out under this Contract will lead to:**
- **Capacity building through increased scientific interaction**
- **Identification of technology options for decarbonization of the transport sector in India.**
- **International Transport Forum (ITF): It is an inter-governmental organization within the OECD system.**
- **It acts as a think tank for transport policy issues. It is headquartered in Paris, France.**

59. In August Scotland becomes the first nation to make period products available to everyone. What is the capital of Scotland?

- A. **Edinburgh**
- B. **Dublin**
- C. **Amsterdam**
- D. **Rotterdam**
- E. **None of these**

'PROVIDING ACCESS TO FREE PERIOD PRODUCTS FUNDAMENTAL TO EQUALITY AND DIGNITY'

To end period poverty: Scotland first in the world to make products free

REMYTUMIN
AUGUST 10

PERIOD PRODUCTS are now free to anyone in Scotland who needs them, nearly two years after the country's Parliament approved a landmark piece of legislation. The initiative makes Scotland the first country in the world to provide free sanitary products, part of a global effort to end "period poverty" — or a lack of access to tampons or sanitary pads because of prohibitively high costs. Monica Lennon, the lawmaker who submitted the draft proposal for the Period Products Act in 2020, tweeted that

Scotland might be "the first but won't be the last" country to provide free period products. "We are witnessing a massive culture change, where period stigma is no longer being tolerated," Lennon said in an email to *The New York Times*. "There's more emphasis on menstrual well-being and a renewed focus on tackling medical misogyny." Northern Ireland is considering a similar measure, and New Zealand and Seoul offer free menstrual products in schools. "It gives me hope that we won't be the last country to put access to free period products on the statute books," Lennon said. Shona Robison, Scotland's so-

cial justice secretary, echoed Lennon. "Providing access to free period products is fundamental to equality and dignity, and removes the financial barriers to accessing them," she said in a statement. As the cost of living is rising and many are making difficult choices, she added, "We never want anyone to be in a position where they cannot access period products." The 2020 legislation in Scotland came on the heels of an earlier law that provided free access to tampons and sanitary pads in schools, colleges, universities and other public buildings. Now every council in Scotland is required to consult with local



communities to determine the best access point for menstrual products. In her email, Lennon said that period products would be available at libraries, swimming pools, public gyms, community buildings, town halls, pharmacies and doctors offices. People can find the nearest location with free period products through a mobile app called PickUpMyPeriod. The app allows users to filter which products are available and how to find them at the location. Home-delivery is also available. When the bill was drafted, Lennon and the bill's other writers said they kept in mind challenges to menstruation for those

experiencing poverty, homelessness, abusive relationships and health conditions. The coronavirus pandemic only compounded those issues, according to a 2020 study by the nonprofit Plan International UK. The group found that almost a third of girls and women age 14 to 21 had problems that year with either being able to afford or gain access to sanitary products during the first national lockdown. In the U.S., a 2021 study by George Mason University showed that 14 per cent of women-attending college experienced period poverty in 2020. The study found that Latina and Black women were disproportionately affected. Seventeen states and Washington, DC, have passed laws that require free access to period products for students, according to Alliance for Period Supplies, an advocacy group. A broader push to repeal state sales taxes applied to menstrual products like pads and cups, often called the tampon tax, has proceeded in fits and starts. Those in favour of repealing the tax argue that necessities like tampons and pads should be tax-exempt, while others argue that states need the revenue. At least 32 states have introduced measures to eliminate the tax and 13 have so far succeeded. **NYT**

Period products will be available at libraries, swimming pools, public gyms, community buildings, among other places. Reuters

- **Local governments of Scotland are now required by the law of Scotland to offer free sanitary products (Period Products) like tampons and pads to anyone who needs them. As the Period Products Act takes effect in Scotland, goods will be supplied through councils and educational institutions.**
- **The Period Products (Free Provision) (Scotland) Bill was unanimously approved by MSPs in November 2020. Labour MSP Monica Lennon, who has been working to eradicate period poverty since 2016, introduced the bill.**
- **At the time, Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon praised the "groundbreaking legislation" and said it was important for women and girls.**
- **A mobile phone app also helps people find the nearest place — such as the local library or community center — where they can pick up period products.**
- **The Scottish government said its move was world-leading, with countries including South Korea and New Zealand taking similar approaches.**
- **Scotland's official currency is the pound sterling, Capital, Edinburgh.**

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60. In August India and _____ signed MOU to deepen long-standing bilateral relations in education, skilling, and research.

- A. Iran
- B. Australia**
- C. Japan
- D. Israel
- E. None of these

- India and Australia reiterated the value of education and innovation in the growth, development, and prosperity of both countries and agreed to further deepen long-standing bilateral relations in education, skilling, and research.
- Indian Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan who is on a four-day visit to Australia met with Australian counterpart Jason Clare on August 22, more than two years after the last Australia-India Education Council (AIEC) meeting that was held in India.
- The 6th AIEC meeting provided a platform to further strengthen research collaborations and also build on the commitments and progress made in the last AIEC meeting held in India, including through the Scheme for Promotion of Academic and Research Collaboration (SPAR) and Global Initiative of Academic Networks (GIAN) and also Australian Researcher Cooperation Hub India (ARCH-India).
- The Indian Cabinet approved the National Education Policy (NEP) in July 2020 to introduce several changes in the Indian education system – from the school to the college level. It aims at making “India a global knowledge superpower”. The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education.
- The Australia-India Education Council is a highly effective forum to further advance ties and boost engagements in education, skill development, and research priorities.

61. In August India and _____ signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) mutually recognizing certificates of competency in unlimited voyages of seafarers from both nations.

- A. Iran**
- B. Israel
- C. Australia
- D. Japan
- E. None of these

- As talks over the development of Chabahar Port gain momentum, India and Iran signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) mutually recognizing certificates of competency in unlimited voyages of seafarers from both nations.

India, Australia to boost ties on education

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

India and Australia will explore ways to promote two way mobility of universities between the two countries and will set up a working group on transnational education to understand regulatory settings, according to discussions during Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan's visit to Australia.

Mr. Pradhan met his Australian counterpart, Jason Clare, on Monday for a bilateral meeting and co-chaired the sixth meeting of the Australia India Education Council, which is a forum to advance ties and boost engagements in education, skill development and research priorities.

He called for research collaborations between the two countries.

- The signing of the MoU is aimed at smoothening the movement of seafarers from both countries, India's ministry of ports, and shipping.
- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal is on a four-day visit to Iran to review the progress on the development of the Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar Port, a crucial cog in the potentially game-changing International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- The seafarer agreement, along with the handover of six mobile harbor cranes to the port authority, is the first tangible development after years of dormancy owing to the unfulfilled potential of the port and Covid-related restrictions.
- Chabahar Port is slated to be India's gateway for trade with central Asian and European nations, along with increased engagement with Russia, once its potential is leveraged by linking it to INSTC. It was developed with Indian assistance and is currently operated by state-owned India Ports Global.

India, Iran sign pact to aid movement of seafarers

Centre highlights role of Chabahar port as a trade multiplier

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

In a bid to aid the movement of seafarers between the two countries, India and Iran on Monday signed a memorandum of understanding on recognition of Certificates of Competency in Unlimited Voyages to help seafarers from both countries as per the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch Keeping for Seafarers, 1978.

The MoU was signed during a bilateral meeting between the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways and Ayush, Sarbananda Sonowal and Iranian Minister of Roads and Urban Development Rostam Ghassemi. Mr. Sonowal is on a three-day visit to Iran.

"The Union Minister reiterated the importance of the bilateral relationship between the two countries. The role of Chabahar as a trade multiplier for the region was highlighted by the Union Mi-



Sarbananda Sonowal with Vice-President of Iran Mohammad Mokhber.

nister at the meeting as the potential of the port to act as a swift, economical trade conduit between Central Asia and South Asia, even South East Asia, remains to be tapped fully," the Ministry said in a statement.

The Minister also called on Iranian Vice-President Mohammad Mokhber. Mr. Mokhber, who is Iran's special envoy for relations with India, said the development of the Chabahar port would lead to an increase in trade

and shipment volume, the statement said.

The statement said that since India Ports Global Private Ltd. (IPGPL) assumed the operations of Shahid Beheshti Port, it has handled over 4.8 million tonnes of bulk cargo. With close cooperation between India's IPGPL and Iranian stakeholders including Iran's Port and Maritime Organisation, Iranian Customs Administration and the Chabahar Free Zone Authority, the Shahid Beheshti Port Authority & other stakeholders, the port is likely to act as a catalyst to unlock the huge trade potential in the region.

In 2020, India supplied 75,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan as part of a humanitarian assistance programme as well as provided for 40,000 litres of Malathion and 96% ULV pesticides to Iran via the Chabahar port in an effort to mitigate locust threat to agriculture and enhance food security in the region, it added.

62. Tu-160 long-range bombers which were seen in the news recently belong to which of the following countries?

- China
- US
- Russia
- France
- None of these

- India is planning to take six Tu-160 long-range bombers from Russia.
- Tu-160 is known as the White Swan in the Russian Air Force.
- It is codenamed Blackjack by NATO. It is a four-engine bomber.
- It has an operational range of 12,000 kilometers. It can achieve speeds greater than Mach 2 or 2,220 km/h.
- It is capable of carrying a conventional or nuclear operational load of up to 40 tonnes.
- Tu-160 long-range bombers are also known as strategic bombers.
- As of now, strategic bombers do not exist in India's arsenal. Chinese Air Force has Xian HS-6K.
- Besides China, US and Russia are the only two other countries with strategic bombers.
- B-1, B2, and B-52 are strategic bombers operated by US Air Force. Russia has the Tu-160, Tu-22M3M and Tu-95MS.
- As of 2022, Tupolev Tu-160 is the largest and heaviest combat aircraft. It is also the fastest bomber in use and the largest and heaviest variable-sweep wing airplane ever flown.

63. Consider the following statement which of the following is correct?

1. France president Emmanuel Macron signed the landmark climate change and health care bill.

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2. The Bill has been introduced to *lower the prices of prescription drugs and encourage the development of renewable energy.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *US President Joe Biden signed the landmark climate change and health care bill.*
- *The Bill has been introduced to lower the prices of prescription drugs; increase Medicare benefits; encourage the development of renewable energy and reduce the impact of climate change.*
- *The bill will change the way medicine is priced. It would cap prescription drug costs at \$2,000 out-of-pocket annually for Medicare recipients.*
- *The new legislation will also help around 13 million Americans in paying their healthcare insurance.*
- *It will also increase taxes on some corporations. There will be a minimum 15 percent tax on corporations.*
- *It will decrease the federal deficit and give more power to the Internal Revenue Service to catch wealth tax evaders.*
- *The bill will incentivize clean electricity and increase grants, loans, and tax credits for manufacturing clean energy technology.*
- *The government will invest around 375 billion dollars over the next decade to counter climate change.*
- *The Inflation Reduction Act aims to reduce deficits by around \$275 billion in the next 10 years.*

BIDEN SIGNS \$437-BN TAX, CLIMATE ACT INTO LAW



US President Joe Biden (centre) signed Democrats' \$437-billion Inflation Reduction Act into law on Tuesday, as he aims to boost his party's standing with voters less than three months before the mid-term elections. The new law includes a \$369-billion investment in climate and energy policies, \$64 billion to extend a policy under the Affordable Care Act to reduce health insurance costs, and a 15 per cent corporate minimum tax aimed at companies that earn more than \$1 billion a year

PHOTO: NYT

Banking / Economy News

64. Recently Finance Ministry has notified new rules and regulations for overseas investment.

As per **Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Rules 2022**, an Indian entity is allowed to invest up to _____ of its net worth in overseas portfolio investment.

- A. 20 %
- B. 30 %
- C. 50 %
- D. 75 %
- E. None of these

- Finance Ministry has notified new rules and regulations for overseas investment.
- An Indian entity can invest up to four times of net worth in a foreign entity.
- It is allowed to invest up to 50% of its net worth in overseas portfolio investment.
- As per Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Rules 2022, an Indian entity may make Overseas Direct Investment (ODI).
- This may be by buying shares either through subscription, acquisition through bidding, or the tender procedure by a rights issue.
- This may be by allotment of bonus shares, amalgamation, or any scheme of arrangement.
- As per the rules, an Indian Financial institution is allowed to make ODI in a foreign company that is directly or indirectly involved in financial services activity.
- The Indian entity, however, must have earned a profit over the previous three financial years.
- Excluding banks and insurance companies, non-financial Indian companies can also work with foreign financial companies.
- According to the rules, a resident individual can invest in non-financial companies.
- A resident individual may without any limit acquire foreign securities by inheritance from a person resident in India or a person resident outside India.
- No limit has been placed on acquiring foreign securities by way of gift from a person resident in India.
- If the gift giver is from abroad, provisions of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 will be applicable.

FinMin notifies rules for overseas investment

SHISHIR SINHA
New Delhi, August 22

An Indian entity can invest up to four times of its net worth in a foreign entity. Also, it is permitted to put up to 50 per cent of its net worth in overseas portfolio investment.

These are part of the new rules and regulations for overseas investment, notified by the Finance Ministry, on Monday.

Giving the rationale behind new rules and regulations, the Finance Ministry said that in view of the evolving needs of businesses in India, in an increasingly integrated global market, there is need for Indian corporates to be part of the global value chain.

Revised framework

The revised regulatory framework for overseas investment provides for simplification of the existing framework, and has been aligned with the current

business and economic dynamics. "Clarity on Overseas Direct Investment and Overseas Portfolio Investment has been brought in and various overseas investment related transactions that were earlier under approval route are now under automatic route, significantly enhancing 'Ease of Doing Business,'" it said.

According to Foreign Exchange Management (Overseas Investment) Rules 2022, an Indian entity may make Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) by way of buying shares either through subscription, acquisition through bidding or tender procedure by way of rights issue or allotment of bonus shares, capitalisation, swap of securities and through merger, demerger, amalgamation or any scheme of arrangement.

An Indian Financial institution may make ODI in a foreign entity, which is directly or indirectly engaged



in financial services activity.

Foreign securities

For the resident individual, rules prescribe that he or she can invest in non-financial companies. He or she may, without any limit, acquire foreign securities by way of inheritance from a person residing in India who holds such securities or from a person residing outside India.

There will be no limit on the acquiring foreign securities by way of gift from a person residing in India who is a relative and holding such securities. In case the gift-giver is abroad, then provisions of the Foreign Contri-

tribution (Regulation) Act 2010 will be applicable. Rules allow acquisition of shares or interest under Employee Stock Ownership Plan or Employee Benefits Scheme or sweat equity shares by the resident individuals.

This will be applicable for those who are an employee or a director of an office in India or branch of an overseas entity or a subsidiary in India of an overseas entity, or of an Indian entity in which the overseas entity has direct or indirect equity holding

Indian residents will not be permitted to make ODI in a foreign entity engaged in real estate activity; gambling in any form; and dealing with financial products without the Reserve Bank's approval.

Also, an Indian entity resident can make ODI in start-ups recognised under the law in the host country, but only from its internal accruals or from own funds.

65. In August Ministry of Corporate Affairs approved the amalgamation of Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL) with which of the following companies?

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A. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL)

B. **Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)**

C. Indian Oil Corporation Limited

D. Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)

E. None of these

- Ministry of Corporate Affairs has approved the amalgamation of Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL) with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
- Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL) is a 100 percent subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
- BGRL was incorporated in June 2018. Its main business is gas sourcing and retailing.
- It had been set up to implement city gas distribution networks.
- Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) is a Maharatna oil refining and marketing company. Its headquarters are located in Mumbai.

66. In August _____ has launched Miligram Reward Programme for its customers.

A. Manappuram Finance

B. **Muthoot Finance**

C. IIFL Finance

D. SBI Gold Loan

E. None of these

- Muthoot Finance has launched a new reward program, Miligram Reward Programme for its customers.
- In this program, transactions with Muthoot Finance will be rewarded with a certain amount of milligram reward points.
- Muthoot Finance has become the first NBFC to launch a new reward program.
- Customers can take part in this two-year-long program.
- For the first time in India, a loyalty program will be run in 24-carat gold.
- Every customer referral transaction with the company will earn 20 mg of gold.

67. Recently, the *Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)* has suspended Partners of which of the following firms for three years?

A. **Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP**

B. PwC India

C. KPMG India Private Limited

D. Ernst & Young India

E. None of these

MCA approves Bharat Gas' amalgamation with BPCL

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, August 22

Bharat Gas Resources Ltd (BGRL), a 100 per cent subsidiary of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL), has been amalgamated with the parent company. The order approving the same was issued by the Corporate Affairs Ministry on August 8, sources said.

The scheme of amalgamation has become effective on August 16. The main business of BGRL is gas sourcing and retailing. It had been set up to implement city gas distribution networks at different geographical areas and this exercise was pursued to streamline the corporate structure and consolidate the assets and liabilities of BGRL with BPCL.

The equity shares of BGRL are not listed in the stock exchanges. In terms of the scheme of amalgamation, the aggregate authorised share capital of BGRL as on date is combined with the authorised share capital of BOCL.

- **IBBI has suspended Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTI) Partner Savan Godiawala for 3 years.**
- **IBBI has suspended him because he contravened IBC provisions in the liquidation cases of Lanco Infratech and Shirpur Power.**
- **IBBI has also imposed a penalty on Godiawala for this reason.**
- **He is accused of wrongful withdrawal of fees and hiring of related party-DTTI.**
- **He was Interim Resolution Professional/Resolution Professional/ Liquidator for Lanco Infratech.**
- **He was the Interim Resolution Professional/Resolution Professional for Shirpur Power. He had hired DTTI to provide support services to him.**
- **The disciplinary Committee of IBBI had found that there was a conflict of interest between him and DTTI as he is a Partner in the firm.**
- **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI): It was established on 1 October 2016 under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.**
- **It is responsible for the implementation of the IBC code. Chairperson of IBBI: Ravi Mital.**

IBBI suspends Deloitte partner for 3 years

Resolution Professional Savan Godiawala faulted for drawing excessive fees, hiring related party Deloitte Touché Tohmatsu

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, August 22

Insolvency regulator IBBI has suspended Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu India LLP (DTTI) Partner Savan Godiawala for three years for contravening IBC provisions in the liquidation cases of Lanco Infratech and Shirpur Power. A penalty has also been levied on Godiawala.

The main charge against Godiawala was wrongful withdrawal of fees and hiring of related party – DTTI – without proper identification of scope of work. There was “wrong manner of determination of fee” in case of his dealings in

respect of Lanco Infratech and laxity in filling application on avoidance transaction in the Shirpur Power case, the IBBI Disciplinary Committee concluded.

Godiawala was Interim Resolution Professional/Resolution Professional/Liquidator for Lanco Infratech and Shirpur Power.

Conflict of interest

He had hired DTTI to provide support services to him, which the IBBI’s Disciplinary Committee concluded was a clear case of conflict of interest between him and DTTI as he is



a Partner in the firm. The liquidator preferred to hire DTTI, a related party, at an unreasonable rate, the IBBI Disciplinary Committee said in its 16-page order.

“It is clear that for the work which could have been done by DTTI for about ₹13 lakh per month, Godiawala paid initially ₹28 lakh and then about ₹20 lakh.

DTTI was paid three different amounts for three different periods without any

change in scope of work. Further, the fees paid to DTTI were more than double that paid to Savan Godiawala as liquidator,” the order said.

It was observed that for the period February 27-August 27, 2019, Godiawala had drawn a fee of ₹83.04 lakh in excess of what was payable to him in accordance with the Regulations.

Though he refunded ₹92 lakh to the liquidation account of the CD, the IBBI Committee felt the fact remained that he had drawn an excess amount, unintentional or not.

The IBBI order noted that despite considerable time having elapsed, the liquidation process of Lanco Infra and Shirpur Power has not concluded yet.

68. In August _____ tied up with the Assam, Manipur, and Tripura governments to promote palm oil cultivation Under the National Mission on Edible Oil Oil Palm for the development.

- Godrej Agrovet
- National Agro-Industry
- Adventa Limited
- Jain Irrigation Limited
- None of these

- **Agribusiness company Godrej Agrovet has tied up with the Assam, Manipur, and Tripura governments to promote palm oil cultivation. The company has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the National**

Godrej Agrovet ties up with three N-E States for oil palm cultivation

OUR BUREAU

Kolkata, August 22

Diversified agribusiness company, Godrej Agrovet, has signed MoUs with Assam, Manipur and Tripura State governments for development and promotion of oil palm cultivation in the region under the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEO-OP) scheme.

As part of the MoU signed, Godrej Agrovet will be allotted land across the three States for the promotion and development of sustainable palm oil plantations in the region. The collabora-

tion will bring new opportunities and growth in building oil palm plantations in these three States and would help to provide the required support to the farmers, the company said in a statement. The MoUs are in line with the company’s long-term strategy to be the catalyst of India’s oil mission through sustainable growth of oil palm production and doubling of farmers’ income.

According to Balram Singh Yadav, Managing Director, Godrej Agrovet, the company has been educating farmers from North-East on sustainable palm oil

plantation processes. Currently, it has around 65,000 hectares under palm oil cultivation across the country, and it plans to increase it to 1 lakh hectares in the next few years.

NMEO-OP scheme

The Centre launched the NMEO-OP scheme in 2021 with a planned outlay of ₹11,040 crore. Under this mission, government has envisaged to raise area under cultivation of oil palm to 10 lakh hectares by FY26 with special focus on the North-East region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

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Mission on Edible Oil Palm for the development and promotion of palm oil in these three northeastern states. India is a net importer of palm oil.

- *As per the agreement, the company will be allotted land in these three states for the development and promotion of palm oil cultivation in the region.*
- *Godrej Agrovet is presently cultivating palm oil in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Goa, Maharashtra, and Mizoram.*
- *Significantly, the government launched the National Edible Oil Palm Mission in August 2021 with a planned outlay of Rs 11,040 crore.*
- *NMEO-OP is a new Centrally Sponsored Scheme. It is proposed to have an additional 6.5 lakh hectares for palm oil by 2025-26.*
- *It will involve raising the area under oil palm cultivation to 10 lakh hectares by 2025-26 and 16.7 lakh hectares by 2029-30.*
- *The special emphasis of the scheme will be in India's North-Eastern (NE) states and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands due to the conducive weather conditions in the regions.*

69. Consider the following statement regarding **Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. India, signed the Headquarter Agreement with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) according to the status of an 'independent and international legal entity
2. PK Mishra, is CDRI governing council co-chair along with PM Modi.
3. Charter is endorsed by 31 countries and 8 international organizations.
4. Both 2 and 3.
5. None of the above.

- *India, signed the Headquarter Agreement with the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI), thereby according to the status of an 'independent and international legal entity to CDRI.*
- *The pact will enable it to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947.*
- *"It is a landmark moment for CDRI to be recognized as an independent international organization, with a Charter endorsed by 31 countries and 8 international organizations in less than two years," PK Mishra, principal secretary to the PM and CDRI governing council co-chair said. Mishra said this would further enable it to fulfill its commitments and engagements on the resilience of infrastructure as envisioned by PM Modi.*
- *CDRI is a global partnership of national governments, United Nations agencies and programs, multilateral development banks and financing mechanisms, the private sector, and academic and research institutions.*
- *It was launched in 2019, at the United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York.*

NEW DELHI

CDRI now international legal entity

New Delhi: India accorded the status of "Independent and International Legal Entity" to the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) as the government signed the Headquarter Agreement on Monday. The CDRI is an international partnership that seeks to promote infrastructure resilient to climate and disaster risks. The agreement will enable the institution to pursue functions internationally with all rights, immunities, and privileges, as per the United Nations (Privileges & Immunities) Act, 1947. **ENS**

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- It is the Government of India's second major global initiative after the International Solar Alliance, and it demonstrates India's leadership in climate change and disaster resilience issues.
 - Since its inception, 31 countries, 6 international organizations, and 2 private sector organizations have joined CDRI as members.
 - 6 International Organisations: Asian Development Bank (ADB), World Bank Group, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), European Union, European Investment Bank.
 - 2 Private Sector Organisations: The Private Sector Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies and Coalition for Climate Resilient Investment.
70. In August Norwegian Climate Investment Fund, managed by development and finance institution Norfund and Norway's largest pension Fund KLP, signed an agreement to acquire a _____ % stake in a 420 MW solar power project in Rajasthan.
- 20 %
 - 60 %
 - 25 %
 - 49 %
 - None of these
- As part of the Norway-India global energy transition partnership, the Norwegian Climate Investment Fund will take up a 49-per cent stake in a 420-MW solar power plant in Rajasthan.
 - The new Norwegian Climate Investment Fund, managed by Norfund and KLP, Norway's largest pension company, will take a 49-per cent stake in the Thar Surya 1 solar energy project for approximately Rs 280 crore
 - The 420-MWDC (300-MWAC) solar power plant is being built in Rajasthan by Italian firm Enel Green Power.
 - When up and running, the project will deliver more than 750 GWh per year.
 - The climate investment fund will allocate 10 billion Norwegian Krone (approximately USD 1 billion) over the next five years, with India being a priority market,
 - According to a report by BloombergNEF (BNEF), India needs 233 billion USD in investment to meet its goals for the development of wind and solar energy by 2030.
 - During her India visit, Norwegian Foreign Minister, Anniken Huitfeldt met with Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, and both the leaders discussed hydrogen, renewables, low carbon solutions, and energy storage.

Norway fund, pension co to buy 49% in Rajasthan solar power project

AGENCIES
New Delhi

The new Norwegian Climate Investment Fund and Norway's largest pension company KLP will together invest 2.8 bln rupees to acquire 49% stake in a 420-MW solar power project in Rajasthan, the Norwegian Embassy said in a release today. The project-Thar Surya 1-is being built by Italian Enel Green Power.

The Norwegian Climate Investment Fund is managed by Norfund, the Norwegian government's development finance institution.

"The climate investment fund will allocate 10 bln Norwegian Krone (approximately \$1 bln) over the next five years, with India being a priority market," the release said.



The project is part of partnership between Norway and India in energy transition. Once accomplished, it will deliver more than 750 GWh per year.

"This is the first investment we are making with Enel, and together we have great ambitions to contribute with similar investments in India in the years to come," Norfund's Chief Executive Officer Tellef Thorleifsson was quoted as saying in the release.

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- During the meetings, eight MoUs were inked, proving how the Norway-India energy cooperation is further strengthening based on mutually beneficial partnerships.
- Agreements with a focus on green hydrogen, green ammonia, renewable energy, fuel cells, and CCS that were signed, will take the Norway-India clean energy cooperation to the next level.
- Norwegian Minister also announced the membership of the International Solar Alliance.

71. In August _____ has collaborated with TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG), a subsidiary of Tata Power, to launch 1,000 green energy enterprises across the country.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. **Small Industries Development Bank of India**
- D. Reserve Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has collaborated with TP Renewable Microgrid (TPRMG), a subsidiary of Tata Power, to launch 1,000 green energy enterprises across the country.
- The initiative is aimed at promoting sustainable entrepreneurship models and empowering rural entrepreneurs, said SIDBI in its press statement.
- The 'Sustainable is Attainable' program of Tata Power and the 'Empowering MSMEs' campaign of SIDBI are the driving forces behind this partnership, they mentioned.
- The entrepreneurs shortlisted under the initiative will have to complete a capacity-building activity organized by TPRMG to receive an impetus called Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi) from SIDBI.
- The latter will also assist rural entrepreneurs in credit linkages to facilitate loans and financing to set up or expand their businesses through its PRAYAAS scheme or partner institutions.
- TPRMG will be responsible to shortlist entrepreneurs both from their existing Microgrid network and from new areas to provide them with affordable green energy solutions and technical knowledge.
- Tata Power's TPRMG operates a solar-based off-grid generating plant with an energy storage system supplying power to remote areas of the country. According to the company's statement, it is planning to roll out 10,000 Microgrids in the near future.
- It has already installed more than 200 Microgrids, many of which are present in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. A pilot Microgrid program is also being tried out in Odisha.
- Praveer Sinha, CEO, and MD, Tata Power, Sivasubramanian Ramann, chairman and managing director, SIDBI.

Tata Power arm, SIDBI pact to set up 1,000 green energy enterprises

AGENCIES / Mumbai

Tata Power Co Ltd's wholly-owned subsidiary TP Renewable Microgrid Ltd and Small Industries Development Bank of India have signed a pact to set up 1,000 green energy enterprises nationwide to support rural entrepreneurs, according to an exchange filing.

Under the pact, the bank will provide entrepreneurs a "Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi)" after they complete a capacity building activity organised by TP Renewable Microgrid. Through its PRAYAAS scheme or partner institutions, the bank will also assist in credit linkages to facil-



itate financing (loans) to set up or expand the businesses of rural entrepreneurs.

TP Renewable Microgrid will discover suitable entrepreneurs within its existing Microgrid network and in new geographies, and also provide rural enterprises, green energy solutions, the technical know-how to maximise energy utilisation and conservation.

Tata Power, through its arm,

Under the pact, SIDBI will provide entrepreneurs a "Go REsponsive, ENterprise incentive (GREENi)" after they complete a capacity building activity

runs one of the largest Microgrid programs in the world and operates solar-based off-grid generating plant with an energy storage system supplying power to remote areas of the country. The company plans to roll out 10,000 microgrids in the near future. It has installed over 200 microgrids, many of which are in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar:

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72. In August _____ and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) announced a partnership in co-lending, co-origination, and loan syndication in the renewable energy segment among others.

- A. Bank Of India
- B. Union Bank Of India
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. State Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Bank of India and the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) announced a partnership in co-lending, co-origination, and loan syndication in the renewable energy segment among others.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed at the headquarters of the Bank of India on August 22, 2022, in the presence of A K Das, MD & CEO, Bank of India, and P K Das, CMD, IREDA.
- The partnership will help the Bank of India by serving as a good opportunity in the ESG business.
- The IREDA is a Mini Ratna government enterprise that is under the administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy. The company was established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987 which helps in the promotion and extension of financial assistance to projects related to new and renewable energy sources and energy conservation.

BoI partners IREDA for green financing



BANK OF INDIA on Monday announced a tie-up with the Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) on the green finance front. The two entities will work together on co-lending, co-origination and loan syndication in renewable energy segment, according to a release.

73. In August _____ India's first funds based on Electric & Autonomous Vehicles and Artificial Intelligence themes.

- A. Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- B. Nippon India Mutual Fund
- C. Mirae Asset Mutual Fund
- D. Navi Mutual Fund
- E. None of these

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund - Latest MF Schemes, NAV, Performance ...

Mirae Asset Mutual Fund. Headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, Mirae Asset Financial Group is one of the key players in the Asian financial market. Its asset ...

AMC Incorporation Date: 20 November 2006

AMC Setup Date: 30 November 2007

Sponsor name: Mirae Asset Global Investments Co. Ltd

MD and CEO: Swarup Mohanty

- Mirae Asset Mutual Fund, one of the fastest growing fund houses in India, has announced the launch of its two new funds - Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund (An open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in overseas equity Exchange Traded Funds which are based on companies involved in the development of Electric & Autonomous Vehicles and related technology, components, and materials)

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- *Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence and Technology ETF Fund of Fund (An open-ended fund of fund scheme investing in units of Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF). These are the first such funds based on companies involved in future technology to be launched in India in the Mutual Fund Industry.*
- *Mirae Asset Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles ETFs Fund of Fund (EV FoF) will be investing in overseas ETFs which are based on companies from different geographies catering to the development of Electric and Autonomous Vehicles and related technology, components, and materials.*
- *Mirae Asset Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF Fund of Fund (AI FoF) will be investing in units of Global X Artificial Intelligence & Technology ETF.*

74. In August _____ has announced its card-fintech partners to immediately stop onboarding new users for its co-branded credit prepaid card product.

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

- *State Bank of Mauritius (SBM) India, one of the most active partner banks for fintech firms, has told its card-fintech partners to immediately stop onboarding new users for its co-branded credit prepaid card product.*
- *This has impacted several startups in the space, including partners Slice, Uni, and LazyPay.*
- *The development comes after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released digital lending guidelines last week.*
- *SBM has sent out a note on new user additions. They are quite apprehensive following the RBI guidelines last week but there are meetings lined up with the bank later this week. For now, the note says about pausing onboarding of new users*
- *Slice, the credit card challenger unicorn, has also temporarily stopped issuing new prepaid cards but continues to onboard users through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) railroad through no-cost EMIs and cash transfer offerings.*
- *In its first leg of guidelines for the digital lending industry, the RBI clarified that all loan disbursements and repayments should be executed between the bank account of the borrower and the regulated entity.*
- *SBM was one of the only banks to have continued support for the card-fintech industry even after the RBI sent a communication to industry stakeholders to stop prepaid payment instruments (PPIs) from being loaded through credit lines.*

75. In August Reserve Bank of India canceled the license of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank is situated in which of the following state?

- A. Karnataka**

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

- **The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said the license of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank, Karnataka, has been canceled as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.**
- **As per the data submitted by the bank, more than 99 percent their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).**
- **The bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects," the RBI said while announcing the cancellation of the license.**
- **It also said the Vijayapur-based bank with its present financial position would be unable to pay its present depositors in full.**
- **On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive a deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to Rs 5 lakh DICGC.**

RBI cancels licence of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank

The Reserve Bank of India on Thursday said the licence of Deccan Urban Co-operative Bank, Karnataka, has been cancelled as the lender does not have adequate capital and earning prospects. As per the data submitted by the bank, more than 99 per cent of the depositors are entitled to receive the full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC), the central bank said in a release.

76. In August _____ and the **National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Union Ministry of Commerce**, have decided to join hands to promote **innovation and productivity in the sector to adopt digital services.**

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. SEBI
- C. **IIFCO**
- D. CIDRI
- E. None of these

- **Eyeing the tech-savvy younger generation, cooperatives in the country are gearing up to adopt digital services. To help them achieve this aim, IFFCO and the National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Union Ministry of Commerce, have decided to join hands to promote innovation and productivity in the sector.**
- **This will also help in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of realizing a five trillion dollar Indian economy.**
- **He pointed out that the NPC has been mandated to bring about decisive improvement in the MSME ecosystem in the country. Cooperatives form a major group within MSME. It is not only the MSME type of cooperatives but the entire cooperatives' ecosystem that has to deliver outcomes more productively. Sundeep Nayak, Director General, NPC agreed, saying that the partnership should be seen in the context of the Government's plans to computerize the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.**

IFFCO, NPC join hands to boost digital innovation

PIONEER NEWS SERVIC ■ NEW DELHI

Eyeing the tech-savvy younger generation, cooperatives in the country are gearing up to adopt digital services. To help them achieve this aim, IFFCO and the National Productivity Council (NPC) under the Union Ministry of Commerce, have decided to join hands to promote innovation and productivity in the sector. This will also help in realizing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of realizing a five trillion dollar Indian economy, Dileepbhai Sanghani, IFFCO Chairman said, about the pact proposed at a meeting held on Tuesday here.

He pointed out that the NPC has been mandated to bring about decisive improvement in the MSME ecosystem in the country. Cooperatives form a major group within MSME. It is not only MSME type of cooperatives but the entire cooperatives' ecosystem have to deliver outcomes in a more productive manner. Sundeep Nayak, Director General, NPC agreed saying that the partnership should be seen in the context of the Government plans to computerize the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies.

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- *The IFFCO and NPC would also focus on developing a roadmap for collaborative activities for boosting productivity improvement across India. The talent pool of NPC and IFFCO, their affiliated systems in India and abroad, are expected to be geared towards the farmers.*
 - *Sundeep Nayak, Director General, NPC agreed, saying that the partnership should be seen in the context of the Government's plans to computerize the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and set up at least one PACS in every panchayat.*
77. In August _____ *has invested with Venture Catalysts Group Funds (Venture Catalysts), which is an integrated incubator that offers funding, mentorship, and network to startups.*
- A. State Bank Of India
 - B. Yes Bank**
 - C. HDFC Bank
 - D. Punjab National Bank
 - E. None of these
- *YesBank announced on Tuesday that it has invested with Venture Catalysts Group Funds (Venture Catalysts), which is an integrated incubator that offers funding, mentorship, and network to startup founders from the idea inception stage to the growth stages of the startup journey.*
 - *The fund has also sponsored two platforms, Beams Fintech Fund which invests in growth Stage companies operating at the intersection of Financial Services and Technology, and 9 Unicorns Accelerator Fund which is an early-stage sector agnostic investor.*
 - *YES BANK through this move aims to further its mission of catering to the 'Future Tech Businesses of India', bolster innovation in the technology space including the financial sector, and potentially partner with leading tech startups that Venture Catalysts has invested in -- Beams Fintech Fund and 9 Unicorns Accelerator Fund.*
 - *Yes, Bank has been a pioneer in the tech space and was the first Bank in India to open up its APIs to various tech companies in 2015.*
 - *Beams Fintech Fund (Beams), a CAT II AIF, was launched at the start of 2022 with a mission to build India's largest fintech ecosystem.*
 - *9 Unicorns Accelerator Fund (9 Unicorns), a CAT I AIF, launched by the founding members of Venture Catalysts is a sector-agnostic VC that aims to disrupt idea stage investing in India.*
78. In August _____ *has announced the successful implementation of the Finacle Core Banking Platform and Finacle Treasury Platform.*
- A. Jana Small Finance Bank
 - B. Suryoday Small Finance Bank**
 - C. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank
 - D. Equitas Small Finance Bank
 - E. None of these

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- *Infosys Finacle, part of EdgeVerve Systems, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Infosys, and Suryoday Small Finance Bank (SSFB), announced the successful implementation of the Finacle Core Banking Platform and Finacle Treasury Platform.*
 - *Finacle will now power Suryoday Small Finance Bank's retail, corporate, and payment engines in an on-premise model, supported by IBM's infrastructure stack.*
 - *With the industry-leading Finacle digital banking platform, the bank is well placed to achieve its vision of creating a 'new age bank' designed to deliver on its primary commitment of financial inclusion.*
 - *The Finacle platform replaced the bank's incumbent information technology stack in a seamless eight-month implementation period.*
 - *Baskar Babu Ramachandran, Managing Director, and Chief Executive Officer, Suryoday Small Finance Bank.*
79. In August *Reserve Bank of India (RBI)* emerged as the net seller of the US dollar in July after selling _____ billion USD on a net basis.
- A. \$4.586 Bn
 - B. \$3.719 Bn**
 - C. \$4.234 Bn
 - D. \$5.619 Bn
 - E. None of these
- *Reserve Bank of India turned net seller of the US currency in June after it sold USD 3.719 billion on a net basis, the central bank data showed.*
 - *In the reporting month, the central bank purchased USD 18.96 billion from the spot market and sold USD 22.679 billion, according to the RBI monthly bulletin for August 2022.*
 - *During fiscal 2022, the central bank had net purchased USD 17.312 billion. It had bought USD 113.991 billion and sold USD 96.679 billion in the spot market in FY22.*
 - *Last year, in June, RBI was the net buyer of the American currency.*
80. In August The *Asian Development Bank (ADB)* and the *Government of India* signed a \$96.3-million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in the state of _____.
- A. Punjab
 - B. Himachal Pradesh**
 - C. Uttarakhand
 - D. Nagaland
 - E. None of these
- *The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India today signed a \$96.3-million loan agreement to provide safe drinking water and improve water supply and sanitation services in the state of Himachal Pradesh.*

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- The signatories for the Himachal Pradesh Rural Drinking Water Improvement and Livelihood Project were Mr. Rajat Kumar Mishra, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, who signed on behalf of the Government of India, and Mr. Takeo Konishi, Country Director for ADB in India, who signed for ADB.*
 - More than 90% of the state's rural population have access to drinking water, but the water supply infrastructure needs revamping, to result in efficient and improved service quality. The ADB project will connect 75,800 households to the service, providing an uninterrupted water supply to about 3,70,000 residents across 10 districts.*
 - ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members-49 from the region.*
81. In August _____ signed an MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT) for the Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local bodies, and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks.
- A. Shirdi Sai Electricals Ltd
 - B. Ministry of New and Renewable Energy
 - C. Reliance Industries Ltd
 - D. Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd**
 - E. None of these
- Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Ltd. (IREDA) signed an MoU with Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology Ltd. (MAHAPREIT), a wholly owned subsidiary of MPBCDC (49% owned by Govt. of India and 51% owned by Govt. of Maharashtra) yesterday. By the MoU, IREDA will offer financing facilities to MAHAPREIT for the Renewable Energy projects to be implemented for state utilities, local bodies, and the infrastructure of Renewable Energy Parks.*
 - The MoU was signed by Shri Pradip Kumar Das, Chairman & Managing Director (CMD), IREDA, and Shri Bipin Shrimali, CMD, MAHAPREIT. Under this collaboration, IREDA will also undertake Techno-Financial due diligence on Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency & Conservation projects for MAHAPREIT.*
 - IREDA established a specialized Business Development and Consultancy division two years ago to meet the growing demand in the RE sector. This is the ninth MoU inked by IREDA in the last two years to provide consultation services for the sustainable development of the country. SJVN, NHPC, TANGEDCO, NEPCO, BVFCL, THDCIL, GSL, and CIPET have signed MoUs with IREDA to enhance their techno-financial expertise for green energy projects and IREDA has already started work on most of the MoUs.*
 - IREDA is a Public Limited Government Company established as a Non-Banking Financial Institution in 1987.*
82. In August _____ launched a special variant of debit cards that can be used for domestic and international payments.
- A. Indian Overseas Bank**
 - B. Yes Bank
 - C. RBL Bank
 - D. Union Bank Of India
 - E. None of these
- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has launched a special variant of debit cards that can be used for domestic and international payments.*

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- The 'IOB Rupay Select Card' is designed to cater to high net-worth individual (HNI) customers with add-on freebies in various facilities including airport lounges, gyms, spas, and clubs.
- The special variant of a debit card was introduced on Monday and six VIP customers of the bank received the initial issue of the card.
- Indian Overseas Bank is a major Indian nationalized bank. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India based in Tamil Nadu, India,
- Shri Partha Pratim Sengupta, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer in Indian Overseas Bank.

83. Consider the following **statement regarding Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. RBI announced the issue price of the scheme at ₹5,197 per gram of gold for the second series of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for 2022-23.
 2. The minimum permissible investment will be One gram of gold.
 3. The maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 Kg for individuals.
 4. **The tenure of the scheme is five years.**
 5. All of the above are correct.
- The second series of the Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme for 2022-23 will be open for subscription on August 22.
 - The application for these gold bonds will continue till August 26, 2022. RBI on Friday announced the issue price of the scheme at ₹5,197 per gram of gold. However, if the application and payment for the scheme are made online, then RBI is offering ₹50 per gram discount.
 - The nominal value of the bond based on the simple average closing price [published by the India Bullion and Jewellers Association Ltd (IBJA)] for gold of 999 purity of the last three working days of the week preceding the subscription period, works out to ₹5,197 per gram of gold.
 - RBI issues these sovereign gold bonds on behalf of the Indian government
 - This gold bond scheme is available to resident individuals, HUFs, Trusts, Universities, and Charitable Institutions.
 - The tenure of the scheme is eight years with an option of premature redemption after the 5th year to be exercised on the date on which interest is payable.
 - The minimum permissible investment will be One gram of gold. While the maximum limit of subscription shall be 4 Kg for individuals, 4 Kg for HUF, and 20 Kg for trusts and similar entities per fiscal year (April-March) notified by the Government from time to time.
 - The investors will be compensated at a fixed rate of 2.50% per annum payable semi-annually

Gold bond issue price at ₹5,197 per gram; subscription opens on Monday

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, August 19

THE ISSUE PRICE for the next tranche of Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2021-22, which will open for subscription for five days from Monday, has been fixed at ₹5,197 per gram of gold, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said on Friday.

The Sovereign Gold Bond Scheme 2022-23 Series II will be open for subscription from August 22-26, 2022.

"The nominal value of the bond...works out to ₹5,197," the central bank said in a statement.

The central government, in consultation with RBI, has decided to offer a discount of ₹50 per gram, less than the nominal value, to those investors applying online and the payment against the application is made through digital mode.

"For such investors, the issue price of gold bond will be ₹5,147 per gram of gold," the RBI said.

The RBI issues the bonds on behalf of the Centre. The bonds will be sold through banks, Stock Holding Corporation of India Ltd (SHCIL), designated post offices and the recognised stock exchanges – NSE and BSE.

84. In August _____ announced to acquire of DB Power at an enterprise value of ₹7,017 crore which operates a running 2x600 MW thermal power plant at District Janjgir Champa in Chhattisgarh.

A. Tata Power

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- B. Adani Power
- C. Reliance Industries
- D. ReNew Power
- E. None of these

Adani to buy DB Power for ₹7,017 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
MUMBAI, AUGUST 19

ADANI POWER, the country's largest thermal power generator, will acquire DB Power for an enterprise value of Rs 7,017 crore. DB Power, a Bhaskar Group-promoted company, owns and

operates two thermal power plants with capacity of 600 MW each in Chhattisgarh.

With this deal, Adani Power's installed thermal capacity would go up to 14,810 MW from 13,610 MW at present. A further 1,600 MW capacity is under construction. At its annual general meeting, the company had said the

aim is to achieve a capacity of 16,850 MW by 2028.

DB Power has a long- and medium-term power purchase agreement for 923.5 MW of its capacity, backed by fuel supply pacts with Coal India. In FY22, it saw turnover of Rs 73,448 crore.

Adani Power's consolidated revenues in FY22 were 13 per

cent higher at Rs 31,686 crore, driven by improved merchant tariff and higher prior period income recognition. Its profit after tax was Rs 4,912 crore compared with Rs 1,240 crore a year ago. Its operations are spread across Gujarat, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. FE

- Adani Power agreed to acquire DB Power which owns and operates a running 2x600 MW thermal power plant at District Janjgir Champa in Chhattisgarh.
- With this acquisition, the Adani Group-backed power flagship will expand its offerings and operations in the thermal power sector in the state.
- Adani Power will acquire DB Power at an enterprise value of ₹7,017 crores. The initial term of the MoU between the two companies will be till October 31, 2022, but can be extended further on mutual agreement.
- Incorporated in October 2006, DB Power is engaged in the business of establishing, operating, and maintaining a thermal power generating station in the state of Chhattisgarh.
- Adani Power will hold 100% of the total issued, subscribed, and paid-up equity share capital and preference share capital of DPPL.
- Diligent Power (DPPL) is the holding company of DB Power.

Air India picks Workplace for intra-firm interactions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 16 August

Air India on Tuesday said it had chosen business communication platform Workplace from technology giant Meta to ensure a simple and effective way for all levels of the company to interact with each other.

Workplace will help Air India's employees get regular and real-time updates on the airline's operations and future plans, exchange information with peers, and get access to a forum to share their views, provide feedback and contribute to shaping the airline's vision and policies, the airline noted in a statement.

The decision to choose Workplace falls in line with the airline's transformation from a government-owned entity to becoming a world-class private airline, it stated.

85. In August _____ entered into a strategic Co-Lending Partnership with Incred Financial Services to offer loans to MSME Borrowers at competitive rates.

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

- Central Bank of India has entered into a strategic Co-Lending Partnership with Incred Financial Services to offer loans to MSME Borrowers at competitive rates, subject to compliance with the applicable law(s) including the applicable guidelines issued by Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The participation by both entities in this Co-Lending arrangement will result in greater expansion of portfolio by the Central Bank of India and Incred Financial Services.
- Under this arrangement, Incred Financial Services Limited will originate and process MSME proposals under Priority Sector as' per jointly formulated credit parameters and eligibility criteria and Central Bank of India will take into its books 80% of the MSME Priority Sector loans under mutually agreed terms. IFSL will service the loan account throughout the life cycle of the loan.
- The Co-Lending arrangement is expected to help both entities to offer convenient experiences and customer delight as well as help expand reach across India.
- Central Bank of India is an Indian nationalized bank. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India, and is one of the oldest and largest nationalized commercial banks in India. It is based in Mumbai, the financial capital of India and the capital city of the state of Maharashtra.

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- *Shri M. V. Rao Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer.*

86. In August Kayak Investments Holding Pte, an affiliate of global private equity fund KKR sold almost all 27 percent stake holding in Max Healthcare in a deal worth _____ crore.

- A. Rs 16022 Cr
- B. Rs 9184 Cr**
- C. Rs 1754 Cr
- D. Rs 1566 Cr
- E. None of these

- *Kayak Investments Holding Pte, an affiliate of global private equity fund KKR, has sold almost all its holdings in Max Healthcare. On Tuesday, Kayak sold 26.01 crore shares, representing a 27 percent stake in the company, at ₹ 353 per share in two bulk deals on the BSE. It was a deal worth more than ₹9,184 crores.*

- *The shares were collectively picked up by the Government of Singapore, Monetary Authority of Singapore, BNP Paribas Arbitrage Fund and WF Asian Reconnaissance Fund, Smaller Cap World Fund, and a few others, data on the BSE website showed.*

- *In 2018, KKR along with Mumbai-headquartered Radiant had acquired a 49.70 percent stake in Max Healthcare from South Africa-based Life Healthcare Group Holdings, an equal joint venture partner in Max Healthcare Institute along with Max India, for about ₹2,120 crores. KKR-Radiant had acquired more than 266 million shares in Max Healthcare at ₹80 per share through the deal.*

87. In August Abrdn Investment Management, formerly Standard Life Investments divested its _____ percent stake in HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) for a little over Rs 2,300 crore through an open market transaction.

- A. 5.58 %**
- B. 6.56 %
- C. 9.91 %
- D. 2.51 %
- E. None of these

- *Promoter Abrdn Investment Management, formerly Standard Life Investments, divested its 5.58 percent stake in HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) for a little over Rs 2,300 crore through an open market transaction.*

KKR arm exits Max Healthcare in ₹9,184-crore share-sale deal

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 16

Kayak Investments Holding Pte, an affiliate of global private equity fund KKR, has sold almost all its holding in Max Healthcare.

On Tuesday, Kayak sold 26.01 crore shares, representing 27 per cent stake in the company, at ₹353 per share in two bulk deals on the BSE. It was a deal worth more than ₹9,184 crore.

The shares were collectively picked up by the Government of Singapore, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, BNP Paribas Arbitrage Fund and WF Asian Reconnaissance Fund, Smaller Cap World Fund and a few others, showed data on the BSE website.

As of June 2021, Kayak held 456.3 million shares, totalling 47.24 per cent stake in Max Healthcare. The fund has been diluting the stake over the past one year. Shares sold by the fund earlier were acquired by SBI Mutual Fund, HDFC Mutual Fund and Veritas Funds, amongst others.

In March this year, Kayak Investment sold 10 per cent of Max Healthcare for nearly ₹3,300 crore.

In 2018, KKR and Radiant had acquired a 49.70 per cent stake in Max Healthcare from South Africa-based Life Healthcare Group Holdings, an equal joint venture partner in Max Healthcare Institute along with Max India, for about ₹2,120 crore.

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

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- According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, the promoter sold a total of 1.19 crore shares, representing a 5.58 percent stake, in the asset management company.
- HDFC AMC operates as a joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) and BRDN Investment Management.
- Abrdn Investment Management, one of the promoters of HDFC AMC, held a 16.21 percent stake in the company while another promoter HDFC owned a 52.59 percent stake as of June 2022, according to the shareholding pattern data with BSE.
- In September 2021, BRDN Investment Management divested a 5 percent stake in HDFC AMC through the open market transaction.

Abrdn sells 5.6% in HDFC AMC for ₹2,300 crore

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, 16 August

Promoter Abrdn, formerly Standard Life Investments, on Tuesday divested its 5.58 per cent stake in HDFC Asset Management Company (AMC) for a little over ₹2,300 crore through an open market transaction.

According to bulk deal data available with the BSE, the promoter sold a total of 1.19 crore shares, representing a 5.58 per cent stake, of the asset management company.

The shares were divested at ₹1,935.63 apiece, a discount from Friday's closing price of ₹1,956.15. The transaction size aggregated to ₹2,303.4 crore.

However, the buyer of the share (s) could not be ascertained immediately. Despite the transaction,

shares of the asset management firm rose 11.5 per cent to settle at ₹2,180.75 on the BSE.

HDFC AMC operates as a joint venture between Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) and Abrdn.

Abrdn, one of the promoters of HDFC AMC, held 16.21 per cent stake in the company while another promoter HDFC owned 52.59 per cent stake as of June 2022, according to the shareholding pattern data with BSE.

In September 2021, Abrdn Investment Management had divested a 5 per cent stake in HDFC AMC through the open market transaction.

HDFC AMC had hit the capital markets in 2018 to raise an estimated ₹2,800 crore through the initial public offering.

88. In August _____ deactivated existing card services amid uncertainty surrounding the regulator's stand on digital lending via prepaid cards and pushback from its banking partner,

- Uni Card
- Mastercard
- American Express
- American Dinner
- None of these

Uni Cards suspends existing services

Cites uncertainty surrounding the RBI's stand on digital lending via prepaid cards

ANSHIKA KAYASTHA

Mumbai, August 19

Amid uncertainty surrounding the RBI's stand on digital lending via prepaid cards and push back from its banking partner, Uni Cards has deactivated existing card services.

"Due to the latest RBI guidelines on digital lending, we have temporarily suspended card services. This means your card will be inactive for now," said the company in a customer note, which was accessed by *BusinessLine*.

"We are working with our banking partners to resume the card services as soon as possible and will keep you posted.

"However, there will be no change to your billing and repayments," said the note.

The move comes after SBM Bank India, the bank partner to a bulk of the prepaid cards in India, reportedly asked these platforms to stop onboarding new customers till there is more clarity with respect to the regu-

latory norms. In addition to Uni Cards, SBM Bank India is the partner to Slice and LazyPay. The lender has so far refused to comment on the issue.

Regulatory uncertainty

In June, the RBI barred prepaid payments instruments, including cards and wallets, from extending credit lines to customers, and said that all loan disbursements and repayments must be carried out between the bank accounts of the borrowers and regulated lenders.

Uni Cards today said that while the cards are inactive customers can still access their 'Uni Cash', and that the company has extended the zero-charge limit on Uni Cash till September 21 to meet their emergency and everyday cash requirements.

In a separate press statement, Uni Cards said it had taken a call to pause onboarding in the light of the RBI guidelines released on June 20.

"With the recent RBI notification

around digital lending, we have decided to proactively suspend card services on our products – the Uni Pay 1/3rd Card and the Uni Pay 1/2 Card. This process will begin in phases for our customers starting today and will be concluded by Monday, August 22," said the company.

Reports suggest that Slice and LazyPay have all stopped issuing new cards since June; however, Slice is still onboarding new customers via the UPI network using free EMIs and fund transfer services.

Uni Cards offers credit lines of up to ₹6,00,000 to customers between the age of 21 and 60 years, who are recognised by a credit bureau. Both a physical and digital card, the Uni Card works across retailers that accept Visa cards. It is currently present in 130 cities across India and had monthly disbursements of around ₹535 crore.

The company makes its revenues predominantly from interchange, cross-sell revenue, subvention income from merchant partners and interest income when a customer converts transactions into longer tenure EMIs, late and carry forward fees.

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- In June, the RBI barred prepaid payments instruments, including cards and wallets, from extending credit lines to customers, and said that all loan disbursements and repayments must be carried out between the bank accounts of the borrowers and regulated lenders.
- Uni Cards today said that while the cards are inactive, customers can still access their 'Uni Cash' and that the company has extended the zero-charge limit on Uni Cash till September 21 for them to meet their emergency and everyday cash requirements.
- Uni Cards offers credit lines of up to ₹6,00,000 to customers between the age of 21 and 60 years, who are recognized by a credit bureau. Both a physical and digital card, the Uni Card works across retailers that accept Visa cards.

89. In August India's first narco-offenders portal named _____ has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).

- A. NIPUN
- B. NIDAAN
- C. MATLAB
- D. SAMARTH
- E. None of these

- The first-of-its-kind database of arrested narcotics offenders has been made operational for use by various central and state prosecution agencies tasked to enforce anti-drugs laws in the country, officials said.
- The portal--NIDAAN or the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders--has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB).
- It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30 in Chandigarh during the national conference on 'Drug trafficking and national security.'
- The NIDAAN platform sources its data from the ICJS (inter-operable criminal justice system) and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository and it is planned to integrate it in the future with the crime and criminal tracking network system or CCTNS.
- The ICJS, an initiative of the Supreme Court e-committee, was created to enable the seamless transfer of data and information among different pillars of the criminal justice system.
- A distinct feature called 'criminal network' on the portal can also be accessed by agencies, as part of which specific links of an accused to other crimes, linked police FIRs and those who visited them in jail can also be accessed.
- The NIDAAN portal is a vertical envisaged under the NCORD and was mooted during a national meeting on drug issues chaired by Home Minister Shah in December last year in Delhi.

India's first narco-offenders portal goes operational

PRESSTRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 17

A first-of-its kind database of arrested narcotics offenders is in place for the use of central and State prosecution agencies to enforce anti-drugs laws in the country, officials said.

The portal – Nidaan or the National Integrated Database on Arrested Narco-offenders – has been developed by the Narcotics Control Bureau.

It is part of the narcotics coordination mechanism (NCORD) portal that was launched by Union Home Minister Amit Shah on July 30 in Chandigarh.

The Nidaan platform sources its data from the inter-operable criminal justice system and the e-Prisons (a cloud-based application) repository and it is planned to integrate it in the future with the crime and criminal tracking network system, a senior officer said.

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90. In August _____ announced that the Bank will celebrate 75 years of India's independence by launching a new campaign, 'Vigil Aunty', which will encourage people across the country to practice safe banking habits.

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



- **HDFC Bank today announced that the Bank will celebrate 75 years of India's independence by launching a new campaign, 'Vigil Aunty', which will encourage people across the country to practice safe banking habits.**
- **This will complement the Bank's popular 'Mooh Band Rakho' campaign which urges people not to share their confidential banking information with others.**
- **Ms. Anuradha (Anu) Menon, who popularised the Lola Kutty character, will be the protagonist of this campaign. Through a series of videos, reels, and chat shows, Ms. Menon, as Vigil Aunty, will be creating awareness on safe banking do's and don'ts.**
- **Vigil Aunty will motivate citizens to stay vigilant by keeping them informed about the modus operandi of financial fraudsters, ways to detect cyber fraud attempts, and how to stay safe. She will host chat shows on social media platforms and discuss some of the recent incidents of cyber fraud with celebrity guests.**
- **Vigil Aunty will be a social media influencer with a presence on Instagram and Facebook. She will also have her own WhatsApp number (+91 72900 30000) to connect with customers. HDFC Bank's website will have a dedicated page that will create awareness of cyber fraud.**

91. In August _____ has partnered with Castler to offer digital escrow services for the bank's customers.

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

- **Global escrow banking solution provider Castle has partnered with Yes Bank to offer digital escrow services for the bank's customers.**
- **The company said the tie-up will further strengthen its digital leadership position and is part of an effort to make banking more inclusive and accessible to its growing consumer base.**

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- Operational since April 2021, Castle is the escrow solution for over 150 enterprises and manages over Rs1000 crore in transactions every month. In June, Castle raised \$1 million from Zerodha's venture capital arm Rainmatter, with participation from Venture Catalysts, 9Unicorns, Faad Network, and LetsVenture.
 - In July 2021, the startup launched the country's first white-label digital escrow solution – Castle SmartEscro – to make financial transactions safe and secure.
92. In August _____ announced a partnership with JCB India Ltd (JCB) for extending Equipment Finance to the Customers of JCB.
- A. State Bank Of India
 - B. Union Bank Of India**
 - C. Central Bank Of India
 - D. Yes Bank
 - E. None of these
- Union Bank of India announced a partnership with JCB India Ltd (JCB) for extending Equipment Finance to the Customers of JCB. Under the partnership, Union Bank of India and JCB have mutually agreed to pool their resources together and be associated with each other for mutual benefits.
 - The bank's wider reach will help both entities extend the best offering to buyers of JCB machinery across the country.
 - This tie-up with JCB India Ltd will help both Customers of JCB and Union Bank of India with best-in-class offerings under the Equipment Finance Scheme of the Bank".
 - JCB India is the largest manufacturer of Construction Equipment in India and is part of the Global JCB group from the UK.
 - Ms. A. Manimekhalai, MD & CEO.
93. Consider the following statement regarding **National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM)**. Which of the following statement is correct?
1. It has achieved the target of imparting Intellectual Property (IP) awareness and basic training to 1 million students on 31st July 2022, ahead of the deadline which was 15 August 2022.
 2. NIPAM, a flagship program to impart IP awareness and basic training, was launched on 8 Dec 2021 as a part of "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav"
 3. The program is being implemented by Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
 - 4. All of the above are correct.**
 5. None of these
- National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM) has achieved the target of imparting Intellectual Property (IP) awareness and basic training to 1 million students on 31st July 2022, ahead of the deadline which was 15 August 2022.

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- *NIPAM, a flagship program to impart IP awareness and basic training, was launched on 8 Dec 2021 as a part of the “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” celebrations. The program is being implemented by Intellectual Property Office, the Office of Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*
- *The DIPP (now DPIIT i.e. Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade) is recognized as the nodal department to coordinate, guide, and oversee the implementation and future development of IPRs in India. DIPP comes under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.*
- *It aims to inculcate the spirit of creativity and innovation in students of higher education (classes 8 to 12) and ignite and inspire the students of colleges/Universities to innovate and protect their creations.*

94. In August _____ *launched Goodfellows, a senior companionship startup that provides companionship services to senior citizens.*

- A. *Ratan Tata*
- B. *Gautam Adani*
- C. *Anand Mahindra*
- D. *Mukesh Ambani*
- E. *None of these*

- *Industry leader Ratan Tata, launched Goodfellows, a senior companionship startup that provides companionship services to senior citizens.*
- *The platform raised an undisclosed amount in seed funding from Ratan Tata, the Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons.*
- *The startup is designed to pair senior citizens with young graduates to form meaningful friendships. It provides all the services that a grandkid would do.*
- *The platform will also host monthly events to encourage its users to participate with their fellows to make the bond deeper and enjoyable in a different environment.*
- *Founder and general manager of Goodfellows: Shantanu Naidu.*

95. In August _____ *partnered with Meta’s digital platform called Workplace to engage with its 11,000 plus employees.*

- A. *Go Air*
- B. *Akasa Air*
- C. *Air India*
- D. *Vistara*
- E. *None of these*

- Air India will use Meta's digital platform called Workplace to engage with its 11,000 plus employees.
- The airline, under the Tata group, expects its latest step to provide Air India's employees with a platform that promotes more open communication and information sharing within and across all levels of the organization.
- The platform is expected to break through organizational silos, reduce legacy hierarchy and boost employee engagement across time zones and geographies.
- These steps come in as the airline is getting absorbed deeper into the Tata Group after many decades of being a government-run company.

96. In August _____ signed an MOU with Investment Board Nepal (IBN) to develop 750 MW West Seti and 450 MW SR-6 Hydroelectric Projects in Nepal.

- A. NHPC
- B. NTPC
- C. SJVN
- D. ReNew Power
- E. None of these

- NHPC Ltd signed an MOU with Investment Board Nepal (IBN) to develop 750 MW West Seti and 450 MW SR-6 Hydroelectric Projects in Nepal.
- The statement further states that the MOU (Memorandum Of Understanding) was signed and exchanged by A K Singh, CMD, NHPC, and Sushil Bhatta, Chief Executive Officer, IBN, on August 18, 2022, in Kathmandu. Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba was also present on the occasion.
- The Prime Minister appreciated the cooperation of India in Nepal's development. He also mentioned India's role in tapping the hydropower potential of Nepal.
- NHPC India's leading hydropower development organization was founded in 1975 and is a Government of India Schedule A enterprise with 'Miniratna' status. The company is India's premier organization with a total installed capacity of 7,071.20 MW.
- The Investment Board Nepal (IBN), established in 2011, is a Government of Nepal institution tasked with attracting and facilitating private investments, including Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), and managing Public-Private partnerships (PPP) in Nepal. The board is chaired by Prime Minister Deuba.

NHPC to invest over ₹18,000 cr in Nepal

Rituraj Baruah
rituraj.baruah@livemint.com
NEW DELHI

NHPC Ltd will invest more than ₹18,000 crore in Nepal to develop two hydropower projects, said Abhay Kumar Singh, chairman and managing director.

The state-run company on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) for preparation of a detailed project report (DPR) and development of West Seti (750 MW) and Seti River 6 project (450MW) projects in Nepal. The MoU was signed by Singh and Sushil Bhatta, CEO, IBN. "We assure you that to complete these projects on time and in a cost-effective manner, we shall use every bit of expertise gained while constructing and operating 22 hydropower projects in close to five decades of our existence. We will also be investing over ₹18,000 crore to develop these projects," said Singh said during the MoU signing ceremony.

He also said that NHPC will expedite the preparation of DPR of the twin projects and establish the techno-commercial viability of these projects within the set timeframe. Noting that NHPC has a long history of association with Nepal, he said the first overseas project which the company implemented was in Nepal—the 14.1 MW Devighat Project in Nuwakot—in 1983.

In a recent interview, Singh had said that the company has identified three sites at Karnali on West Seti.

NHPC is also diversifying and expects to commission a 1-gigawatt solar project by November 2023

"Nepal has huge potential. It has a potential of 83,000 MW of hydropower, out of which only 1500 MW has been developed. So, there is a lot of scope for development," he had said.

NHPC is also diversifying and expects to commission a 1-gigawatt solar project by November 2023, Singh had said. With an installed capacity of 6,971 MW in India, it has a 15% share of India's total hydro-electric capacity of 46.85 GW.

In the June quarter, the company reported a consolidated net profit of ₹1,053.76 crore, a 7.2% rise from a year earlier.

97. According to a report by HSBC Holdings Plc. _____ will overtake Australia to have Asia's highest share of millionaires in the adult population by 2030.

- A. Tokyo
- B. Singapore
- C. Malaysia
- D. India
- E. None of these

Singapore to be Asia's millionaire capital by 2030: HSBC report

About 1% of India's adult population could be millionaires by 2030

JOANNA OSSINGER
August 18

SINGAPORE WILL OVERTAKE Australia to have Asia's highest share of millionaires in the adult population by 2030, according to a report by HSBC Holdings.

The financial hub is expected to top the list in Asia-Pacific followed by Australia, Hong Kong and Taiwan, the bank wrote in a report Tuesday.

The proportion of millionaires in those four countries is also expected to come in higher than the US by the end of the decade, the report said.

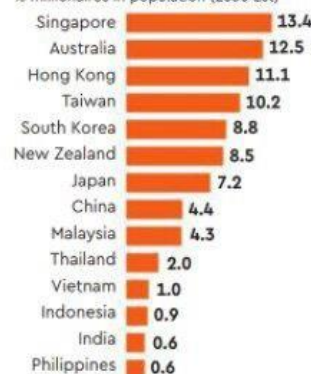
Australia ranked highest in the region in 2021, while Singapore was second, according to HSBC, which did not say how the US compared for that year.

Asia's financial wealth has exceeded that of the US since the aftermath of the Global Financial Crisis, HSBC said, and the region

Wealth concentration

Singapore forecast to overtake Australia, HSBC says

% millionaires in population (2030 Est)



Source: HSBC, citing UNU-WIDER, World Income Inequality Database, World Bank, IMF, UN Population Division and HSBC Forecasts
Note: CH=Mainland China

also includes some of the world's fastest-growing economies.

Vietnam, the Philippines and India are likely to see the number of adults holding wealth of at least \$250,000 more than double by 2030, according to the report. Still, the region is home to many millions of impoverished people as well.

The household wealth projections in the report used estimates and projections of adult population, per capita mean wealth, and nominal per capita gross domestic product, HSBC said. In absolute terms, mainland China is expected to have around 50 million millionaires by 2030 and India could house more than six million, HSBC said.

That works out to about 4% of adults in mainland China, and less than 1% of adults in India, according to the report.

"An account of Asia's growing wealth also shines a light on the societal resources that are ultimately available to lift millions more out of poverty," Frederic Neumann, chief Asia economist and co-head of global research Asia for HSBC, wrote in the report. "After all, the region is hardly short of capital, even if this is unevenly distributed, both between and within economies." —BLOOMBERG

- Singapore will overtake Australia to have Asia's highest share of millionaires in the adult population by 2030, according to a report by HSBC Holdings Plc.
- The financial hub is expected to top the list in Asia-Pacific followed by Australia, Hong Kong, and Taiwan, the bank wrote in a report.
- Australia ranked highest in the region in 2021, while Singapore was second, according to HSBC, which did not say how the US compared for that year.
- Vietnam, the Philippines, and India are likely to see the number of adults holding a wealth of at least \$250,000 more than double by 2030, according to the report.
- In absolute terms, mainland China is expected to have around 50 million millionaires by 2030 and India could house more than six million, HSBC. That works out to about 4% of adults in mainland China, and less than 1% of adults in India, according to the report.

98. Consider the following statement regarding *Nepal's first-ever human milk bank for premature*. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. Nepal opens its first-ever human milk bank for premature, at-risk infants in Pasupatinath.
2. It has been established at Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital's human milk bank.
3. It has been named -- Amrit Kosh --.
4. The center has been established in partnership between the Government of Nepal, the European Union, and UNICEF.
5. All of the above.

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

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- *Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital's human milk bank -- Amrit Kosh -- has the facilities to collect, pasteurise, test, and store safe donor human milk from lactating mothers and then provide it to infants in need.*
- *Aiming to give premature and other at-risk infants access to the vast benefits of breast milk when they need it the most, Nepal President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on 19 August inaugurated the Himalayan nation's first-ever human milk bank at a maternity and women's hospital in Kathmandu.*
- *The center has been established in partnership between the Government of Nepal, the European Union, and UNICEF.*
- *Each year, an estimated 81,000 premature babies are born in over-middle-income countries like Nepal. In comparison to in facts of dying in their first month of life, premature and low birth-weight babies face even greater risk.*
- *According to the Nepal Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (NMICS) 2019, the neonatal mortality rate is 16. Also, the infant mortality rate is 25 and the under-five mortality rate is 28 per 1,000 live births.*

Nepal opens first human milk bank for at-risk infants

SHIRISH B PRADHAN
KATHMANDU, AUGUST 19

NEPAL PRESIDENT Bidhya Devi Bhandari on Friday inaugurated the nation's first-ever human milk bank at a maternity and women's hospital to give premature and other at-risk infants access to the vast benefits of breast milk when they need it the most. 'Amrit Kosh,' the human milk bank at the Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital has the facilities to collect, pasteurise, test, and store safe donor human milk from lactating mothers and then provide it to infants in need, officials said. The centre has been established in partnership between the Government of Nepal, the European Union and UNICEF. "Premature, low birthweight and small for gestational age babies are vulnerable in terms of survival and cognitive development and have feeding problems due to medical conditions," said a doctor, Paropakar Maternity and Women's Hospital. **PTI**

99. In August *South Africa's Absa Corporate and Investment Bank (CIB)* has appointed _____ to digitally transform its investment banking services.

- A. Wipro
- B. Infosys
- C. **Tata Consultancy Services**
- D. Life Insurance Corporation
- E. None of these

TCS gets order from Absa Corporate

Tata Consultancy Services Ltd has got an order from South Africa-based Absa Corporate and Investment Bank to digitally transform the bank's investor services operations across Africa and enhance customer experience, according to an exchange filing. TCS BaNCS is an integral part of the banking, capital markets and insurance landscape of Africa.

- *Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), on Monday, that South Africa's Absa Corporate and Investment Bank (CIB) has appointed the Indian IT giant to digitally transform its investment banking services.*
- *TCS will offer its 'BaNCS' platform to enable on-cloud trading and investment services for Absa CIB's clients.*
- *The companies, in a joint statement, said that as part of the agreement, TCS will power Absa CIB's front- and mid-end operational services, which include trade management, clearing and settlement of trades, and other "operational and administrative" services for asset managers, stock brokers and other users of Absa's service.*
- *TCS says that its BaNCS platform is used across 450 locations around the world, and covers "more than 1 billion" accounts for banking networks globally.*
- *The services will be hosted on Amazon Web Services (AWS) cloud platform and will help Absa improve the speed as well as safety of transactions.*

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- Technology service providers such as TCS's BaNCS use AWS to build financial services atop the cloud platform, which is subsequently offered to clients such as Absa CIB to migrate their services to digital platforms.

100. In August SBI sold the non-performing loan account of KSK Mahanadi Power Company to Aditya Birla ARC for _____ accepting a haircut of almost 58 percent against the total outstanding in a swiss challenge method.

- A. Rs 1,824 crore
- B. Rs 1,622 crore**
- C. Rs 1,569 crore
- D. Rs 1,356 crore
- E. None of these

SBI sells KSK Mahanadi loan account to Aditya Birla ARC for ₹1,622 crore

The bank has taken a haircut of about 68 per cent

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 19

State Bank of India (SBI) has sold its exposure in KSK Mahanadi Power Company Ltd to Aditya Birla ARC Ltd for ₹1,622 crore on 100 per cent cash basis.

The bank had fund-based exposure (principal and interest relating to term loan and cash credit) aggregating ₹5,042.53 crore as of July 8.

Takes 68% haircut

Going by the recovery made from the sale and the outstand-

ing fund-based exposure, the bank has taken a haircut of about 68 per cent.

Prior to the sale, SBI had the biggest exposure to KSK Mahanadi Power Company, followed by Aditya Birla ARC (₹4,732.62 crore). After acquiring SBI's exposure, the ARC will have the single-largest exposure to the company.

SBI had initiated an open offer through an e-auction towards the sale on April 20, for a reserve price of ₹1,544.08 crore.

"While we received 15 Eols (expression of interest), only one bid was received from Aditya Birla ARC Ltd for an amount of ₹1,544.08 crore on date of auction – May 30. A Swiss



The bank had initiated an open offer through an e-auction towards the sale on April 20

challenge process was also initiated on May 31, based on offer received from Aditya Birla ARC Ltd ... No competing bid received under Swiss challenge on June 21," said SBI in a regulatory filing.

The bank said based on subsequent discussions, Aditya Birla ARC Ltd improved the offer to ₹1,622 crore. Thereafter, approval from competent internal authorities was obtained and assignment concluded on August 12.

"We are of the opinion that the resolution strategy adopted is optimal at this juncture," according to the filing.

In line with bank policy

SBI emphasised that the transfer of stressed loans is in line with the bank's policy and regulatory guidelines and is in nature of normal business activity for reduction of non-performing assets.

- SBI has sold the non-performing loan account of KSK Mahanadi Power Company to Aditya Birla ARC for Rs 1,622 crore, accepting a haircut of almost 58 percent against the total outstanding.
- KSK Mahanadi Power Company had a total loan outstanding of Rs 3,815.04 crore towards the State Bank of India (SBI) as of April 2022.
- The state-owned lender had received a total of 15 expressions of interest (Eols), while only one bid was received from Aditya Birla ARC for an amount of Rs 1,544.08 crore in an auction at end-May.
- In a Swiss challenge auction process in June, the lender said it received no competing bids, and based on subsequent discussions, Aditya Birla ARC improved the offer to Rs 1,622 crore.
- Established in June 2009, KSK Mahanadi Power was undergoing the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 for more than two years.

101. According to Mercom India Research, Solar capacity installations in the country rose by 59 percent to record _____ GW during the first half of 2022.

- A. 9.4 gigawatt
- B. 7.2 gigawatt**
- C. 6.3 gigawatt
- D. 8.4 gigawatt
- E. None of these

- Solar capacity installations in the country rose by 59 percent to record 7.2 gigawatts (GW) during the first half of 2022, according to Mercom India Research.
- In January-June or H1 of 2021, the country had added 4.5 GW of solar capacity, the research firm's 'Q2 2022 India Solar Market Update'.
- The solar installations in the April-June period of 2022 also increased by 59 percent to over 3.9 GW compared to 2.4 GW installed in the second quarter of 2021.
- Cumulative large-scale solar PV installations in Rajasthan reached almost 13 GW as of June 2022, and the state accounted for almost 27 percent of the total installations in the country.
- In the first half of 2022, Rajasthan and Gujarat were the top states for large-scale solar, accounting for 53 percent and 14 percent of installations, respectively, followed by Maharashtra with 9 percent.
- A subsidiary of US-based Mercom Capital Group, Mercom Communications India is a clean energy research and communications firm with expertise in clean-tech markets.

102. In August National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed an agreement with _____ by which it will manage the entire operations of the state Milk Federation for five years and implement a structured dairy development program in the region.

- Ladakh
- Punjab
- Karnataka
- Bihar
- None of these

- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) signed a tripartite MoU with the Union Territory of Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) by which it will manage the entire operations of Ladakh Milk Federation for five years and implement a structured dairy

NDDB to manage Ladakh Milk Federation operations

Inks MoU with LAHDC, Ladakh administration

OUR BUREAU

Ahmedabad, August 18

The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) will manage the operations of the local dairy federation Ladakh Milk Federation for five years in order to implement a structured dairy development programme in Ladakh region.

NDDB has inked a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Union Territory of Ladakh and Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) under which the entire operations of Ladakh Milk Federation will be handed over to NDDB.

During the five-year period, NDDB will provide its services without any management fees and depute its professional manpower at key managerial positions for managing the operations of the federation and its constituent units.

At the MoU signing ceremony, Meenesh Shah, Chair-



Meenesh Shah, Chairman, NDDB

man, NDDB, reiterated NDDB's focus on the regions where dairy sector is yet to be developed to significantly contribute to the livelihoods of the rural households. "NDDB would ensure that the operations of the federation and the constituent units are professionally managed with emphasis on providing fair and transparent operations to the dairy farmers," he said.

The MoU was signed in presence of Radha Krishna Mathur, Lt. Governor of UT Ladakh and Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Member of Parliament from Ladakh.

Mathur stated that NDDB's expertise would help in establishing a robust milk processing and processing system in Ladakh and would

also help in undertaking scientific productivity enhancement activities with focus on animal breeding, nutrition and health. "This MoU will encourage entrepreneurs to set up dairy farms leading to development of dairy sector in the region, which will also provide an avenue for employment for the rural youth and more milk production in the UT," he said.

Commenting on the development, Namgyal stated that focussed intervention for dairying in the region was long-awaited and signing of this MoU would surely help in bringing socio-economic development in Ladakh.

Besides dairy development, NDDB will also support the UT of Ladakh through its subsidiaries. IDMC, NDDB's wholly owned subsidiary has completed the refurbishment and upgradation of the milk processing plant at Leh.

Ladakhi cattle

As per the 20th Livestock census, 2019 the Leh-Ladakh region has a total cattle population in excess of 35,000,

including about 22,000 indigenous breeds and about 13,000 exotic breeds.

Ladakhi cattle are native to the Ladakh region of Jammu & Kashmir. The native Ladakhi cattle are small-sized and short-statured black or brown coloured animals, well adapted to extreme cold climatic and hypoxic conditions. These cattle are reared under the extensive system for milk and manure purposes. The milk from the native cattle is considered a natural source of A2 milk.

The ICAR-National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources noted that the milk yield of the native Ladakhi cattle is around 2 to 5 kg per day with a high fat percentage of around 5 per cent. The milk is used primarily to produce butter and 'churpi', a local preparation.

As per the Ladakh Animal Husbandry Department, the crossbreed jersey cattle in Leh has been very successful and has brought about a "white revolution" of sorts in the region making cattle rearing easy and profitable for farmers.

development program for the region.

- On this occasion, the Chairman, of NDDB reiterated the continued focus of NDDB on the regions where the dairy sector is yet to be developed to significantly contribute to the livelihoods of the rural households. He further mentioned that NDDB would ensure that the operations of the Federation and the constituent units are professionally managed with an emphasis on providing fair and transparent operations to the dairy farmers.
- IDMC, the wholly owned subsidiary company has already completed the refurbishment and upgradation of the milk processing plant, Leh which will be soon operationalized.
- The National Dairy Development Board is a statutory body set up by an Act of the Parliament of India. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying of the Government of India. The main office is in Anand, Gujarat with regional offices throughout the country
- Founded: 1965, Founder: Verghese Kurien, Meenesh Shah of Chairman, NDDB.

103. _____ will be the first non-banking finance companies to enter the credit cards space after the Reserve Bank of India opened the doors for non-banking finance companies to enter the credit cards space.

- A. Bajaj Finance Limited.
- B. Mahindra & Mahindra Financial Services Limited.
- C. Muthoot Finance Ltd.
- D. HDB Finance Services
- E. None of these

- Nearly four months after the Reserve Bank of India opened the doors for non-banking finance companies to enter the credit cards space, Bajaj Finance may be the first to seek the regulator's go-ahead to commence this new line of business.
- While the exact timeline for the launch isn't clear yet, it is gathered that within 1–2 months of RBI's approval, Bajaj Finance may roll out its in-house credit cards. A certificate of registration is equivalent to obtaining a license to engage in the business, while the guidelines published on April 22 also require NBFCs to seek specific permission to enter the business from the RBI.
- Obtaining regulatory clearances may take 3–6 months. The target is to launch the card in the March quarter of FY23.
- Bajaj Finance has a longstanding partnership with RBL Bank and forged a tie-up with DBS Bank India in June 2022 for co-branded credit cards.

Bajaj Finance may be first NBFC to issue credit card

To approach the RBI for certificate of registration to issue credit cards

HAMSINI KARTHIK
Mumbai, August 18

Nearly four months after the Reserve Bank of India opened the doors for non-banking finance companies to enter the credit cards space, Bajaj Finance may be the first to seek the regulator's go-ahead to commence this new line of business.

While the exact timeline for the launch isn't clear yet, it is gathered that within 1-2 months of the RBI's approval, Bajaj Finance may roll out its in-house credit cards. A certificate of registration is equivalent to obtaining a licence to engage in the business, while the guidelines published on April

22 also require NBFCs to seek specific permission to enter the business from the RBI.

Regulatory clearance

Obtaining regulatory clearances may take 3-6 months. "The target is to launch the card in the March quarter of FY23," said a person aware of the matter.

Bajaj Finance has a longstanding partnership with RBL Bank and forged a tie-up with DBS Bank India in June 2022 for co-branded credit cards. People aware of the developments say these partnerships weren't seen as adequate to cater to the company's existing customer base, which stood at



mitted to its partnerships with RBL Bank and DBS India. "The company will honour these partnerships and has no intention to terminate its tie-ups with the two banks," said the person quoted above.

E-mails sent to the company, seeking confirmation on the development, remained unanswered till press time.

Market leader

Bajaj Finance is the market leader in the consumer lending space. Its assets under management stood at ₹2.04-lakh crore as on June 30, 2022. However, lately, banks such as HDFC Bank and IDFC First Bank have become aggressive in this segment and are penetrating the consumer lending business through credit cards channel.

around 60 million as on June 30. The number of co-branded credit cards in force stood at 2.96 million, or less than five per cent of its customer base.

"Bajaj Finance has decided to venture into the credit cards business organically to bridge this gap," said a source aware of the matter.

However, it is learnt that Bajaj Finance will remain com-

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- *Bajaj Finserv Limited is an Indian non-banking financial services company headquartered in Pune. It is focused on lending, asset management, wealth management, and insurance.*
- *Sanjiv Bajaj is an Indian businessman and Chairman MD & CEO of Bajaj Finserv.*

104. In August *NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)*, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the *National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)*, signed an MoU with _____ for acceptance of the payment solutions in the UK.

- A. *PayXpert*
- B. *Blomming*
- C. *PayStar*
- D. *Payzone*
- E. *None of these*

- *NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL)*, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the *National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)*, on Thursday (August 18) signed an MoU with *PayXpert* for acceptance of the payment solutions in the UK.
- *The collaboration will make the Indian payment solutions available in the UK on all PayXpert's Android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments. PayXpert would offer QR code payments via Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and later integrate RuPay card payments.*
- *The development comes on the back of the Indian government's effort to enable the adoption of UPI and RuPay cards in other countries. Last month, Minister of State for External Affairs Rajkumar Singh informed the Parliament that the NPCI was in talks with 30 countries for the same.*
- *The NPCI has also signed similar MoUs for acceptance of UPI in France, the UAE, Singapore, and Nepal.*
- *For the uninitiated, the UPI and the RuPay Card were developed by the NPCI, which enabled one of the most significant evolutions in the digital payments ecosystem in the country.*
- *Founded in 2019, UK-based PayXpert claims to have over 25 payment methods, processing in 100 different currencies with over 650 clients in the UK, Spain, France, and Taiwan.*
- *UPI transactions in India crossed the 6 Bn mark in July 2022 as NPCI processed 628 Cr transactions worth INR 10.63 Lakh Cr in the month. Total UPI transaction volume in 2022 stood at INR 67.21 Lakh Cr (\$850 Bn) till July end.*

UPI to enter UK, join hands with PayXpert

Indian travellers to United Kingdom to enjoy hassle-free digital transactions

AGENCIES
New Delhi

Expanding further outside India, the indigenously developed real-time payments solution UPI will foray into the UK market starting with QR code-based transactions.

The NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL) has forged a partnership with payments solutions provider PayXpert to internationalise the acceptance of its payment solutions in the UK.

NIPL is the wholly-owned subsidiary of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) which developed the world's largest real-time payment solution the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and the RuPay

card scheme.

"This collaboration will make the Indian payment solutions available in the UK on all PayXpert's android point-of-sale (POS) devices for in-store payments, starting with UPI-based QR code payments and later integrating the possibility for RuPay card payments," NPCI said in a release on Thursday.

Counted as one of the most successful Real-Time Payments (RTP) systems globally, UPI clocked a volume of USD 940 billion (39 billion transactions) in 2021, equivalent to 31 per cent of India's GDP. RuPay is the domestically developed global card payment network in India with over 70 crore (700 million) cards issued to date.

105. In August Central government raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act to _____ lakh from ₹20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage and ₹1 crore to _____ crore for cases involving commercial fraud.

- A. Rs 30 Lakh, Rs 5 Cr
- B. Rs 1 Cr, Rs 2 Cr
- C. Rs 50 Lakh, Rs 2 Cr**
- D. Rs 75 Lakh, Rs 5 Cr
- E. None of these

- The government has raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act to ₹50 lakh from ₹20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage and ₹1 crore to ₹2 crores for cases involving commercial fraud.
- Customs duty refers to the tax imposed on goods when they are transported across international borders.
- In simple terms, it is the tax that is levied on the import and export of goods.
- Customs duty in India is defined under the Customs Act, of 1962, and all matters related to its fall under the Central Board of Excise & Customs (CBEC).
- However, these value-related thresholds will not apply for offenses relating to fake currency notes, arms, ammunitions and explosives, antiques, art treasures, wildlife items, and endangered species of flora and fauna.

Centre raises thresholds for prosecution under Customs Act

Limits won't apply for offences around fake currency, arms

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The government has raised the thresholds for prosecutions and arrests under the Customs Act to ₹50 lakh from ₹20 lakh for smuggling and illegal imports of goods in baggage, and from ₹1 crore to ₹2 crore for cases involving commercial fraud.

The changes have been notified via two circulars issued by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs under the Department of Revenue on Tuesday.

However, these value-related thresholds will not apply for offences relating to fake currency notes, arms, ammunitions and explosives, antiques, art treasures, wildlife items and endan-



gered species of flora and fauna. "In such cases, arrest, if required, on the basis of facts and circumstances of the case, may be considered irrespective of value of offending goods involved," the board said in its official communique to field formations.

"While the civil proceedings would continue for duty, interest and penalty re-

covery; prosecution and arrest would be initiated in cases where the financial severity is high," explained Abhishek Jain, partner (indirect tax) at KPMG in India. "In an effective justice system, prosecution and arrest should be initiated only in situations involving substantial duty evasion," Mr. Jain added.

Apart from increasing the threshold monetary limit for arrests, prosecution and bail, the board's circulars also provide a more illustrative list of scenarios where offences could lead to arrest, which would help reduce litigation and bring greater clarity for importers as well as officials, said Saurabh Agarwal, tax partner at EY.

106. Consider the following statement regarding the fourth advance estimates of production of major crops for 2021-22. Which of the following is correct?

1. The Ministry said the production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes.
2. The production of rice is expected at 130.29 million tonnes.
3. Wheat production could touch 106.84 million tonnes.
4. Both 1 and 2.
- 5. All of the above.**

- The Union Agriculture Ministry released on August 17 the fourth advance estimates of

production of major crops for 2021-22. The Ministry said the production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes which is higher by 4.98 million tonnes than in 2020-21.

- The Union Agriculture Ministry released on August 17 the fourth advance estimates of production of major crops for 2021-22. The Ministry said the production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes which is higher by 4.98 million tonnes than in 2020-21.

- While the estimate for foodgrain production is 315.72 million tonnes, the production of rice is expected at 130.29 million tonnes, which, according to the Centre, is a record. Wheat production could touch 106.84 million tonnes and for Nutri/coarse cereals it could be 50.90 million tonnes.

Centre projects record production of rice

Maize, gram, pulses, rapeseed and sugarcane could also witness high yields, says Agriculture Ministry

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Union Agriculture Ministry released on Wednesday the fourth advance estimates of production of major agricultural crops for 2021-22. The Ministry said the production of foodgrains in the country is estimated at 315.72 million tonnes, which is higher by 4.98 million tonnes than 2020-21.

A Central government release said the production during 2021-22 is higher by 25 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17



Fruitful outcome: The production of rice is expected at 130.29 million tonnes in the country. • FILE PHOTO

to 2020-21) average production of foodgrains.

"Record production is estimated of rice, maize, gram,

pulses, rapeseed and mustard, oilseeds and sugarcane," it said.

Union Agriculture and

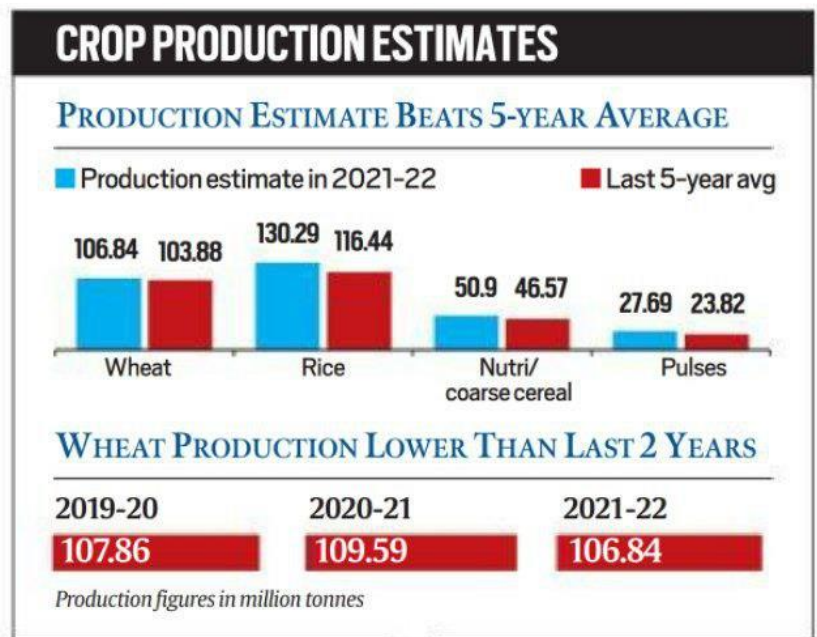
Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said the record production of so many crops is the result of the farmer-friendly policies of the Centre and the hard work of the farmers and the diligence of the scientists.

Wheat output

While the estimate of foodgrains production is 315.72 million tonnes, the production of rice is expected at 130.29 million tonnes, which, according to the Centre, is a record.

Wheat production could

touch 106.84 million tonnes and for coarse cereals it could be 50.90 million tonnes. "Total production of rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 130.29 million tonnes. It is higher by 13.85 million tonnes than the last five years' average production of 116.44 million tonnes. Production of wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at 106.84 million tonnes. It is higher by 2.96 million tonnes than the last five years' average wheat production of 103.88 million tonnes," the release said.



107. As Per India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations India has contributed _____ lakh US dollars to four Voluntary Trust Funds as part of its commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and support for United Nations Human Rights.

- A. 2 Lakh
- B. 4 Lakh
- C. 5 Lakh
- D. 8 Lakh
- E. None of these

- **India has contributed four lakh US dollars to four Voluntary Trust Funds as part of its commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and support for United Nations Human Rights.**
- **India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva in a tweet said that the contribution reflects India's commitment in this regard.**
- **The four Trust Funds to which contribution has been made include the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review, and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in the work of the council.**

Aug 16, 2022, 8:13PM

India contributes four lakh US dollars to Voluntary Trust Funds for support United Nations Human Rights

India has contributed four lakh US dollars to four Voluntary Trust Funds as part of its commitment to global promotion and protection of human rights and support for United Nations Human Rights.



India's Permanent Mission to the United Nations, Geneva in a tweet said that the contribution reflects India's commitment in this regard.

The four Trust Funds to which contribution has been made include the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review, and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDs) in the work of the council.



108. In August _____ commissioned a **Green Hydrogen Plant at its AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.**
- Larsen & Toubro**
 - Coal India**
 - National Thermal Power Plant**
 - Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited**
 - None of the above**
- **Larsen & Toubro (L&T) commissions a Green Hydrogen Plant at its AM Naik Heavy Engineering Complex in Hazira, Gujarat.**

L&T commissions green hydrogen plant at Hazira

Firm in talks to supply gas to refineries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
HAZIRA

Engineering and construction firm Larsen & Toubro, which commissioned its first green hydrogen plant at its complex here in Gujarat, is in talks with a dozen companies for setting up similar units, a company official said on Saturday.

As part of its environmental, social, and governance (ESG) commitments, L&T is planning to achieve water neutrality by 2035 and carbon neutrality by 2040, making green hydrogen an integral part of its clean fuel adoption policy.

In order to supply green hydrogen, the company is in talks with major refineries both in the government and private sectors. The firm is also in touch with a dozen



companies, operating in the steel and cement space, and refineries for setting up similar hydrogen plants, a senior company official said.

“We decided to set up this green hydrogen plant... and use that hydrogen as blended source of energy for our industrial facility here in Hazira,” the company’s whole-time director and senior EVP (Energy) Subramanian Sarma said.

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- The production of green hydrogen based on an alkaline electrolysis process begins on Saturday.
- The plant will produce 45 Kg of Green Hydrogen daily, which will be used for captive consumption in the company's Hazira manufacturing complex.
- As per the regulatory filing, the Green Hydrogen Plant is designed for an electrolyzer capacity of 800 kW comprising both Alkaline (380 kW) and PEM (420 kW) technologies.
- L&T stated that as part of the first phase of the project, a 380 kW Alkaline electrolyzer has been installed, while the 420 kW PEM electrolyzer along with solar plant capacity augmentation to 1.6 MW peak DC, will be part of future expansion.
- This initiative is in line with L&T's climate leadership targets of Lakshya-2026 that will help reduce the greenhouse gas footprint for us as well as our clients by approximately 300 tonnes/annum.

109. In August **Garuda Aerospace** partnered with **Harare Institute of Technology and Nyangani Virtual University** to offer drones-as-a-service to the agriculture industry in _____.

- A. Australia
- B. Zimbabwe**
- C. Kenya
- D. Germany
- E. None of these

Garuda Aerospace forays into Africa

Drone start-up Garuda Aerospace has forayed into African market by partnering with Zimbabwe-based Harare Institute of Technology and Nyangani Virtual University as part of its plans to strengthen footprint overseas, the company said on Wednesday. **Agencies**

- Chennai-based drone startup **Garuda Aerospace** has partnered with **Harare Institute of Technology and Nyangani Virtual University** to offer drones-as-a-service to the agriculture industry in Zimbabwe.
- This is **Garuda's** second global venture and the first in Africa. In June, **Garuda** announced that it is setting up a drone factory in Malaysia in collaboration with **HiiLSE Drones**, a Malaysian drone company.
- Founded in 2015, **Garuda** is backed by **Mahendra Singh Dhoni**. The startup raised \$30 million in a Series-A round last month at a valuation of \$250 million

110. In August **Central Consumer Protection Authority** penalizes **Flipkart** for selling sub-standard Pressure Cookers to consumers to pay a penalty of _____ Lakh.

- A. ₹ 1 Lakh**
- B. ₹ 2 Lakh
- C. ₹ 3 Lakh
- D. ₹ 5 Lakh
- E. None of these

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- The Central Consumer Protection Authority passed an order on the violation of consumer rights by the e-commerce platform 'Flipkart' for allowing the sale of domestic pressure cookers in violation of mandatory standards.
- Headed by Chief Commissioner Mrs. Nidhi Khare, the CCPA has directed Flipkart to notify consumers of all 598 pressure cookers sold on its platform, recall the pressure cookers and reimburse their prices to the consumers and submit a compliance report of the same within 45 days. The company has also been directed to pay a penalty of ₹1,00,000 for allowing the sale of such pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform and violating the rights of consumers.
- The Central Government, from time to time, notifies the Quality Control Orders (QCOs) specifying compulsory conformity to a standard and use of the standard mark for a product to protect consumers from the risk of suffering injury and harm and in the interest of the public at large.

111. In August National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) launched an online marketplace feature named _____ app developed by ICAR-CIFA under Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana.

- Dudh Bajar
- Machli Bajar
- Aqua Bazar
- Nidaan
- None of these

- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) conducted its 9th Governing Body meeting at Lecture Hall, NASC Complex, New Delhi.
- Shri Parshottam Rupala released a book on "Super Success Stories from Indian Fisheries" published by NFDB commemorating 75th Independence Day- Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations an outreach activity with a focus to disseminate the technologies, and innovative ideas practiced by the small-scale farming sector and to expand the promotion of initiatives to the larger population, successful fisheries and aquaculture practices across the country.

CCPA fines Flipkart for sale of poor-quality pressure cookers

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 17

The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) has fined Flipkart for allowing sale of substandard domestic pressure cookers on its platform. The pressure cookers did not meet the mandatory BIS standards.

The Authority has directed Flipkart to notify consumers of all 598 pressure cookers sold on its platform, recall the pressure cookers, reimburse the consumers and submit a compliance report of the same within 45 days.

"The company has also been directed to pay a penalty of ₹100,000 for allowing sale of such pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform and violating rights of consumers," it said in a statement.

According to the Domestic Pressure Cooker (Quality Control) Order, which came into force on February 2021, it is mandatory for manufacturers to comply with the BIS standards and need to have valid ISI mark. "CCPA ob-



served that provisions in the 'Flipkart Terms of Use' such as mandatory use of the words 'Powered by Flipkart' on every invoice of the product and distinguishing sellers as Gold, Silver and Bronze for distribution of various benefits indicates the role played by Flipkart in sale of the pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform," the CCPA stated.

"Flipkart admittedly earned a total fee of ₹1,84,263 through sale of such pressure cookers on its e-commerce platform. It was observed by CCPA that when Flipkart has gained commercially from the sale of such pressure cookers, it cannot alienate itself from the role and responsibility arising out of their sale to consumers," the CCPA added.

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- It was followed by the launch of an online marketplace feature “Aqua Bazar” app developed by ICAR-CIFA with the funding support of NFDB under PMMSY.
- The app will help the fish farmers and stakeholders to source the inputs such as fish seed, feed, medicines, etc., and services required for fish culture as well as farmers can list the table-size fish for sale.
- National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) was established in the year 2006 by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare with its headquarters at Hyderabad to realize the untapped potential of the fisheries sector in inland and marine, fish culture.
- The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to enhance fish production to 220 lakh metric tons by 2024-25 from 137.58 lakh metric tons in 2018-19 at an average annual growth rate of about 9%.
- PMMSY - A scheme to bring about Blue Revolution through sustainable and responsible development of fisheries sector in India”, approved by the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on 20 May 2020 with the highest ever investment of Rs. 20050 crores in fisheries sector comprising of Central share of Rs. 9407 crores, State share of Rs 4880 crore and Beneficiaries contribution of Rs. 5763 crore

112. In August _____ has been appointed as a pension fund manager (PFM) for managing the funds under National Pension System (NPS).

- A. Tata Pension Management Limited
- B. ICICI Prudential Pension Fund Management
- C. HDFC Pension Management Co. Limited
- D. Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund Ltd.
- E. None of these

- Tata Pension Management Limited (TPML) has been appointed as the Pension Fund Manager (PFM) for managing the funds under the National Pension System (NPS).
- TPML is sponsored by Tata Asset Management Company and has been approved as a pension fund manager by the regulator Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- Tata Asset Management Company is one of the three new firms, including Axis Asset Management Company and insurance provider Max Life Insurance, to have acquired licenses for pension fund management in the past year.
- According to the press release, the ‘Certificate of Commencement of Business as Pension Fund’ was issued by PFRDA on 28 July 2022, and the business is now operational with effect from 18 August 2022.
- At present, there are seven pension fund managers – SBI Pension Fund, LIC Pension Fund, UTI Retirement Solutions, HDFC Pension Management, ICICI Prudential Pension Fund Management, Kotak Mahindra Pension Fund, and Aditya Birla Sunlife Pension Management Ltd.

113. In August _____ state government announced to take a loan of 4,000 crore rupees from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for setting up medical colleges in 12 districts of the state.

- A. Maharashtra

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

- Maharashtra government will take a loan of 4,000 crore rupees from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for setting up medical colleges in 12 districts of the state.
- There are 12 districts in the state without a single medical college. These districts include Jalgaon, Satara, Alibaug, Sindhudurg, Usmanabad, Parbhani, Amravati, Ratnagiri, Gadchiroli, Bhandara, and Ambernath.
- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, which is headquartered in the Ortigas Center located in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.

114. In August _____ is scheduled to launch India's first scheme that offers exposure to gold and silver via a single fund on 24 August.

- A. Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- B. Nippon India Mutual Fund
- C. Bajaj Allianz life Insurance
- D. Navi Mutual Fund
- E. None of these

- The asset management company (AMC) Edelweiss Mutual Fund is scheduled to launch India's first scheme that offers exposure to gold and silver via a single fund on 24 August.
- The new fund offer for Edelweiss Gold and Silver ETF Fund of Fund (FoF) will close on 7 September. The fund's managers for the scheme are Bhavesh Jain and Bharat Lahoti.
- India's first gold fund, Nippon India ETF Gold BeES, was launched in March 2007, while silver-based mutual funds were first introduced in January this year.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) had in September allowed MF houses to introduce silver exchange-traded funds (ETFs) in the Indian market. ICICI Prudential Silver ETF was the first silver-based fund in India.
- Notably, Motilal Oswal MF and ICICI Prudential MF had applied for gold and silver funds in February and December, respectively, but are yet to launch the schemes.
- Edelweiss' new scheme will target equal exposure to the two metals and will rebalance periodically. Since the AMC doesn't have a standalone gold or silver fund, the scheme will invest in units of gold and silver ETFs managed by other fund houses or Edelweiss.

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115. In August _____ signed heads of agreement (HoA) with global petroleum giant ExxonMobil for deepwater exploration in the east and west coasts of India.

- A. Oil India Limited
- B. ONGC**
- C. IOCL
- D. NTPC
- E. None of these

- State-run ONGC has signed heads of agreement (HoA) with global petroleum giant ExxonMobil for deepwater exploration in the east and west coasts of India.
- A statement from ONGC said that the collaboration areas focus on the Krishna Godavari and Cauvery Basins in the eastern offshore and the Kutch-Mumbai region in the western offshore.
- Collaboration between ONGC and ExxonMobil will be a strategic fit where ONGC's knowledge and experience in these areas will be coupled with ExxonMobil's global insights.
- The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is an Indian oil and gas explorer and producer, headquartered in New Delhi. ONGC was founded on 14 August 1956 by the Government of India.

ONGC inks pact with ExxonMobil

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 17

State-run Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has signed a Heads of Agreement (HoA) with ExxonMobil for Deepwater exploration in East and West coasts of India.

The agreement was signed ONGC's Director (Exploration) Rajesh Kumar Srivastava and ExxonMobil India's CEO and Lead Country Manager Monte K Dobson in the presence of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas Secretary Pankaj Jain, the oil exploration major said in a statement.

Collaboration areas

The collaboration areas focus on the Krishna Godavari and Cauvery Basins in the eastern offshore and the Kutch-Mumbai region in the western offshore, it added.

116. In August _____ has tied up with 12 international lenders, led by Rabobank, for a \$1 billion project finance loan through external commercial borrowing (ECB).

- A. ReNew Power**
- B. Tata Power
- C. Suzlon Energy
- D. Azure Power
- E. None of these

- Nasdaq-listed ReNew Power has announced that it has tied up with 12 international lenders, led by Rabobank, for a \$1 billion project finance loan through external commercial borrowing (ECB).
- ReNew has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for this project, which will include wind and solar farms set up across Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra.

ReNew Power raises \$1-b ECB loan

Largest credit line of its kind tied up with 12 global lenders led by Rabobank

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 17

ReNew Power has secured a loan of around \$1 billion (about ₹ 7,900 crore), through the External Commercial Borrowings (ECB) route. It claims that this is the largest ECB for a single renewable energy (RE) project in India.

The loan has been tied up with 12 international lenders, led by Rabobank. As ReNew rapidly builds its portfolio, this \$1-billion loan has been tied up through a special purpose vehicle and will be deployed for its hybrid round-the-clock (RTC) battery-enabled project.

ReNew Power Chairman & CEO, Sumant Sinha said, "This loan highlights the interest of the global lenders in ReNew as it helps spearhead India's historic clean energy shift and shows its continued ability to access financing at much lower rates than several years ago,

despite the current volatility in the currency markets and a rising interest rate. This also shows the financial community's faith in the company's growth plans, innovation, project execution abilities, and monetary management. We will work harder to build on this trust," he added.

The project will compete against the baseload of fossil-fuel energy providers such as coal, Sinha noted. The ECB loan follows ReNew's refinancing last month of its dollar-denominated bonds with domestic borrowings, which the company claims is the first Indian RE company to do so. It refinanced its 2024 maturity dollar-denominated bonds worth \$525 million, which were issued in 2019.

PPA signed

"The interest rate, after



The project consists of three wind farms (900 MW in total), and one solar, plus battery storage farm across three states

hedging, is expected to be lower than the company's current average cost of debt on its balance sheet. ReNew has signed a PPA with the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) for this project, which will see wind and solar farms set up across Karnataka, Rajasthan, and Maharashtra," it added.

The project consists of three wind farms (900 MW in total), and one solar plus battery-storage farm (400 MW plus up to 100 MWh) across three States and will provide 400 MW elec-

tricity to SECI. The total cost of the project will be around \$1.35 billion. The commercial operations are scheduled for August 2023.

In April this year, Mitsui & Co partnered with ReNew for this RTC project in which it took a 49 per cent stake. The project will provide power to SECI at the rate of ₹ 2.90 per unit to begin with, which will increase 3 per cent annually for 15 years and then stabilise for the remaining 10 years of the 25-year power purchase agreement, ReNew Power said.

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- It has also announced its foray into the green hydrogen space. In April, along with state-run Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) engineering and construction major Larsen & Toubro (L&T), ReNew Power announced forming a joint venture (JV) company to produce green hydrogen in the country with equal equity investment.
- Last month, it signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Egyptian government agencies and a sovereign fund to set up a green hydrogen manufacturing facility at the Suez Canal Economic Zone in Egypt.

117. In August Central government approved a startup loan of _____ - to a bioplastics firm for commercializing "compostable" plastic and mitigating the usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP).

- A. Rs 2.15 crore
 - B. Rs 1.15 crore**
 - C. Rs 5.15 crore
 - D. Rs 3.15 crore
 - E. None of these
- The government Tuesday approved a startup loan of Rs 1.15 crore to a bioplastics firm for commercializing "compostable" plastic and mitigating the usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP).
 - In a statement, the Science and Technology ministry said an MoU was signed between the Technology Development Board, a statutory body under the Department of Science & Technology, and TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra, for manufacturing and commercialization of compostable plastic.
 - Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh was apprised that StartUp has come up with an alternative solution of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the prototype of a compostable plastic material that breaks down as compost in soil without affecting the environment.
 - Dr. Jitendra was apprised that StartUp has come up with an alternative solution of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the prototype of a compostable plastic material that breaks down as compost in soil without affecting the environment. This unique project has received seed funding under NIDHI Prayas(DST), Niti Aayog, and UNIDO for prototype development.
 - Compostable Plastic means plastic-like material which will be easily biodegradable and will convert into compost in the soil.

Govt approves startup loan to firm for commercialising 'compostable' plastic

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

The government Tuesday approved a startup loan of Rs 1.15 crore to a bioplastics firm for commercialising "compostable" plastic and mitigating the usage of Single Use Plastics (SUP).

In a statement, the Science and Technology ministry said an MoU was signed between the Technology Development Board, a statutory body under Department of Science &

Technology, and TGP Bioplastics Private Limited, Satara, Maharashtra, for manufacturing and commercialisation of compostable plastic.

Science and Technology Minister Jitendra Singh was apprised that the StartUp has come up with an alternative solution of Single Use Plastic (SUP) with the prototype of a compostable plastic material which breaks down as a compost in soil without affecting the environment.

118. In August _____ has received provisional approval from Sri Lanka for two wind projects of 286 MW and 234 MW for an investment of over \$500 million.

- A. ReNew Power
- B. Tata Power
- C. Adani Power
- D. Azure Power
- E. None of these

- Adani Green Energy has received provisional approval from Sri Lanka for two wind projects of 286 MW and 234 MW for an investment of over \$500 million, Energy and Power Minister Kanchana Wijesekara announced.
- Last year, Adani Group sealed a deal with the cash-strapped country to develop and run the strategic Colombo Port's Western Container Terminal.
- Adani Group's bid to gain control of the Eastern Container Terminal (ECT) failed due to mounting opposition from local port trade unions. The Sri Lankan government canceled the tripartite agreement with India and Japan on the ETC by offering the WCT.
- Separately, the Central government on Wednesday granted 'Z' category VIP security cover to Adani.
- RIL Chairman Mukesh Ambani was given a 'Z' category cover of CRPF commandos by the government followed by a lower category cover for his wife Neeta Ambani some years later.

Sri Lanka allows \$500-mn projects by Adani Green

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Colombo, 17 August

Sri Lanka has granted provisional approval to Adani Green Energy for two wind projects of 286 MW and 234 MW for an investment of over \$500 million in the country's Northern province, Energy and Power Minister Kanchana Wijesekara announced on Wednesday.

Wijesekara said in a tweet that he met officials of the state-owned Ceylon Electricity Board (CEB) and Sustainable Development Authority on Tuesday to discuss the progress of renewable energy projects.

The two projects will come up in Mannar and Pooneryn, he said.

"Met officials of CEB & Sustainable Development Authority today to discuss the progress of renewable energy projects. Adani Green Energy was issued provisional approvals for two wind projects of 286MW in Mannar, and 234MW in Pooneryn, for an investment of over \$500 million," Wijesekara said.



Gautam Adani gets 'Z' category security

Billionaire industrialist and Adani Group Chairman Gautam Adani has been accorded a 'Z' category VIP security cover of CRPF commandos by the central government, official sources said Wednesday. They said the all-India cover will be on a "payment basis" and is expected to cost about ₹15-20 lakh per month. The security cover under the central list was accorded to Adani, 60, on the basis of a threat perception report prepared by central security agencies, they said. PTI

119. In August LIC has recently launched a campaign for the revival of individual lapsed policies. All policies except ULIP (Unit linked Insurance Plan) can be revived within _____ from the date of the first unpaid premium.

- A. 2 years
- B. 3 years
- C. 4 years
- D. 5 years
- E. None of these

LIC launches campaign to revive lapsed policies

New Delhi: Insurance behemoth Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) on Tuesday announced the launch of a campaign for revival of individual lapsed policies.

This special drive, to be carried out from August 17 to October 21, 2022, is extended to all non-ULIP policies with very attractive

concession in late fee.

All policies except ULIP (Unit linked Insurance Plan) can be revived within 5 years from date of the first unpaid premium subject to policy conditions, LIC said in a statement.

There is a 100 per cent waiver of late fee for Micro Insurance Policies to facilitate affordable

restoration of risk cover, it said.

The campaign is launched to benefit those policy holders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed. Life insurance cover is a risk management, for contingent, unexpected loss of life, it said, adding, this campaign gives an

opportunity for LIC's policy holders to revive their lapsed policies and continue the benefit of insurance to protect the financial interests of their family.

For a total receivable premium of up to Rs 1 lakh, the insurer is offering a 25 per cent concession in late fee, with a maximum limit of Rs 2,500.

- LIC has launched a campaign for the revival of individual lapsed policies.
- This campaign will be carried out from August 17 to October

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21, 2022, for all non-ULIP policies.

- All policies except ULIP (Unit linked Insurance Plan) can be revived within 5 years from the date of the first unpaid premium. However, this is subject to policy conditions.
- There is a 100% waiver of late fees for Micro Insurance Policies.
- LIC has launched the campaign to benefit those policyholders who were not able to pay premiums due to unavoidable circumstances and their policy lapsed.

120. What is the name of the **new term deposit scheme launched by Karnataka Bank to celebrate 75 years of Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav)?**

- A. KBL Amrit Saubhagya
- B. KBL Amrit Samridhhi**
- C. KBL Amrit Sampannta
- D. KBL Amrit Khushahaal
- E. None of these

- Karnataka Bank has launched the KBL Amrit Samridhhi scheme.
- It is a new term deposit scheme launched to celebrate 75 years of Independence (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav).
- It is a 75-week (525 days) term deposit scheme. The interest rate for the scheme is 6.10% per annum.
- Karnataka Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangaluru, Karnataka. It is a private sector bank.

121. According to RBI paper '**Private Corporate Investment: Growth in 2021-22 and Outlook for 2022-23**', _____ accounted for the **largest portion of the total cost of projects approved by banks and financial institutions in 2021–2022.**

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

- Rajasthan accounted for the largest portion of the total cost of projects approved by banks and financial institutions in 2021–2022.
- It retained the top place for two consecutive years. It was followed by Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.
- As per the article published in the RBI Bulletin, 56.4% of the projects were taken up in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, and Tamil Nadu during 2021-22.
- The article is titled '**Private Corporate Investment: Growth in 2021-22 and Outlook for 2022-23**'.

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- The share of the top 5 states increased from an average share of 40.7% during 2012-12 and 2019-20 to more than 50% during the last two years.
- The majority of capex projects continued to come from the infrastructure sector, led by the 'power' and 'road and bridges' sectors.

122. In August Natural rubber production in India increased to a 9-year high level in 2021-22 at a record level of 12.38 lt. Which state is India's largest natural rubber-producing state?

- A. Kerala
- B. West Bengal
- C. Sikkim
- D. Tripura
- E. None of these

- Natural rubber production in India increased to a 9-year high level in 2021-22.
- However, imports increased to three years high level of 5.46 lakh tonne (lt) as consumption increased to the record level of 12.38 lt.
- The area under rubber during FY22 was at a record high. The tappable area under rubber was also high.
- The average yield increased to 1,472 kg/ha in 2021-22. It is measured in terms of production per hectare of the tapped area.
- The Rubber Board has identified vast land in North East region and West Bengal for rubber cultivation.
- The "NE-MITRA" (North East Mission of Tyre Industry for Rubber Augmentation) project has been conceived by Rubber Board to develop rubber plantations in those areas.
- Rubber consumption in India is expected to reach 15 lakh tonnes by 2025-26.
- Tripura is India's second largest natural rubber-producing state after Kerala.

123. In August _____ - will felicitate 75 farmers from Kerala under the campaign, 'Joy of Freedom'.

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

NR output at 9-year high in FY22; imports zoom to 3-year peak

V SAJEEV KUMAR

Kochi, August 19

India's natural rubber production (NR) increased to a nine-year high in the 2021-22 fiscal with a rise in the area under the industrial commodity being supported with higher yield and a new high in the tappable area, said KN Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board.

Despite the 8 per cent growth last fiscal, imports of NR increased to a three-year high of 5.46 lt as its consumption rose to a record high of 12.38 lt. Last fiscal's production was 7.75 lakh tonnes. The country's rubber output declined sharply to below 7 lt after hitting a record high of 9.13 lt in 2012-13. At one point in time, the production dropped below 6 lt before picking up with the output over 7 lt in the last three years.

Imports had hit a record 5.82 lt in 2018-19 following a sharp drop in production in the preceding



Consumption rose to a record high of 12.38 lt

three fiscals. But the surprising element of the report that Raghavan presented at the 181st Rubber Board meeting was the 12 per cent increase in consumption over 2020-21 lifting the total off-take to a record high.

The area under rubber during FY22 was 826,660 hectares, a record. Though the tappable area under rubber was 7,18,800 ha - another record high - during FY22, only 526,500 ha (73.2 per cent) contributed to the NR production during the year. The average yield,

measured in terms of production per hectare of the tapped area increased to 1,472 kg/ha in 2021-22 from 1,442 kg/ha in the previous year, he said. It was still way lower than the 1,879 kg recorded during 2006-07.

Domestic consumption

On domestic consumption, the Rubber Board Secretary said the auto tyre sector registered 15.9 per cent growth against 3.2 per cent. Auto-tyre manufacturing sector accounted for 73.1 per cent of the total quantity of NR consumed. The projection of NR production and consumption for 2022-23 is 850,000 tonnes and 1290,000 tonnes, respectively, he said.

Earlier, Sawar Dhanania, Chairman, Rubber Board emphasised the urgent need to increase the area under natural rubber cultivation to meet the domestic demand and reduce the dependence on imports.

- Federal Bank will felicitate 75 farmers from Kerala under the campaign, 'Joy of Freedom'.
- Under the campaign, Federal Bank will give 75 farmers a cash reward of ₹10,000 each.
- The campaign is being launched to celebrate 75 years of independence.
- Department of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of Kerala will select the beneficiaries.
- Federal Bank:
 - It is an Indian private sector bank with headquarters in Aluva, Kochi.
 - Shyam Srinivasan is the CEO of Federal Bank. Its tagline is your perfect banking partner.

124. Recently SEBI has relaxed norms for alternate investment fund (AIF) and venture capital fund (VCF) investments in overseas firms and allowed them to invest in which of the following companies?

1. In companies incorporated in countries that don't have bilateral MoU with SEBI.
2. In companies incorporated in jurisdictions that are blacklisted or face restrictions by FATF.
3. In companies incorporated in a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the IOSCO's Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding.
4. Only 1 and 2.
5. All of the above.

- India-registered AIFs and VCFs have been allowed by SEBI to invest in foreign entities without having an India connection.
- The norms on alternate investment fund (AIF) and venture capital fund (VCF) investments in overseas firms have been relaxed by SEBI.
- Earlier, overseas investments by AIFs and VCFs were allowed in only those companies that have a connection to India or at least a back-office in India.
- AIFs and VCFs are still not allowed money laundering norms.
- They are not allowed to invest in companies incorporated in countries that don't have bilateral MoU with SEBI.
- They are not allowed to invest in companies incorporated in jurisdictions that are blacklisted or face restrictions by FATF.
- AIFs and VCFs are allowed to invest in a company, which is incorporated in a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission's Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding.

REGULATORY NOD TO WIDEN SCOPE OF INVESTMENTS

AIFs to go global as Sebi drops 'India connect'

ASHLEY COUTINHO
Mumbai, August 18

THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE BOARD OF INDIA (SEBI) ON Thursday allowed alternative investment funds (AIFs) to invest in overseas companies that may not have an India connection by way of a back office or subsidiary. The requirement to have an 'India connection' was a major roadblock for funds seeking a regulatory nod to invest overseas.

A relaxation in this regard will help expedite the fund approval process and may considerably widen the scope of investments that AIFs can make. For instance, the funds will now be able to invest in foreign technology firms set up in developed markets such as the US, the UK or Singapore or in firms set up by non-resident Indians abroad.

"The removal of the 'India connect' allows Indian AIFs to go global in their stock selection and bring geographical diversity to their investment thesis," said Siddarth Pai, founding partner, 3one4 Capital.

According to a Sebi circular on Monday, these overseas companies have to be from countries whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the International Organization of Securities Commission's multilateral memorandum of understanding (MoU) or a signatory to the bilateral MoU with the Sebi. The companies should not belong to regions identified by Financial Action Task Force (FATF) as having a strategic anti-money laundering or terror financing deficiencies or those that have not made sufficient progress in addressing the deficiencies.

The Sebi circular said that if a fund liquidates the investment made in an overseas investee company previously, the sale proceeds received from such liquidation, to the extent of investment made in the said overseas investee company, shall be available to all AIFs and VCFs for reinvestment.

It further said that AIFs/VCFs shall furnish the sale/divestment details of the overseas investments to Sebi within three working days of the divestment. "The Sebi circular clarifies that the cost of overseas investments sold by AIFs will be added back to the available and unutilised limits. This will hopefully help clear some pending applications for overseas investment," said Tejesh Chitlangi, senior partner, IC Universal Legal.

SCORCHING PACE
AIF assets have more than doubled in last 3 years; category II has led the way

Category	Commitments raised	Funds raised	Investments made
Category I	0.58	0.32	0.23
Category II	5.61	2.4	2.20
Category III	0.74	0.66	0.63
Total	6.94	3.38	3.11

Data as of June 30, 2022; Source: Sebi

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- AIFs and VCFs are allowed to invest in a company, which is incorporated in a country whose securities market regulator is a signatory to the bilateral pact with SEBI.
- SEBI has asked all AIFs and VCFs to disclose in a specified format all overseas investments sold/divested by them to date, within 30 days.

125. Consider the following statement regarding the **Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) Act**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. The concessional tax rate of 25% is at present available to all new manufacturing units in the country till March 2026.
2. The commerce Ministry wants this rate should be extended for 15 years to units in DESH.
3. In this year's budget, the Finance Ministry had proposed to replace the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act with a new DESH Act.
4. It comes under the jurisdiction of the Central Board of Direct Taxes.
5. All of the above

WEDNESDAY • AUGUST 17 • 2022

DESH Act: Concessional corporate tax rate for extended period remains an issue

Commerce Ministry seeks to hold more discussions to sort out pending issues

AMITISEN

New DESH, August 16

The Finance Ministry is yet to give a go-ahead to the Commerce and Industry Ministry's proposal of offering a concessional corporate tax rate of 15 per cent for an extended period to all greenfield and some brownfield units in the 'development hubs' that are to come up once the proposed Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH) legislation replaces the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZ) Act, a source tracking the matter has said.

"The Commerce Department wants that the concessional corporate tax rate of 15 per cent, at present available to all new manufacturing units in the country till March 2024, should be extended for 15 years to units

in DESH. This is a matter under the jurisdiction of the Central Board of Direct Taxes and has not yet been cleared by it," the source told *BusinessLine*.

Cut in tax

The Centre had reduced corporate tax rates to 22 per cent from 30 per cent for existing companies and to 15 per cent from 25 per cent for new manufacturing companies in 2019. While the 15 per cent corporate tax rate was on offer for new manufacturing companies that start operations by March 2023, it was extended by another year in this year's Budget.

"Extension of the concessional corporate tax rate for a longer period of time for units in DESH could play an important role in attracting invest-



The Finance Ministry had proposed to replace the existing Special Economic Zones Act with a new DESH Act in this year's Union Budget. The Finance Ministry also has to keep in mind its revenue considerations. Hopefully a decision would be taken soon on the matter," the source said.

The Finance Ministry had proposed to replace the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act with a new DESH Act in this year's Union Budget to build more inclusive economic

hubs, revive interest of investors in SEZs and bring the SEZ rules in compliance with WTO rules.

Replacing SEZ Act

The Commerce & Industry Ministry, which is working on the draft DESH Bill, seeks to come up with a policy that will promote manufacturing and services for both international and

domestic markets. The SEZ Act, which was notified in 2006, became less attractive for investors after introduction of Minimum Alternate Tax and the setting in of the sunset clause on direct tax exemptions. The Net Foreign Exchange earning clause brought the incentives given to SEZs in conflict with WTO rules.

Other incentives being proposed under DESH include retention of zero-rating of IGST (integrated goods and services tax) on domestic procurement by a SEZ unit, continuation of indirect tax benefits to developers and allowing depreciation on sale of used capital goods cleared to domestic tariff areas.

The Desh Bill was to be introduced in the Monsoon session of Parliament but got delayed as the Commerce & Industry Ministry wants to hold some more discussions with other Ministries and Departments.

- Commerce Ministry wants to extend a concessional corporate tax rate of 15% for 15 years to units in the Development of Enterprise and Service Hubs (DESH).
- The concessional tax rate of 15% is at present available to all new manufacturing units in the country till March 2024.
- The Commerce Ministry wants this rate should be extended for 15 years to units in DESH.
- However, this comes under the jurisdiction of the Central Board of Direct Taxes. The matter is not cleared by CBDT yet.
- The center reduced corporate tax rates to 15% from 25% for new manufacturing companies in 2019.

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- In this year's budget, the Finance Ministry had proposed to replace the existing Special Economic Zones (SEZs) Act with a new DESH Act.
- Commerce & Industry Ministry is working on the draft DESH Bill. The SEZ Act was notified in 2006.

126. In August **Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) office** of the government announced the launch of the _____ platform to promote collaboration between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem.

- A. MATLAB
- B. FCS- OIS
- C. OBICUS
- D. MANTHAN
- E. None of these

- The Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA) office of the government has announced the launch of the Manthan platform.
- It aims to promote collaboration between industry and the scientific research and development ecosystem.
- It is powered by NSEIT, which will help in enhancing the dialogue among stakeholders and facilitates research and innovation.
- This platform will facilitate transfers of knowledge and interactions through Information Exchange Sessions, Exhibitions, and Events.
- It will help in the sharing of challenges in various emerging technologies and scientific interventions.
- It will help in the adoption of new concepts, science-led ideas, and new technology outcomes across the country.

127. Recently seen in the news **Kawas Solar PV Project** is located in which of the following state?

- A. Gujarat
- B. Punjab
- C. Karnataka
- D. Odisha

- NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated energy company achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity with the commissioning of 56

NTPC augments its solar footprint and achieves 69454 MW of installed capacity
Power giant lowers its carbon footprint through installation of RE projects
NTPC becomes world's first Energy major to declare its Energy Compact goals

Posted On: 17 AUG 2022 5:22PM by PIB Delhi

NTPC Limited, India's largest integrated energy company achieved 69454 MW of group installed and commercial capacity with the commissioning of 56 MW Kawas Solar PV Project at NTPC Kawas, Gujarat on 15.08.2022.

NTPC is steadily lowering its carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of renewable energy projects in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects. The Company has planned 262 MW floating solar on over 1300 acres of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which 242 Mega Watt has been commissioned.

This includes the country's largest floating solar of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Telangana, 92 MW at Kayamkulam in Kerala, and 25 MW each at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, and Kawas in Gujarat. These projects would light more than 2,00,000 households and would be instrumental in reducing over half a million tonnes of CO2 emissions on an annual basis. Besides these, the projects would entail a saving of 5 trillion liters of water per annum, sufficient to meet the yearly water requirements of 15,000 households.

NTPC has become the world's first Energy major to declare its Energy Compact goals. Recently it has collaborated with Niti Aayog to achieve the 'net zero' targets. The NTPC Group plans to achieve 60 GW of RE in by 2032. Presently, NTPC has 2.3 GW of commissioned renewable capacity with 3.9 GW under implementation and execution. NTPC also has 4.9 GW of renewable energy capacity under tendering process which will further bolster the green energy portfolio of India's largest power producer.

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MW Kawas Solar PV

Project at NTPC

Kawas, Gujarat on

15.08.2022.

- **NTPC is steadily lowering its carbon footprint by reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the installation of renewable energy projects in its existing stations as well as putting up green field RE projects.**
- **The Company has planned 262 MW floating solar on over 1300 acres of its reservoir area by installing over 9,50,000 PV modules at its various stations out of which 242 Mega Watt has been commissioned.**
- **This includes the country's largest floating solar of 100 MW at Ramagundam in Telangana, 92 MW at Kayamkulam in Kerala, and 25 MW each at Simhadri, Andhra Pradesh, and Kawas in Gujarat.**

128. According to the [India Semiconductor Market Report 2019-2026](#), the cumulative revenue of India's semiconductor market is expected to grow to how much during 2021-2026?

- A. \$100 billion
- B. \$200 billion
- C. \$300 billion**
- D. \$400 billion
- E. None of these

- **India is about to be the second-largest market in the world for semiconductors as per a report.**
- **As per India Semiconductor Market Report 2019-2026, the cumulative revenue of India's semiconductor market is expected to increase to \$300 billion during 2021-2026.**
- **India Semiconductor Market Report 2019-2026 is joint research by the India Electronics & Semiconductor Association (IESA) and Counterpoint Research.**
- **As per the report in 2021, India's end equipment market stood at \$119 billion, in terms of revenue.**
- **It is expected to grow at a compounded annual growth rate (CAGR) of 19% from 2021 to 2026.**
- **The report said Electronic System Design and Manufacturing (ESDM) sector in India will play a major role in the country's overall growth.**

129. As per Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development-OECD's 2021 calculations, the Indian economy will overtake the US by _____.

- A. 2031**

India can be 2nd-largest economy by 2031: Patra

BY BUREAU
Mumbai, August 13

INDIA CAN FAST-track its way to becoming the second-largest economy in the world by 2031 by boosting gross domestic product (GDP) growth in terms of purchasing power parity to 11% in the next decade, beating the estimate of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), Reserve Bank of India (RBI) deputy governor Michael Patra said on Saturday.

As per the OECD calculations, India is poised to overtake the US economy by 2048, making India the largest economy in the world after China. Indian economy grew by 8.7% by FY22 and the RBI has projected GDP growth of 7.2% in FY23.

"It is possible to imagine India striking out into the next decade with a growth rate of 11%. If this is achieved, India will become the second-largest economy in the world not by 2048 as shown earlier, but by 2031," Patra said, speaking at an event organised by the RBI. "Even if it does not sustain this



RBI deputy governor Michael Patra

pace and slows to 4-5% in 2040-50, it will become the largest economy of the world by 2060," he added.

To reach the milestone, India must focus on four drivers of growth, which, according to Patra, include demographic dividend, manufacturing, exports and internationalisation of the rupee. To meet the target of 10% growth in the manufacturing sector, India needs to be a part of the industrial revolution 4.0, which includes automation, data

'US says India hid Russian origin of fuel'

THE US HAS expressed concern to India that it was being used to export fuel made from Russian crude, through high-seas transfers to hide its origin, to New York in violation of US sanctions, RBI deputy governor Michael Patra said on Saturday.

■ PAGE 2

exchange, cyber-physical systems, cloud computing and advanced robotics. Additionally, India must develop a skilled labour force and increase its international competitiveness, Patra said.

In case the 10% growth target for manufacturing is met, its share in the GDP will increase to 25%, Patra said, adding that the country needs to do a lot of catching up in this space.

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- B. 2048
- C. 2051
- D. 2058
- E. None of these

- MD Patra, Deputy Governor of RBI observed India will become the second largest economy in the world not by 2048, but by 2031.
- According to Patra, this would be possible if India achieves a growth rate of 11% in the next decade.
- The organization for Economic Co-operation and Development-OECD's 2021 calculations show that the Indian economy will overtake the US by 2048.
- According to Patra, Demographics, manufacturing, exports, and internationalization, are the four engines that can power India to achieve escape velocity from the emerging economy orbit.
- India is currently the third largest economy in the world in PPP terms, with a share of 7% of global GDP after China and the U.S.

130. What is the Reserve Bank of India's rank in India's most trusted institutions as per a survey by Ipsos India?

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

- As per a survey by Ipsos India, the Defence forces, RBI and the +Prime Minister of India are India's three most trusted institutions.
- Supreme Court of India and Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) came in fourth and fifth place, respectively.
- The survey said defense forces are ranked first with at least 65% of respondents having trust in them.
- RBI is ranked in second place with 1 in 2 (50% of respondents) having trust in it.
- Parliament, media, and the Election Commission of India were ranked 7th, 8th, and 9th place, respectively.
- The institutions at the bottom of the list were politicians (16%), political parties (17%), community leaders (19%), and religious leaders (21%). These have the least credibility.
- Ipsos India is a market research and consulting firm. It conducted the survey.
- The survey included respondents from four metros, tier 1, tier 2, and tier 3 towns. The survey interviewed 2,950 adults including females.

'Defence forces, RBI & PM office most trusted institutions'

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 15

DEFENCE FORCES, RBI and Prime Minister of India are the three most trusted institutions in the country, according to a survey by Ipsos India.

The Supreme Court of India came fourth and it was followed by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

Defence forces with at least two in three (65% of respondents) reposing faith in them was ranked first, followed by Reserve Bank of India with one in two (50%). Prime Minister of India as an institution was at the third spot with 49% citizens having trust in it, the survey said.

Smack in the middle was the Parliament (33%) ranked 7th, ranked 8th was the media (32%) and placed 9th was the Election Commission of India (31%), it said.

"Trust is about credibility, ethos and respect. It is exemplary and earned and is the foundation on which the institutions are built, resonating those qualities. Defence Forces, RBI, PM of India are pillars with a strong foundation and unwavering in their mission and work, emerging as most trusted by the populace," it said. It is also about integrity and strength of character which the most trusted institutions strive for and stand for, it said.

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131. Consider the following statement regarding India's first all-electric double-decker Bus. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. Mumbai has got the first all-electric double-decker AC bus from Switch Mobility electric vehicle division of Hinduja Group's flagship Ashok Leyland.
2. The electric double-decker AC bus is named Switch EIV22.
3. Both 1 and 2.
4. None of the above.

Ashok Leyland-backed Switch Mobility unveils electric double-decker bus in Mumbai

Priced at around ₹2 cr, the Switch EIV 22 has a 231-kWh capacity and a range up to 250 km

SWARAJ BAGGONKAR
AROOSA AHMED

Mumbai, August 18
Switch Mobility, the electric vehicle making subsidiary of bus specialist Ashok Leyland, on Thursday unveiled India's first electric double-decker air-conditioned bus, Switch EIV 22, priced at around ₹2 crore.

Designed, developed and manufactured in India and utilising Switch's global electric bus experience, Switch EIV 22 is world's first semi-low floor, air conditioned, electric double-decker with wider door on rear overhang and a rear staircase.

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) in Mumbai will be the first in

the country to get these buses.

As many as 200 buses, each with a capacity to carry 90 passengers, will be inducted by BEST by June next year, with the first one scheduled to be delivered in the March quarter of this fiscal year.

Ashok Leyland was the original company to deliver double decker buses to BEST in 1967.

Though their numbers have dwindled over the years, they continue to ply on some of the busiest routes in Mumbai.

OHM, a subsidiary of Ashok Leyland, will own the buses, run the operations and do the charging, maintenance of the vehicle. Switch will look at the

annual maintenance contract (AMC) through its dealer partners. Switch's electric double decker has a lightweight aluminium body construction – which the company claims offers higher passenger to weight ratio and a competitive cost per km per passenger.

The Switch EIV 22 has a 231-kWh capacity, 2-string, liquid cooled, higher density NMC chemistry battery pack with dual gun charging system.

This enables the bus to have a range up to 250 km for intra-city applications.

The Switch double decker can ferry nearly twice the number of seated passengers as a comparable single decker bus with just 18 per cent increase in kerb weight.

The architecture of the double decker uses a 650 V system – the same platform as Switch EIV 12 launched in



As many as 200 buses will be inducted by BEST by June next year

June, which is also common with Switch et.

Other cities

Mahesh Babu, CEO-Switch Mobility India and COO - Switch Mobility, said, "The product has been unveiled and the testing and validation will happen in a few months.

The chassis will be made at our Ennore plant and the body will be built with our partner in Mumbai."

Many other cities including Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai and Delhi are discussing on having double decker electric buses given the growing issue of traffic congestion.



- Carrying capacity** 90 (65 seated)
- Uses advanced electric technology**
- 250 km range on 80 min charge**

- 250 electric AC double-deckers by Dec 2022
- 650 more to be introduced in 2023
- Latest in styling, technology, safety, comfort & environmental compatibility
- Wide front and rear doors, 2 staircases & emergency exit

- Mumbai's Brihanmumbai Electricity Supply and Transport (BEST) has got its first all-electric double-decker AC bus from Switch Mobility, the electric vehicle division of Hinduja Group's flagship Ashok Leyland.
- The company unveiled its double-decker 66-seater electric bus in the presence of Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways.
- Mumbai is the only city in the country which has twin-deck buses in operation and Ashok Leyland rolled out these buses way back in 1967.
- Now 55 years later, Ashok Leyland is offering an electric double-decker bus to Mumbai. Switch already has its electric double-decker buses in the United Kingdom with more than 100 buses in service on UK roads.
- The electric double-decker AC bus Eiv22 is powered by a 231 kWh capacity battery pack with a dual gun charging system, which allows the bus to have a range of up to 250 kilometers for intra-city transport, according to the company.

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- *The Switch Eiv 22 is designed and developed to meet Indian conditions. Mumbai and double-deckers are synonymous with public transport, and we are certain that Eiv 22 will transform the public transport space in terms of sustainability and footprint.*
131. In August Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh unveils India's first truly indigenously developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus developed by KPIT-CSIR in _____.
- A. Mumbai
 - B. Hyderabad
 - C. **Pune**
 - D. Bengaluru
 - E. None of these
- *Dr. Jitendra Singh today launched India's first truly indigenously developed Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus developed by KPIT-CSIR in Pune.*
 - *The Minister lauded the joint development efforts of KPIT and CSIR-NCL and pointed out that the technology prowess of Indian scientists and engineers is no less than the best in the world and also at much lower costs.*
 - *Later, Dr. Jitendra Singh inaugurated the Bisphenol-A pilot plant in CSIR-NCL and said these pilot plants have successfully demonstrated novel process technologies developed by NCL under CSIR's Covid-19 mission program and Bulk Chemicals mission program.*
 - *Dr. Jitendra Singh said, Bisphenol-A (BPA) is an important feedstock for the production of epoxy resins, polycarbonate, and other engineering plastics. He said the global market for Bisphenol-A is projected to reach 7.1 Million Tons by 2027, growing at a CAGR of 2% over the analysis period 2020-2027.*
132. In August HDFC Bank has announced the opening of its first all-women branch at _____.
- A. **Kozhikode**
 - B. Pune
 - C. Bengaluru
 - D. Lucknow
 - E. None of these
- *HDFC Bank has announced the opening of its first all-women branch at Kozhikode in Kerala.*
 - *The branch, on Cherootty Road, the hub of traders in Calicut, will have four women bankers, a statement said.*
 - *The branch was inaugurated by Dr. Beena Philip, the Mayor of Calicut, on Wednesday.*
 - *As on March 31, women constituted 21.7 percent of the workforce in HDFC. The target is to increase it to 25 percent by 2025.*

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133. Consider the following statement regarding **India's 1st online taxi service**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated 'Kerala Savari', the country's first online taxi service owned by the State Government.
2. This service is started by the Motor Workers Welfare Board under the leadership of the Labor Department
3. Kerala Savari only charges a 10% service charge in addition to the rate set by the government.
4. The first phase of the project is implemented in Thiruvananthapuram city.
5. None of the above.

- Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan on Wednesday inaugurated 'Kerala Savari', the country's first online taxi service owned by the State Government.
- Kerala Savari ensures fair and decent service to passengers and fair remuneration to auto taxi workers, the Chief Minister said while launching the online taxi service.
- This service is started by the Motor Workers Welfare Board under the leadership of the Labor Department. Kerala Savari ensures safe travel for the public at government-approved fares, a release said.
- Neither passengers nor workers benefit from it. Kerala Savari only charges an 8% service charge in addition to the rate set by the government. In other online taxis, it is 20 to 30 percent.
- This consideration has been given importance in app designing and driver registration. A police clearance certificate is mandatory for drivers joining the scheme. Proper training is also provided.
- The first phase of the project is implemented in Thiruvananthapuram city.
- The project will be perfectly implemented in the entire state, after evaluating the first phase. Kerala Savari will also reach Kollam, Ernakulam, Thrissur, Kozhikode, and Kannur municipal limits within a month.

Pinarayi rolls out Kerala's cab service

Kerala Savari, India's first State-owned online taxi service, promises safe journey

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala Savari, the country's first online taxi service owned by a State government, was rolled out in the State on Wednesday. Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan launched the online platform which promises 'fair and decent service to passengers and a reasonable remuneration to auto rickshaw and taxi workers.' An initiative by the Motor Workers Welfare Board under the leadership of the Labour department, Kerala Savari ensures safe travel for the public at government-approved fares.

Unlike other online platforms which switch to dynamic pricing during peak hours, there will be no fluctuation in fares on Kerala Sa-



Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan flagging off the 'Kerala Savari' online taxi service (seen at right) at a function in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. ■ S. MAHINSHA



vari. Kerala Savari charges 8% service charge, while for other online taxis, it is 20% to 30%.

Kerala Savari aims at offering a safe and reliable online service for women, children, and senior citizens. A police clearance certificate is man-

datory for drivers joining the scheme. Further, to address the security concerns of passengers and drivers, a panic button system has been introduced in the online app. This button can be pressed in the event of a car accident or if under any danger.

Kerala Savari app is available on Playstore from Wednesday midnight. As many as 541 vehicles, including 321 autorickshaws and 228 cars, have already been registered in Thiruvananthapuram Corporation, where the first phase will be implemented.

134. In August **Shiprocket** has become the 106th start-up to join the unicorn club. It is a _____.

- A. Drone Startup Platfotm
- B. Logistics Technology Platform
- C. Neobanking Platform
- D. Defense Armour Platform

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E. None of these

- *Logistics Technology Platform Shiprocket has become the latest start-up to join the unicorn club.*
- *The company raised USD 33 Million or Rs 260 crore from its existing investors Temasek Holdings and Lightrock India to be crowned as the 106th Unicorn of India. Zomato-backed Shiprocket is the 20th company to cross the 1 Billion Valuation mark in 2022.*
- *The company was founded in 2017 by Saahil Goel, Vishesh Khurana, Gautam Kapoor, and Akshay Gulati, as a technology-backed logistics service provider to small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs).*
- *Unicorn is a term that is associated with startup firms that are valued above USD 1 Billion mark. Currently, India ranks 3rd globally in terms of the number of unicorns being born out of a country.*

135. In August India *developed the first indigenously-developed RT-PCR kit for testing monkeypox disease*. It has been developed by _____.

- A. *Transasia Bio-Medicals*
- B. *King George's Medical University*
- C. *Serum Institute Of India*
- D. *Kras Pharmaceuticals Pvt. Ltd.*
- E. *None of these*

- *India has developed the first indigenously-developed RT-PCR kit for testing monkeypox disease was launched at the Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone (AMTZ).*
- *Developed by Transasia Bio-Medicals, the kit was unveiled by Principal Scientific Adviser to the Centre Ajay Kumar Sood.*
- *Founder-chairman of Transasia Suresh Vazirani said the kit would help in early detection and better management of the infection which the WHO declared a public health emergency of international concern.*
- *Meanwhile, the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) may conduct a serosurvey among contacts of monkeypox patients to check for the presence of antibodies and find out how many of them were asymptomatic.*
- *India so far has reported ten cases of monkeypox.*
- *The World Health Organisation has declared monkeypox a global public health emergency of international concern.*

Appointment News

136. Consider the following statement regarding **National Dairy Development Board (NDDB)**. Which of the following is incorrect?

- A. Government extends the tenure of Meenesh Shah as NDDB Chairman for another 6 months.
- B. India will host the world's biggest dairy conference—IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 in Bengaluru from 12-15 September.
- C. The summit will be organized under the “Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood” theme.
- D. It is headquartered in Anand, Gujarat.
- E. It is a statutory body founded in 1965.

- Government extends the tenure of Meenesh Shah as NDDB Chairman for another 6 months.
- Meenesh C Shah's tenure has been extended for another six months until 30 November.
- Meenesh C Shah was given the additional charge of Chairman of the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) on June 1, 2021.
- The tenure of interim chairman Varsha Joshi ended on May 31, 2021.
- India will host the world's biggest dairy conference—IDF World Dairy Summit 2022 in New Delhi from 12-15 September.
- The summit will be organized under the “Dairy for Nutrition and Livelihood” theme.
- National Dairy Development Board (NDDB): It is headquartered in Anand, Gujarat.
- It is a statutory body founded in 1965.
- It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairy.
- The main subsidiaries are Indian Dairy Machinery Company Limited, Mother Dairy, and Indian Immunologicals Limited, Hyderabad.

Meenesh Shah to hold charge as NDDB chief for 6 more months

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA

New Delhi, August 21

The Centre has extended the tenure of Meenesh C Shah, an Executive Director of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), to hold charge as Chairman of the premier organisation for another six months until November 30. The post of a full-time Chairman of NDDB has been vacant since December 2020.

“It is very unfortunate that the government has been unable to find a suitable expert to head NDDB during last 20 months and even the approval of extension is coming late, meaning asking the person unofficially to continue without an order/notification,” said a dairy expert.

The post of Chairman NDDB fell vacant when Dilip Rath demitted office after being elected to the Board of International Dairy Federation. Initially the charge was given to Varsha Joshi, a Joint Secretary in the

Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairy. From June 1, 2021, Shah has been holding the post and the notification published on August 20 is the second extension after the first on January 4 this year.

Merger of Tata Dyr

Notice cum Addendum is hereby give (Transferor Scheme), Tata Income Fund with Tata Corporate Bond Fund, an of Duration & relatively high interest r. 24th September, 2022.

The exit option of atleast 30 days, at pr Fund, Tata Medium Term Fund and to th The sale of units of Tata Dynamic Bon investment options) and Tata Corporat A written communication has been ser in Tata Corporate Bond Fund- tax impli Consequently, from the record date, T.

136. In August **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet** appointed **Rajesh Verma** as the secretary to President **Droupadi Murmu**. He will replace _____ in his new assignment.

- A. Kapil Dev Tripathi
- B. Aji Kumar Bhalla
- C. Rajesh Bhushan
- D. Tarun Bajaj
- E. None of these

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Third Week of August (17th August – 23rd August 2022)

- *The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet appointed Odisha cadre IAS officer Rajesh Verma as the secretary to President Droupadi Murmu.*
- *A graduate of electrical engineering, Verma is currently serving as the secretary of the Union ministry of corporate affairs. Verma, who hails from Sawai Madhopur in Rajasthan, will replace Kapil Dev Tripathi in his new assignment.*
- *The 1987-batch IAS officer proceeded for central deputation in July 2019. Before going to the Centre, Verma had served as the principal secretary to chief minister Naveen Patnaik for two years from January 2017.*

Rajesh Verma named secretary to President

Verma, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, was made MCA Secretary in April 2020



Rajesh Verma

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 19

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Corporate Affairs Secretary Rajesh Verma as Secretary to the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

Verma, a 1987 batch IAS officer of Odisha cadre, was appointed as MCA Secretary in April 2020.

As the chairman of the MCA-appointed Company Law Committee, Verma had mooted several noteworthy amendments to the Companies Act 2013.

The 95-page report of CLC had recommended 24 major changes to the Companies Act 2013, including recognising special purpose acquisition companies, allowing companies to introduce fractional shares, issue restricted stock units and stock appreciation rights.

The government is now in the process of firming up the draft provisions based on the recommendations of this panel, it is learnt.

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BusinessLine

137. _____ to step down as the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden in December 2022.

- A. **Dr. Anthony Fauci**
- B. Dr. Robert Clive
- C. Dr. Julius Ceaser
- D. Dr. Mark Ruffalo
- E. None of these

- *Dr. Anthony Fauci announced to step down as head of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID).*
- *Dr. Anthony Fauci will also step down as the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden in December 2022.*
- *Dr. Anthony Fauci served as director of the NIAID for 38 years.*
- *He was the face of the US COVID-19 response during the pandemic.*
- *National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases:*
- *It is one of the important institutions under the United States Department of Health and Human Services.*
- *Its main aim is to prevent infectious, immunologic, and allergic diseases.*
- *It was established on 29 December 1955.*

137. In August *Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB)* has recommended _____ as the *Chairman of NABARD*.

- A. Monika Halan
- B. **Mohammad Mustafa**
- C. Rajkiran Rai
- D. Rajashri Gupta
- E. None of these

- *The Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) on Wednesday recommended Mohammad Mustafa as the Chairman of NABARD.*
- *After interfacing with 15 candidates on August 16-17, 2022, the bureau recommends Mohammad Mustafa for the position of Chairman of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).*
- *The final decision on the recommendation of FSIB would be taken by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mustafa, a 1995 batch IAS officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre, served as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of the Small Industries Development Bank of India.*
- *Earlier, he had served as a Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services and also as a Director. He also served as CMD of the National Housing Bank between 2014-15 and as MD of CERSAI in 2016.*
- *NABARD is the apex regulatory body for the overall regulation of regional rural banks and apex cooperative banks in India.*

138. In August shareholder of One 97, Communication approved Vijay Shekhar Sharma MD & CEO of digital financial services firm Paytm for _____ Years.

- A. 5 Years
- B. 3 Years
- C. 2 Years
- D. 1 Year
- E. None of these

- *Vijay Shekhar Sharma has been re-appointed as MD & CEO of digital financial services firm Paytm. The re-appointment will last till December 18, 2027.*
- *Paytm CFO Madhur Deora has been re-appointed by the company's board as a whole-time director till May 19, 2027.*
- *Paytm is an Indian digital payments and financial services company, based in Noida. It was founded in 2010 by Vijay Shekhar Sharma under One97 Communications.*

Fauci to Step Down as Biden's Chief Medical Adviser, NIAID Head

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the longtime director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) and the chief medical adviser to US President Joe Biden, will step down in December after more than 50 years of government service.

Fauci, 81, has been the NIAID director since 1984, and in 2020 became the face of the US government's efforts to contain the Covid-19 pandemic.

"While I am moving on from my current positions, I am not retiring," Fauci said on Monday. "After more than 50 years of government service, I plan to pursue the next phase of my career while I still have so much energy and passion for my field."

Fauci has served under seven US Presidents, beginning with Ronald Reagan, on newly emerging and re-emerging infectious disease threats including HIV/AIDS, Ebola and Zika.

Last month, the infectious disease expert told Reuters that he planned to retire by the end of Biden's first term, but it could come much earlier than that.

"As he leaves his position in the US



Fauci, 81, has been the NIAID director since 1984, and in 2020 became the face of the US gov't's efforts to contain the Covid-19 pandemic

government, I know the American people and the entire world will continue to benefit from Dr. Fauci's expertise in whatever he does next," Biden said in a statement. "The United States of America is stronger, more resilient, and healthier because of him." Fauci will also step down as chief of the NIAID Laboratory of Immunoregulation. **Reuters**

FSIB recommends Mustafa for post of Nabard chief



THE FINANCIAL SERVICES Institutions Bureau (FSIB) on

Wednesday recommended the appointment of Mohammad Mustafa for the position of chairman, National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. Mustafa is a 1995 batch IAS officer.

139. What is the name of the **Union home secretary** whose term has been extended by one year till 22 August 2023?

- A. Rajiv Gauba
- B. Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- C. Tarun Bajaj
- D. KV Kamath
- E. None of these

- The Narendra Modi-led central government had decided to extend the Union home secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla's term by one year.
- Ajay Kumar Bhalla is the current Home Secretary of India. He assumed the office on 23 August 2019, succeeding Rajiv Gauba.
- Bhalla will now serve till 22 August 2023. Bhalla is a 1984-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Assam-Meghalaya cadre.
- Bhalla had earlier received a one-year extension on 12 August 2021.

140. In August _____ has been appointed as additional charge of secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

- A. Rajesh Verma
- B. Ajay Kumar Bhalla
- C. Tarun Bajaj
- D. Ajay Seth
- E. None of these

- Revenue secretary Tarun Bajaj gets an additional charge of secretary at the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.
- This comes a few days after the appointment of Rajesh Verma as Secretary at Rashtrapati Bhavan to President Droupadi Murmu.
- Sharma was earlier the secretary of the Corporate Affairs ministry. Bajaj has more than three decades of experience and primarily worked in the field of finance and industry for the government.
- Earlier, Bajaj was given additional charge of economic affairs secretary to fill in for Ajay Seth who was on leave till August 12.
- Last year, in April, Bajaj was the Secretary of the Department of Revenue. He was shifted from Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs where he has assumed responsibility in May 2020.

Vijay Shekhar Sharma reappointed Paytm MD and CEO for 5 more years

99.67 per cent of shareholders voted in his favour

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, August 21

Shareholders of Paytm – the country's largest listed fintech unicorn – have in a significant majority (99.67 per cent) voted in favour of the company founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma's reappointment as the Managing Director for five more years. He will be designated as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company.

The vote of confidence came at the 22nd Annual General Meeting of One 97 Communications Ltd (OCL) – which owns the Paytm brand – held virtually on Friday. This was the first AGM for OCL after it became a publicly listed company in the year 2021.

Each of the seven resolutions,



Vijay Shekhar Sharma

including Sharma's reappointment as Managing Director, and his remuneration (special resolution), were duly passed with over 94 per cent of votes cast in their favour.

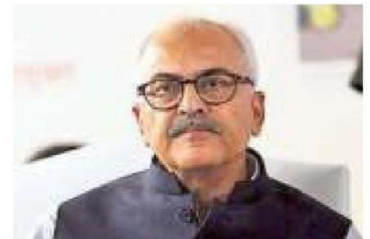
Sharma's reappointment is significant as it came in the backdrop of proxy advisory firm Institutional Investor Advisory Services India Ltd (IIAS) urging shareholders earlier this month to vote against Sharma's reappointment. The proxy advisory firm had also asked them to replace founder Vijay

Shekhar Sharma as the company's Chief Executive Officer. Paytm's board should bring a professional for the role, the proxy advisory firm had suggested.

Sharma's remuneration

The special resolution for Sharma's remuneration received 94.48 per cent votes in its favour. His remuneration is fixed for the next three years without any annual increment, unlike the policy/practice applicable to all other employees of the company. The shareholders also duly passed the resolutions for reappointment of Ravi Chandra Adusumalli to the Board, appointment of Madhur Deora as Whole-time Director designated as Executive Director, President and Group Chief Financial Officer along with his remuneration, and approval of contribution to charitable and other funds.

IN BRIEF



Ajay Bhalla gets another year as Home Secretary

NEW DELHI

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet approved a one-year extension in service to Union Home Secretary Ajay Kumar Bhalla. This is Mr. Bhalla's second extension in service. His two-year fixed term ended on June 30, 2021. The ACC on August 12, 2021 granted a one-year extension, beyond the two-year fixed tenure that was to end on August 22 the same year.

138. Consider the following statement regarding **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID)**. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. IAS Piyush Goyal was appointed as CEO of NATGRID.
2. Ashok K K Meena has been posted as the CMD of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
3. It was first conceptualized in 2009 after the 26/11 attacks. It was approved in 2010.
4. It is available to 11 central agencies such as the CBI, ED, IB, RAW, and police of all states.
5. All of the above.

- IAS Piyush Goyal was appointed as CEO of NATGRID. Piyush Goyal was currently serving as an additional secretary (AS) in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- The post of CEO of NATGRID was vacant after Ashish Gupta was appointed as an additional director general in the Border Security Force (BSF).
- Ashok K K Meena has been posted as the CMD of the Food Corporation of India (FCI).
- Chandra Bhushan Kumar has been appointed as the additional secretary in the department of agriculture and farmers' welfare.
- National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID): It was first conceptualized in 2009 after the 26/11 attacks. It was approved in 2010.
- It acts as a single platform for security and intelligence agencies to access the database related to immigration entry and exit, banking and telephone details of suspects, air and train travel details, etc.
- It acts as a link between intelligence agencies and investigation agencies.
- It is available to 11 central agencies such as the CBI, ED, IB, RAW, and police of all states.

139. The Centre and the board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) have appointed _____ as its managing director (MD) for nearly five years.

- A. Rajkiran Rai
- B. Mohammad Mustafa
- C. KV Subramanian
- D. Manisha Lohani
- E. None of these

- The Centre and the board of the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) have appointed Rajkiran Rai G as its managing director (MD) for nearly five years.
- After the Financial Services Institutions Bureau (FSIB) recommended Rai's name for the top job at the government-backed development finance institution (DFI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and central government agencies gave their nod for the recommended candidate.

Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj gets additional charge as MCA Secretary

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 22

The Centre has given additional charge of the post of Corporate Secretary to Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj.

Bajaj, who is a 1988 batch Haryana cadre IAS officer, has been the Revenue Secretary since April 2021. He has over 33 years of experience in administration, management and public policy.

It maybe recalled that last week, the erstwhile MCA Secretary



Rajesh Verma, Tarun Bajaj an Orissa

cadre IAS officer, was recently appointed Secretary to the President of India Droupadi Murmu.

Bajaj will assume additional charge of the post at a time when several legislative changes are in the works at the MCA, including firming up of amendments to the Companies Act, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. Recently, the Government had introduced a Competition (amendment) Bill in Lok Sabha.

Rajkiran Rai G named NaBFID MD

The Centre and the board of National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) has appointed Rajkiran Rai G its managing director for nearly five years. After the Financial Services Institutions Bureau recommended Rai's name for the top job at the government-backed development finance institution (DFI), the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and central government agencies gave their nod. The board of NaBFID approved Rai's appointment on July 30 based on clearance by the RBI, Centre and the DFI's nomination and remuneration committee. **BS REPORTER**



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- The board of NaBFID approved Rai's appointment on July 30 based on clearance by the RBI, center, and the DFI's nomination and remuneration committee.
- After beginning operations in its new avatar, picking Rai as the MD of Rs 20,000-crore NaBFID was the FSIB's first recommendation.
- The DFI is looking to commence its operations soon. The Centre, in October 2021, appointed K V Kamath as chairperson of the government-owned DFI. Subsequently, government nominees Pankaj Jain and Sumita Dawra were appointed directors to the board of DFI.
- The government has already infused Rs 20,000 crore into NaBFID to help the DFI start its operations to catalyze investment in the infrastructure sector.

140. In August UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appointed _____ among 10 eminent persons from around the world on his inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel.

- A. Anjali Sahu
- B. Indrameet Singh
- C. Alkesh Kumar Sharma
- D. Mohammad Mustafa
- E. None of these

UN chief appoints Indian bureaucrat to inaugural internet governance forum leadership panel

PTI ■ UNITED NATIONS

Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Alkesh Kumar Sharma is among 10 eminent persons from around the world appointed by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on his inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel.

In line with the mandate of

the IGF and as recommended in the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation, the Secretary-General has established the Panel as a strategic, empowered, and multistakeholder body to support and strengthen the IGF.

In addition, the Panel consists of five ex-officio members, including Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology Aman-



deep Singh Gill as well as senior representatives of the current, immediately previous, and immediately upcoming IGF host countries. The Panel will address strategic and urgent issues and highlight Forum discussions and possible follow-up actions, in order to promote greater impact and dissemination of IGF discussions according to its Terms of Reference.

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- Secretary in the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Alkesh Kumar Sharma is among 10 eminent persons from around the world appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on his inaugural Internet Governance Forum (IGF) Leadership Panel.
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141. Consider the following statement regarding *Sebi restructured advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF)*.

1. The eight-member committee will now be chaired by Monika Halan.

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2. The panel was **earlier headed by G Mahalingam**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Capital markets regulator Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).
- The panel is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities that may be undertaken directly by the markets regulator, or through any other agency, for utilization of the Sebi Investor Protection and Education Fund.
- The eight-member committee will now be chaired by Monika Halan, writer, speaker, and professor at NISM, according to the latest update with the markets watchdog.
- The panel was earlier headed by G Mahalingam, a former whole-time member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi).
- In 2013, the regulator set up a committee to find out ways and means to best utilize the investor protection and education fund.

142. In August **Centre extended the tenure of Drug Controller General of India _____ by three months.**

- A. VG Somani
- B. S. Eswara Reddy
- C. Renuka Reddy
- D. Akash Aggarwal
- E. None of these

- The Centre has extended the tenure of Drug Controller General of India VG Somani by three months. His term was set to end on 14 August 2022.
- During the pandemic, the incumbent DCGI has played a key role from the approval of covid-19 vaccines to the approval of lifesaving drugs and ensuring their quality in combatting the covid-19 pandemic.
- In 2019, the government appointed Dr. Somani as DCGI for three years to head India's apex drug regulatory agency Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO). Before this in 2018, Dr. S. Eswara Reddy, joint drug controller, was holding the charge of DCGI on Adhoc-

Sebi rejigs advisory committee on investor protection education fund

New Delhi: Capital markets regulator Sebi has restructured its advisory committee on Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF).

The panel is mandated to recommend investor education and protection activities that may be undertaken directly by the markets regulator, or through any other agency, for utilisation of the Sebi Investor Protection and Education Fund.

The eight-member committee will now be chaired by Monika Halan, writer, speaker and professor at NISM, according to the latest update with the markets watchdog.

The panel was earlier headed by G Mahalingam, former whole-time member of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi). Prior to Mahalingam, the committee was chaired by Abraham Koshy, former professor of



IIM-Ahmedabad. A Balasubramanian, MD and CEO at Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC; M G Parameswaran, founder of brand-building.Com; Vijay Kumar Venkataraman, chief-trade services at Nurture.Farm and former MD and CEO of NCDEX; and Mrin Agarwal, founder of Finsafe India, will continue as members of the committee.

The committee also comprises three Sebi officials -- executive director G P Garg and chief general managers Santosh Sharma and Jayanta Jash. In 2013, the regulator had set up a committee to find out ways and means to best utilise the investor protection and education fund. **PTI**

DCGI chief's tenure extended by three months



THE TENURE OF Dr VG Somani as the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) chief has been extended by three months, according to an order issued by the Union health ministry. Somani was appointed DCGI chief for a term of three years on August 14, 2019.

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basis. Presently, Reddy is in judicial custody over the alleged charges of corruption in the Biocon bribery case.

143. In August **Mastercard signed on 4 badminton players as brand ambassadors as a part of its 'Team Cashless India' campaign.** Which of them is not on the list?

- A. Lakshya Sen
- B. Kidambi Srikanth
- C. Satwiksairaj Rankireddy
- D. Chirag Shetty
- E. **Sourav Ghoshal**

- Badminton players Lakshya Sen, Kidambi Srikanth, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, and Chirag Shetty will come on board as brand ambassadors of Mastercard in India.
- As winners of the Thomas Cup 2022 and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, these new ambassadors will partner with the company to spread awareness about the safety, security, and convenience of digital payments in India.
- This partnership, the company said, is in line with the efforts of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Digital India.
- Earlier this year, the company had signed up Shiv Kapur to enhance its leading panel of golfers, which also includes Anirban Lahiri as brand ambassador.
- Similar to the key role played by its brand ambassador MS Dhoni, the badminton stars will be a part of its 'Team Cashless India' campaign, which works with merchants and cardholders to create awareness of the safety and security of digital payments.

Days and Obituary News

144. **Internaut Day** is celebrated around the world on _____ to mark the invention of the World Wide Web.

- A. 21st August
- B. 22nd August
- C. **23rd August**
- D. 24th August
- E. None of these

- Internaut Day is celebrated around the world on 23 August 2022 to mark the invention of the World Wide Web.
- An "internaut" is a person who has a thorough knowledge of how to use the Internet and its history.
- August 23 marks the day when the World Wide Web (WWW) was opened to the public back in 1991 for the first time by WWW inventor Tim Berners Lee.
- Tim Berners Lee is an English computer scientist. He invented the World Wide Web in 1989.

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- He also devised the first Web browser and a Web server.
- In 1990, with Robert Cailliau, he prepared a hypertext project which was called WorldWideWeb.

145. Which of the following is the theme for **World Photography Day 2022**?

- A. Climate Change through the lens
- B. Pandemic Lockdown through the lens**
- C. Biodiversity through the lens
- D. Understanding clouds through the lens
- E. None of these

- World Photography Day is celebrated every year on 19 August.
- In 1837, Louis Daguerre and Joseph Nicéphore Niépce developed the 'Daguerreotype'.
- It was a photography process. The invention was acknowledged by the French government on 19 August 1839. The French government called it a gift to the world.
- In 1861, Thomas Sutton had taken the first durable color photograph. The first digital photograph was taken in 1957. Kodak's invented the first digital camera.
- Pandemic Lockdown through the lens is the theme for World Photography Day 2022.

146. **World Humanitarian Day** is observed on _____ each to honor the humanitarian pursuits all across the globe and to promote human welfare.

- A. 19th August**
- B. 20th August
- C. 21st August
- D. 18th August
- E. None of these

- To honor the humanitarian pursuits all across the globe and to promote human welfare, World Humanitarian Day is observed on August 19 each year.
- Amid the humanitarian needs across the world reaching their record-high levels, the theme for this year's World Humanitarian Day (WHD) takes its basis in the saying "It takes a village to raise a child," building upon this metaphor of collective endeavor to grow global appreciation of humanitarian work.
- This year the campaign focuses on the thousands of volunteers, professionals, and crisis-affected people who deliver the required healthcare, shelter, food, protection, and water, among other things, on an urgent basis

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- A bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killed 22 humanitarian aid workers on August 19, 2003. The lives taken away included the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello. Five years after this, the UNGA adopted a resolution designating 19 August as World Humanitarian Day (WHD).

147. Every year, **Akshay Urja Diwas** is observed on _____ to spread awareness about the development of renewable energy in India.

- A. 20th August
- B. 21st August
- C. 22nd August
- D. 23rd August
- E. None of these

- Every year, Akshay Urja Diwas is observed on 20 August.
- This day also marks the birth anniversary of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.
- Akshay Urja Diwas has been celebrated since 2004. It is observed to spread awareness about the development of renewable energy in India.
- The main aim of this day is to promote the use of renewable energy.

148. Every year on _____ **World Senior Citizen's Day** is observed to increase awareness about the issues of elderly people.

- A. 20th August
- B. 21st August
- C. 22nd August
- D. 23rd August
- E. None of these

- Every year on August 21, World Senior Citizen's Day is observed.
- It is observed to increase awareness about the issues of elderly people.
- Former US President Ronald Reagan officially founded the World Senior Citizen's Day in 1988.
- The General Assembly of the United Nations (UN) declared 21 August as World Senior Citizen's Day on 14 December 1990.
- The Government of India has launched several welfare schemes for senior citizens, including the Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Scheme, National Programme for the Health Care of Elderly (NPHCE), Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana, etc.

149. **International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism** is observed on _____ each year in memory of the victims of terrorism.

- A. 19th August
- B. 20th August

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- C. 21st August
- D. 22nd August
- E. None of these

- *International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is observed on August 21 each year in memory of the victims of terrorism. The day is observed to show the victims of terrorism that they are not forgotten and they are respected and recognized across the world.*
- *The theme for 2022's International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism is "memories," as mentioned in a United Nations (UN). The theme was selected after consulting with victims of terrorism and victims' associations.*
- *August 21 was officially designated as International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) on December 19, 2017, in its resolution 72/165.*

150. In August former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee, who led the country to a historic fourth-place finish in the _____ Melbourne Olympics passed away.

- A. 1960
- B. 1952
- C. 1956
- D. 1948
- E. None of these

- *Former India football team captain Samar 'Badru' Banerjee, who led the country to a historic fourth-place finish in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, died here in the early hours of Saturday after a prolonged illness.*
- *Fondly known as 'Badru Da', he was suffering from Alzheimer's, Azotemia, and high-blood pressure-related ailments, and was admitted at the MR Bangur Hospital after testing positive for COVID-19 on July 27.*
- *The Indian football teams have participated in three Olympics so far and to date, the performance by the Banerjee-led 1956 side remains the best, when it finished fourth after losing to Bulgaria 0-3 in the bronze medal playoff, in what was known as the 'golden era' of football in the country.*

India's star Olympics football captain dead

KOLKATA: Samar Banerjee, the former India football captain who led the team to a fourth-place finish in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics died in Kolkata on Saturday. He was 92.

Banerjee, Badru to everyone on the Kolkata Maidan where the tradition of referring to people by their pet names endures, had Covid-19, high blood pressure and Alzheimer's.

Banerjee played for Mohun Bagan from 1952 to 1960, named



Samar Banerjee

ANI

captain in 1958. A media release from AIFF said he scored 78 goals for the team.

→P22

Sports Award Books News

151. In August _____ created history by defeating reigning five times World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen to secure 2nd position in the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, in Miami.

- A. D Gukesh
- B. **Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa**
- C. Rahul Srivastava
- D. V Pranav
- E. None of these

- The young and talented 17-year-old Grandmaster, Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa created history by winning three games in a row and defeating reigning five times World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen at the FTX Crypto Cup, the American finale of Champions Chess Tour, in Miami.
- It is pertinent to note that it is the third time in six months that Rameshbabu Pragganandhaa defeated world champion, Magnus Carlsen.
- Although Carlsen won the Crypto Cup by securing higher points, Pragganandhaa came second.
- Pragganandhaa was born in Chennai, Tamil Nadu on 10 August 2005. He is the younger brother of Woman Grandmaster and International Master R Vaishali.

152. Benjamin Netanyahu's memoir, titled "Bibi: My Story", will be released in November after the parliamentary elections. He was the former Prime Minister of which of the following country

- A. Iraq
- B. **Israel**
- C. Iran
- D. Saudi Arabia
- E. None of these

- Former Israeli PM Netanyahu's autobiography will be released in November 2022.
- Benjamin Netanyahu's memoir, titled "Bibi: My Story", will be released in November after the parliamentary elections.
- Netanyahu's failures and successes are mentioned in this book.
- The book describes Netanyahu's journey from a young age to "his singular perspective on the geopolitics of the Middle East" and "his conversations with Presidents Clinton, Obama, and Trump".

Pragganandhaa beats Carlsen



R Pragganandhaa won three straight games to outwit world No.1 Magnus Carlsen.

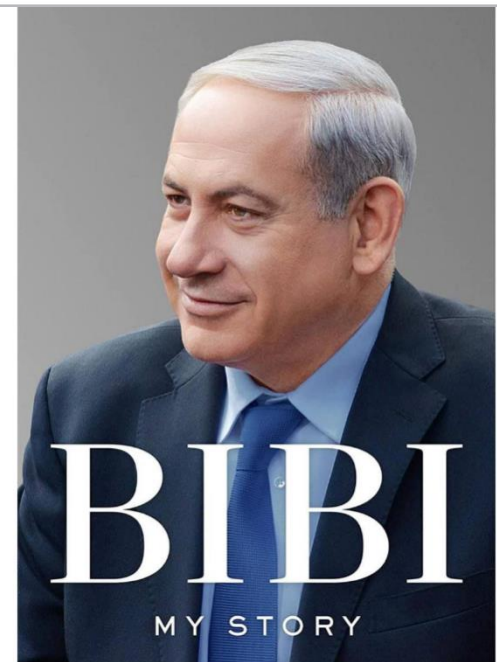
Young Indian Grandmaster R Pragganandhaa produced a superb performance, winning three straight games including two in the blitz tie-breaks to outwit world No.1 Magnus Carlsen 4-2 in the final round of the FTX Crypto Cup here on Monday.

However, despite the win over Carlsen, the 17-year-old could only take second place in the final standings. The Norwegian won the top prize on the basis of a higher score. He finished with 16 match points to the Indian prodigy's tally of 15.

"I've been playing badly all day, but now I'm getting the results I deserve... it's never good to lose, but this is as good a time as any!," Carlsen said after the match.

Alireza Firouzja, another highly-rated teen and a prodigy, also finished on 15 points but had to settle for third place as he had lost the clash against Pragganandhaa earlier.

The first two games of the Carlsen-Pragganandhaa match were drawn before the world No.1 went ahead by clinching the third. In a surprise turn of events, the Indian won the fourth game to push the match into the tie-breaks. He shocked the Norwegian by winning both the games in the tie-break. **PTI**



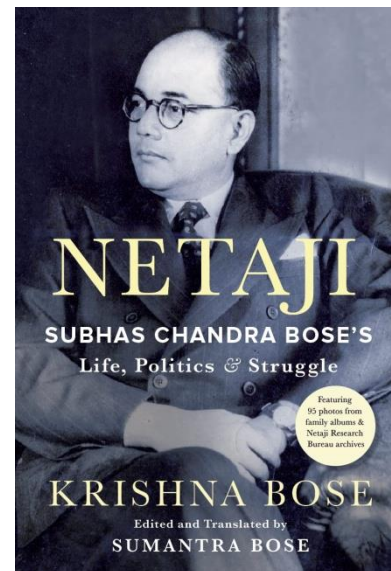
Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

Third Week of August (17th August – 23rd August 2022)

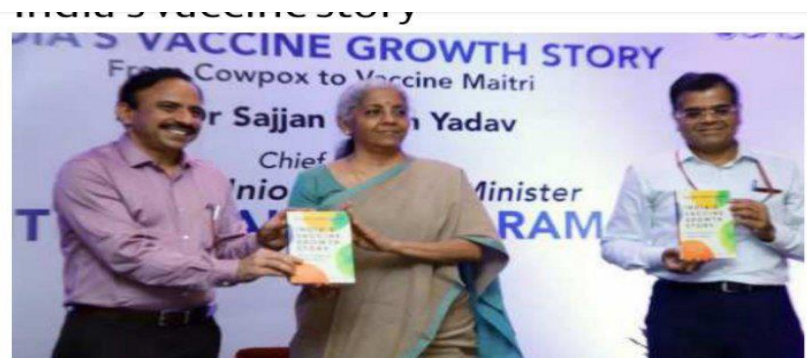
- *Netanyahu is the son of a prominent Zionist and educator, Benzion Netanyahu. Netanyahu served as the ninth Prime Minister of Israel from 1996 to 1999 and from 2009 to 2021.*
- *Netanyahu has previously written “A Durable Peace” and “Fighting Terrorism” books.*
- *He is currently facing the allegations of taking gifts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars from Hollywood film producer Arnon Milchan and Australian billionaire James Packer.*

153. Who is the author of the book titled *NETAJI: Subhas Chandra Bose's Life, Politics and Struggle*?

- A. Krishna Bose
- B. Sumantra Bose
- C. Sakshi Bose
- D. Sandeep Bose
- E. None of these



- *A new book “Netaji” offers a rare in-depth account of Subhas Chandra Bose’s political motivations, his relationships, and the daring military campaigns he undertook to secure India’s independence.*
- *Originally written in Bengali by the late scholar and Bose’s family member Krishna Bose, the writings reveal the “human being alongside the revolutionary and freedom fighter”, traversing Bose’s life from childhood to his death in August 1945.*
- *The writings were compiled, edited, and translated by her son Sumantra Bose.*
- *August 18, 2022 marks the 77th death anniversary of Netaji, who — notwithstanding the mystery surrounding his demise — is widely believed to have died in a plane crash in Taiwan.*
- *Krishna Bose, a former MP from West Bengal, was married to Sisir Kumar Bose — the son of Netaji’s older brother and lifelong confidant Sarat Chandra Bose. After Sisir’s death, she served as Netaji Research Bureau (NRB) chairperson for two decades until her death in 2020.*



Nirmala Sitharaman, Finance Minister, with TV Somanathan, Finance Secretary (right), and Sajjan Singh Yadav, Additional Secretary, Department of Expenditure, during the launch of the book, 'India's Vaccine Growth Story - From Cowpox to Vaccine Maitry', in New Delhi, on Wednesday. Sitharaman said India has made a remarkable contribution over the decades in vaccine production

154. Finance Minister *Nirmala Sitharaman*

internationally launched the book entitled “India’s vaccine growth story- from cowpox to vaccine maitry”. The book is Authored by _____.

- A. Nandini Gupta
- B. Sajjan Singh Yadav

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

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- C. Swapnil Singh
- D. Abhishek Rajan
- E. None of these

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman internationally launched the book entitled “India’s vaccine growth story- from cowpox to vaccine maitry”. The book is written by Dr. Sajjan Singh Yadav, who is currently posted as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Finance.
- The book traces India’s centuries-long journey as the torchbearer of the world in vaccine development and inoculations. It has numerous stories of the birthing of various vaccines too.
- The book also discusses the development of vaccines by India at a fast pace to counter the COVID-19 pandemic and the launch of the world’s biggest vaccination drive by our country.
- Releasing the book, the Finance Minister said that the book has come at an appropriate time when India is celebrating “Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav”. “In recent years, ‘Team-India’ under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has taken the country to new heights. The world is seeing a new and rising India, leading the globe in many areas. Vaccines are one such sector where India has established its supremacy.

155. Which Veteran Indian woman cricketer announced her retirement from international cricket as she is all set to play her farewell match against England at Lord's on September 24 this year?

- A. Harmanpreet Kaur
- B. Veda Krishnamurthy
- C. Jhulan Goswami
- D. Mithali Raj
- E. None of these

- Veteran Indian woman cricketer Jhulan Goswami is all set to play her farewell match against England at Lord's on September 24 this year, according to the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- The third and final ODI on 24th September will be her last international appearance.
- In 2018, Jhulan Goswami became the first woman cricketer in the world to take 200 wickets in One Day International (ODI) matches on 7 February.
- She comes from the small town of Chakdaha in West Bengal's Nadia district. Once one of the fastest bowlers in women's cricket, she made her debut against England in Chennai on 6 January 2002. In a career spanning 166 ODI matches, she has participated in four world cups, including the 2017 edition where India reached the final.



KOLKATA

Veteran bowler Jhulan Goswami, the leading wicket-taker in women's international cricket, is all set to retire at the hallowed Lord's during India's third and final ODI against England on September 24, ac-

Jhulan set for international retirement at Lord's on Sept 24

According to a report.

The 39-year-old pacer was named in the 17-member Indian ODI squad for the three matches at Hove (September 18), Canterbury (September 21) and the Lord's (September 24).

Jhulan, who last played for India during the ODI World Cup in New Zealand in March this year, will be given a “proper farewell” as she could not say “goodbye on the field”, ESPNcricinfo reported, quoting a Board official.

Jhulan sustained a side strain ahead of India's final World Cup group game

against South Africa and missed the Sri Lanka tour in July. According to the report, Jhulan is keeping her “options open for the inaugural Women's IPL slated from next year and she's also in talks with the men's franchises for a “mentoring role”. Having made her international debut in 2002, Jhulan called it quits from T20Is in 2018, and played her last Test match in October 2021.

A veteran of six Women's ODI World Cups, Jhulan has played 12 Tests, 68 T20 internationals and 201 ODIs.

156. *Manisha Kalyan becomes 1st Indian to play in UEFA Women's Champions League. She has made her debut with which team in UEFA Women's Champions League?*

- A. Apollon Ladies FC
- B. SFK Riga
- C. Lioness Latvian FC
- D. Astonvilla FC
- E. None of these

- *In a proud moment for India, young striker Manisha Kalyan became the first Indian footballer to play at the UEFA Women's Champions League when she made her debut for Apollon Ladies FC in the European Club competition in Engomi.*
- *Kalyan on Thursday replaced Cyprus' Merilena Georgiou in the 60th minute at the Makareio Stadium, as Apollon Ladies FC beat Latvian top-flight club SFK Riga 3-0 in their UWCL opener. She has become the fourth Indian woman footballer to sign for an overseas club.*
- *The 20-year-old, Manisha Kalyan shot to fame last year when she scored against former World Cup runners-up, Brazil in their den.*
- *In November 2021, the 20-year-old had become the first ever Indian footballer to score a goal in the AFC Women's Club Championship. She is also the second player from Kerala's Gokulam to sign for an overseas club after Dangmei Grace joined Uzbek outfit FC Nasaf.*
- *Recently, she was also awarded the AIFF Woman Footballer of the year for the 2021-22 season.*

Haryana's Manisha Kalyan first Indian to play in Champs League

Sudeshna.Ghosh
@timesgroup.com

Even as the Fifa ban dominated most Indian minds and timelines on Thursday, a new chapter was added to the history of Indian football at Engomi, near Cyprus's capital of Nicosia. At the stroke of the 60th minute in the match between Apollon Ladies FC and SFK Riga, Manisha Kalyan came in as a substitute for the former at Makareio stadium and became the first Indian footballer — among both men and women — to play in the topmost European



Manisha Kalyan (R) and her team, Apollon Ladies, beat Latvian club SFK Riga 3-0 in their opener

club competition, the Uefa Champions League.

For Haryana girl Manisha,

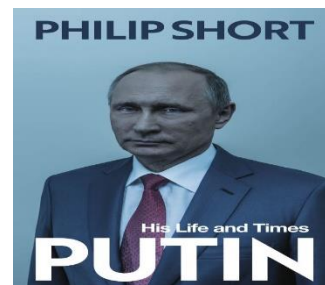
it was not the impending history for the nation but the personal milestone and earnestness to stay focused that topped the mind ahead of her debut.

“Coach (Laurent Fassotte) had told me before the match to be prepared and that I would get some time in the match, even if it was for 10-15 minutes. So I had begun preparing myself,” Manisha told TOI on Friday. “I was telling myself that I needed to be ready, to give my very best. The entire time, the focus was on giving my best for the club.”

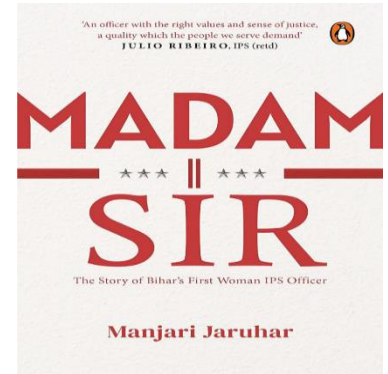
► ‘Appreciated game’, P 22

157. *Who is the author of the book titled “Madam Sir”?*

- A. Manjari Jaruhar
- B. Shruti Sharma
- C. Kavita Shrestha
- D. Malvika Singh
- E. None of these



- A stirring account of a sheltered girl's rise to the top echelons of the Indian Police Service (IPS), the new book "Madam Sir" tells the inspirational story of Manjari Jaruhar who overcame extraordinary odds to become the first woman from Bihar to join the country's elite police cadre.
- The autobiography, published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI), is touted to be a "masterclass in courage, resilience, and leadership".
- Jaruhar, one of the first five women police officers in India — and the first from the state of Bihar — was selected for the IPS in 1976 and has held positions in the state governments of Bihar and Jharkhand, the National Police Academy (NPA), the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) and the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF).



158. In August Chief Justice of India, NV Ramana released Sathya Sodhana Mahatmuni Athmakatha, a Telugu translation of 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth' which is the autobiography of _____.

- Subhash Chandra Bose
- Mahatma Gandhi**
- Lal Bahadur Shastri
- Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- None of these

- Chief Justice of India NV Ramana on Friday released Sathya Sodhana Mahatmuni Athmakatha, a Telugu translation of Mahatma Gandhi's autobiography 'The Story of My Experiments with Truth', published by Tirupati MLA Bhumana Karunakar Reddy.
- The CJI also unveiled the statue of the president and founder general secretary of Rashtriya Seva Samithi (RASS) Gutta Muniratnam in the presence of G Sundaravadivelu, its present president, and S Venkataratnam, general secretary.
- He also released a book on the life of Muniratnam titled 'Manavatha Nikethanam'.

Gandhi's ideals are more relevant today: CJI Ramana

He releases Telugu version of My Experiments with Truth

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT TIRUPATI

Satyasodhana (My Experiments with Truth), the autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi, dwells on the transformation of a common man into a noble-hearted legend, and is hence more relevant in today's turbulent times, observed Chief Justice of India Justice N.V. Ramana.

Speaking after releasing the latest Telugu version of the book brought out by Tirupati MLA and literary activist Bhumana Karunakar Reddy on Friday, he called



Chief Justice of India N.V. Ramana at a book release function in Tirupati on Friday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

the Mahatma's autobiography a time-tested account of contemporary situations which would make for a relevant read at any point of time. Calling it 'a moment of pride' to be the successors of

Gandhi, he wanted every Indian to carry forward the cherished ideals of the Mahatma.

TTD Executive Officer A.V. Dharma Reddy received a copy of the book.

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159. In August Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena launched a book “Delhi in the Era of Revolutionaries, 1857 – 1947” which is authored by _____.

- A. Shah Nawaz Khan
- B. Naresh Kumar
- C. Dr. Bhuvan Lall
- D. Shruti Kashyap
- E. None of these

L-G launches book on unsung heroes

NEW DELHI

L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday launched *Delhi in the Era of Revolutionaries, 1857 - 1947*, a book dedicated to the unsung heroes – Asaf Ali and Lala Hardayal among a total of 16 – of the country's freedom struggle. Written by Bhuvan Lall, a media entrepreneur, the book seeks to chronicle and commemorate the contributions of the 16 late freedom fighters.

- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Saturday announced that the national Capital will soon have a memorial dedicated to the unsung heroes of Delhi in the freedom struggle.
- The Lt Governor announced this while launching a book “Delhi in the Era of Revolutionaries, 1857 – 1947” at Raj Niwas.
- Saxena dedicated the book to the memory of relatively lesser-known and unsung heroes of Delhi in the Freedom Struggle who made massive efforts and sacrifices.
- LG said that this Book seeks to chronicle and commemorate the contributions of the great sons and daughters of capital, in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- Launched among relatives and grandchildren of Freedom Fighters, the Book, authored by noted writer and media entrepreneur, Dr. Bhuvan Lall, is another step forward, after the dedication of 16 major Delhi Development Authority (DDA) Parks in the City to their memories of Independence Day.
- Recalling the courage, valor, and passion of the 16 Freedom Fighters detailed in the Book apart from millions of others, Saxena called upon all residents of Delhi to inculcate the same passion, commitment, and dedication and come forward in the task of nation-building in the 'Amrit Kaal' for the next 25 years.

160. In August _____ became the first woman to bag the Vayu Sena medal prestigious award.

- A. Deepika Misra
- B. Arpita Singh
- C. Rajnandini Sinha
- D. Alka Saraogi
- E. None of these

- Wing Commander Deepika Misra, a pilot of the Indian Air Force, was on Sunday conferred with the Vayu Sena medal, becoming perhaps the first woman to bag the prestigious award.
- The government also conferred the Vayu Sena medal to Group Captain Rahul Singh and Group Captain Ravi Nanda for their respective roles during India's Operation Devi Shakti, the evacuation mission launched to bring back Indians from Kabul after its takeover by the Taliban

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- On Wing Commander Misra's award, the IAF said she has been chosen for her role during a sortie under a disaster relief operation following flash floods in northern Madhya Pradesh.

161. Recently The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India in Dhaka launched two books on **Rabindranath Tagore**, '**Tagore's Gitanjali: A Gift of Magi to the West**' and '**Glimpses of Bengal - His Ecstasy and Agony**' which is authored by

- A. Siddhart Desai
- B. Alka Sarogi
- C. Deepika Misra
- D. Anwarul Karim**
- E. None of these

- The Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, High Commission of India in Dhaka, organized a book launch of Prof. Anwarul Karim's books on Rabindranath Tagore, 'A Gift of the Magi to the West' and 'Glimpses of Bengal - His Ecstasy and Agony' on Tuesday.
- The Deputy High Commissioner of India, Dr. Binoy George highlighted Gurudev's contributions to the shared Bengali Cultural heritage of India and Bangladesh and how the Indian cultural center has been routinely organizing such events that help to promote Tagore's heritage.

162. In August **Kevin O'Brien** announces their retirement from international cricket. He Plays for which of the following country?

- A. Netherland
- B. Ireland**
- C. Kenya
- D. Bangladesh
- E. None of these

- Ireland's star all-round cricketer Kevin O'Brien announced their retirement from their international cricket career on Tuesday.
- Making his debut for Ireland in 2006, O'Brien helped the national team scale new heights in a career spanning almost two decades.
- O'Brien took to Twitter to announce his retirement and said that he originally planned to retire after this year's T20 World Cup but was not selected in Ireland's WC squad. Hence he decided to call time on his incredible career.
- O'Brien first rose to worldwide fame in the 2011 ICC World Cup when he hit a match-winning 113 runs off just 63 balls against England. His century was then the then-fastest World Cup hundred.

Ireland great Kevin O'Brien bids goodbye to int'l cricket



AP ■ DUBLIN

Ireland all-rounder Kevin O'Brien on Tuesday announced his retirement from international cricket after falling out of contention for this year's T20 World Cup in Australia.

O'Brien played three Tests, 153 ODIs and 110 T20Is during a 16-year international career and had spells with a number of English county clubs and T20 franchise sides around the world.

The 38-year-old famously blasted the Irish to victory over England in a 2011 World Cup group match in India with a 50-ball century — still the tournament's quickest.

The Dubliner scored 9,048 runs in total for Ireland, including the country's first Test

hundred, a second-innings knock of 118 against Pakistan in 2018, and took 276 wickets.

In a statement on Twitter, O'Brien, who for many years played alongside older brother Niall, said: "Today I announce my retirement from international cricket after 16 years and 389 caps for my country."

"I had hoped to finish my career at the T20 World Cup in Australia, but having not been picked for the Irish squad since last year's World Cup, I feel the selectors and management are looking elsewhere."

"I have enjoyed every minute playing for Ireland, have made many friends off the pitch and I have so many happy memories to remember from my time playing for the national side." Ireland captain Andrew Balbirnie said he was "lucky" to

Ex- BCCI secretary Amitabh no more

RANCHI: Amitabh Chaudhary, the former BCCI secretary and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) died of heart attack on Tuesday morning. He was 62. An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Chaudhary was instrumental in getting the first-class status for Jharkhand after BCCI disbanded the Bihar Cricket Association during the late Jagmohan Dalmiya's tenure in the early part of the new millennium.

Chaudhary also played a major role in building one of the finest cricket stadiums in Ranchi and should be considered instrumental in bringing international cricket and IPL to the industrial town.

He had also served as a BCCI joint secretary and was an administrative manager with the Indian team on a few occasions. **PTI**

have played with O'Brien. "Cricket in this country owes a lot to what Kev achieved on and off the field and he has left the game in a better place," he said.

Science Technology Defence And Environment

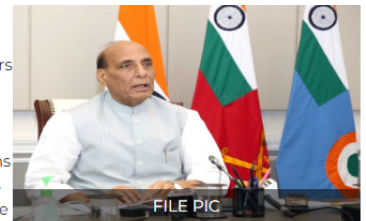
163. Recently Defence Minister Rajnath Singh permitted defense forces to buy emergency weapons through the Make in India route. The equipment under this category will be delivered within a time frame of _____.

- A. 3 months to 1 year
- B. 6 months to 9 months
- C. 6 months to 1 year
- D. 9 months to 1 year
- E. None of these

Aug 23, 2022, 8:11AM

Govt grants permission to defence forces to buy emergency weapons through Make in India route

Government has granted permission to defence forces to buy emergency weapons through Make in India route. The approval was given at a meeting chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh yesterday. These emergency powers give the defence forces the freedom to acquire any new or in-service equipment on a fast-track basis as per requirement.



The equipment in these deals will be delivered within a time frame of 3 months to one year. Notably, with these powers, the armed forces have to spend funds on deals from their own budget and don't necessarily have to take the Defence Ministry's approval for the same. The Defence forces have benefitted from these powers as the IAF and the Army received 'Heron' unmanned aerial vehicles which proved very useful for surveillance in Ladakh as well as in the Northeast.

Other acquisitions include missiles which can hit ground targets like bunkers from a long distance. The armed forces are set to buy a long list of equipment under this deal including both, ingenious and foreign manufactured products.

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh permitted defense forces to buy emergency weapons through the Make in India route.
- It will give power to the defense forces to acquire any new or in-service equipment on a fast-track basis as per requirement.
- The equipment under this category will be delivered within a time frame of 3 months to one year.
- Defense forces will have to use funds from their budget and Defence Ministry approval will be not required for the funds.
- Whenever emergency powers were granted to the armed forces in the past, the acquisitions helped in strengthening their preparedness.
- The 'Heron' unmanned aerial vehicles acquired under these deals have been deployed for surveillance in Ladakh as well as in the northeast region.
- The Indian Armed Forces have also purchased missiles that can hit ground targets like bunkers from a long distance.
- The armed forces have a long list of equipment to purchase under this category.

164. In August India and Australia's navies concluded their Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) on 20 August. Which of the following ship was deployed for this exercise?

- A. INS Sumedha
- B. INS Kolkata
- C. INS Ratnagiri
- D. INS Himalaya
- E. None of these

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- *India and Australia's navies concluded their Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) on 20 August.*
- *The participation of INS Sumedha and HMAS Anzac in the exercise reaffirmed the strong tie and interoperability between the Royal Australian Navy and the Indian Navy.*
- *On August 15, the Indian Navy ship INS Sumedha was docked in Perth, Australia, to commemorate India's 76th Independence Day.*
- *The INS Sumedha is currently deployed in the Southeastern Indian Ocean as part of the Indian Navy's Operational Deployment.*
- *As part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, she is a part of the Indian Navy's initiative to hoist 'Tiranga' on all continents (excluding Antarctica).*
- *The INS Sumedha is a Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel constructed indigenously and deployed for multiple roles in support of Fleet Operations.*
- *She functions under the operational command of the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command, as part of the Visakhapatnam-based Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy.*

165. In August Researchers of the [Weizmann Institute of Israel](#) created the world's first synthetic embryo without any sperm, eggs, or fertilization.

Scientists have developed a synthetic embryo from _____.

- A. **Mice Cells**
- B. Lizard Cells
- C. Rabbit Cells
- D. Dog Cells
- E. None of these

- *Researchers of the Weizmann Institute of Israel have created the world's first synthetic embryo without any sperm, eggs, or fertilization.*
- *Scientists have developed a synthetic embryo from mice cells.*
- *Initially, researchers grew mouse embryos outside of the womb in glass containers, which were taken directly from real mice and fertilized.*
- *Scientists have developed synthetic embryos after finding out that the mouse stem cells can self-assemble into structures like early embryos that have an intestinal tract, a developing brain, and a beating heart.*
- *Synthetic embryos are 95% similar to natural embryos in terms of their internal structure and the genetic profiles of the cells.*
- *The developed synthetic mouse embryos are not capable of developing into live mice.*
- *However, more research is needed before growing a human embryo in this way.*

166. In August Uttar Pradesh government bagged 93 investment proposals worth Rs 11,250 crore for the flagship defense corridor project. Which is the nodal agency for the defense corridor project?

- A. UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority
- B. UP Expressway Invention Development Authority
- C. UP Expressway Industrial Defection Authority
- D. UP Expressway Industrial Defence Authority
- E. None of these

- The Uttar Pradesh government has bagged 93 investment proposals worth more than Rs 11,250 crore for the flagship defense corridor project.
- The nodal agency, the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with these private companies. The process of attracting more defense industry firms is underway.
- The UP Defence Corridor, which constitutes a vital cog in the country's defense and strategic matrix, spans six nodes in the state — Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra.
- Among the most prominent UP Defence Corridor projects is the Indo-Russian joint venture of the BrahMos missile project in Lucknow. This is to develop next-generation supersonic missiles for the Indian forces. According to the state government, the Brahmos unit will be commissioned by 2025. The Rs 300-crore BrahMos project will generate 5,500 fresh jobs. The ancillaries will create an additional 10,000 jobs.
- The Yogi Adityanath government has allocated 200 acres for the BrahMos project on a lease of merely Rs 1, considering its importance for national security and for showcasing the state as a preferred destination for the defense manufacturing sector.
- Meanwhile, the Adani group firm — Adani Defence & Aerospace — has signed an MoU with UPEIDA to develop South Asia's largest integrated ammunition manufacturing facility in 250 acres at Rs 1,500 crore.

UTTAR PRADESH

Defence corridor nets ₹11,250-crore projects

VIRENDRA SINGH RAWAT
Lucknow, 22 August

The Uttar Pradesh government has bagged 93 investment proposals worth more than ₹11,250 crore for the flagship defence corridor project.

The nodal agency, the UP Expressway Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA), has signed memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with these private companies. The process of attracting more defence industry firms is underway.

While the government has so far acquired 1,600 hectares, about 30 companies have been allocated land for setting up their plants as part of the corridor. The UP Defence Corridor, which constitutes a vital cog in the country's defence and strategic matrix, spans six nodes in the state — Lucknow, Kanpur, Jhansi, Aligarh, Chitrakoot, and Agra.

"Apart from the previously announced UP Defence and Aerospace Employment Promotion Policy, the state has made a few amendments to encourage private invest-



According to the state government, the BrahMos missile's Lucknow unit will be commissioned by 2025

ment," UPEIDA spokesperson Durgesh Upadhyay said.

The state government has tied up with leading commercial banks and financial institutions to promote the easy flow of funds to prospective investors.

Among the most prominent UP Defence Corridor projects is the Indo-Russian joint venture of BrahMos missile project in Lucknow. This is to develop next-generation supersonic missiles for the Indian forces. According to the state government, the Brahmos unit will be commissioned by 2025. The ₹300-crore BrahMos project will gen-

erate 5,500 fresh jobs. The ancillaries will create an additional 10,000 jobs.

The Yogi Adityanath government has allocated 200 acres for the BrahMos project on a lease of merely ₹1, considering its importance for national security and for showcasing the state as a preferred destination for the defence manufacturing sector.

Meanwhile, the Adani group firm — Adani Defence & Aerospace — has signed an MoU with UPEIDA to develop South Asia's largest integrated ammunition manufacturing facility in 250 acres at a cost of ₹1,500 crore.

167. In August Amit Pandey from _____ state has been selected as a senior scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the Artemis.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Kerala
- E. None of these

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- *Just as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Artemis rocket arrived at the launch pad ahead of its debut flight in less than two weeks, recent reports state that India's Amit Pandey reportedly joined the league of scientists to become a part of a new moon program to put humans on the moon.*
- *The scientist Amit Pandey is a resident of Haldwani in the Nainital district of Uttarakhand and has been selected as a senior scientist at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for the Artemis.*
- *He also runs The Careerpedia, an online platform where he provides free career counseling to students.*
- *In a related development, NASA's new moon rocket arrived at the launch pad Wednesday ahead of its debut flight in less than two weeks and the 322-foot (98-meter) rocket emerged from its mammoth hangar late Tuesday night, drawing crowds of Kennedy Space Center workers, many of whom were not yet born when NASA sent astronauts to the moon a half-century ago.*
- *The flight is the first moonshot in NASA's Artemis program.*

168. In August M/s **Kritsnam Technologies, a Start-up Company, incubated at _____** signed MoU with Technology Development Board (TDB) under DST or production & commercialization of **Dhaara Smart Flow Meter**.

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

- *Dr. Jitendra Singh announced financial support of Rs. 3.29 crores to M/s Kritsnam Technologies, a Start-up Company, incubated at IIT Kanpur to develop smart water management technologies. He said, the technology initially focused on commercial users, can be a game changer in effectively monitoring & controlling groundwater exploitation across the country in the future.*
- *An MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh between the Technology Development Board (TDB) under the Department of Science and Technology and M/s Kritsnam Technologies Private Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand for production & commercialization of Dhaara Smart Flow Meter.*
- *The Minister was apprised that the start-up is developing 'Dhaara Smart Flowmeter' - an integrated system for online monitoring using two beam ultrasonic flowmeters that are designed to track the water distribution in real-time for applications such as drinking water supply, groundwater extraction, industrial water usage, and precision irrigation.*
- *Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Dhaara Smart Flow Meter will greatly benefit Prime Minister Modi's Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), an Rs.6,000 crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of groundwater resources with community participation. The scheme is being implemented in 80 water-stressed districts and 8,565 Gram Panchayats of seven States viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh from 01.04.2020 for five years.*

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169. Consider the following statement regarding *Air Quality and Health in Cities* published by Health Effects Institute (HEI).

Which of the following statement is correct?

1. Delhi and Kolkata are ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM 2.5 levels were compared.
2. No Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 or even top 20 polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared.
3. Shanghai topped in NO₂ Levels.
4. In 2019, 7239 cities reported 1.7 million deaths due to exposure to PM_{2.5}.
5. All of the above are correct.

- On August 17, 2022, Health Effects Institute (HEI) released “Air Quality and Health in Cities” on air quality. As per the report, the biggest cities and urban areas of the world are witnessing the worst air quality on Earth.
- The report includes a comprehensive and detailed analysis of air pollution and global health effects for over 7,000 cities worldwide. It is focused on two harmful pollutants viz., fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- PM 2.5 Levels: Delhi and Kolkata are ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM 2.5 levels were compared.
- PM 2.5 is an atmospheric particulate matter of a diameter of fewer than 2.5 micrometers, which is around 3% of the diameter of a human hair. It causes respiratory problems and reduces visibility.
- NO₂ Levels: No Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 or even the top 20 polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared.
- This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 µg/m³.
- NO₂ comes mainly from the burning of fuels in older vehicles, power plants, industrial facilities, and residential cooking and heating.
- Death Burden: Beijing had the largest disease burden associated with a PM 2.5-related illness, with 124 attributable fatalities per 100,000 persons.
- Five Chinese cities were in the top 20.
- Delhi came in 6th, with 106 deaths per 100,000, and Kolkata at 8th with 99 deaths.
- Only 117 nations currently have ground-level monitoring systems to track PM 2.5, and only 74 nations are monitoring NO₂ levels.
- In 2019, exposure to pollutants in 86% of the more than 7,000 cities exceeded WHO’s standard, therefore, impacting around 2.6 billion people.

Delhi’s PM_{2.5} levels worst in the world

Kolkata placed second; study says Indian cities witness high PM emissions, but low NO₂ emissions

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

A global analysis of air quality found that Indian cities, while recording particulate matter emissions (PM_{2.5}) that are among the highest in the world, do relatively better on nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) emissions.

The report, *Air Quality and Health in Cities*, released by U.S.-based Health Effects Institute on Wednesday, analyses pollution and global health effects for more than 7,000 cities around the world, focusing on two of the most harmful pollutants - fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) and nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).

The report, using data from 2010 to 2019, found that global patterns for exposures to the two key air pollutants were “strikingly different.” While exposures to PM_{2.5} pollution tend to be higher in cities located in low- and middle-income countries, exposure to NO₂ is high across cities in high-in-

come as well as low- and middle-income countries.

Delhi and Kolkata were ranked first and second in the list of top 10 most polluted cities when PM_{2.5} levels were compared, with Delhi and Kolkata reporting an average annual exposure of (relative to population) of 110 µg/m³ and 84 µg/m³ respectively. µg/m³ refers to microgram per cubic metre.

However no Indian city appeared in the list of top 10 - or even top 20 - polluted cities when NO₂ levels were compared. This list saw Shanghai at the top with an average annual exposure of 41 µg/m³. Average NO₂ levels for Delhi, Kolkata and Mumbai, according to the report, ranged from 20-30 µg/m³.

NO₂ comes mainly from the burning of fuels in older vehicles, power plants, industrial facilities and residential cooking and heating.

As city residents tend to live closer to busy roads with dense traffic, they are often exposed to higher NO₂ pollu-



Gasping for air: Motorist and pedestrian travelling amid heavy smog conditions in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

tion than residents of rural areas.

In 2019, 86% of the more than 7,000 cities analysed in the report exceeded the WHO’s 10 µg/m³ guideline for NO₂, impacting about 2.6 billion people.

“While PM_{2.5} pollution tends to get more attention on known hotspots around the world, less data has been available for NO₂ at this global scale,” the report notes.

An expert, who was not associated with the study, told *The Hindu* that this paradoxical situation in India was likely due to the relatively lower adoption of high-efficiency engine vehicles. “Complete combustion of fuel results in higher NO_x (nitrogen oxides) where incomplete combustion sees other kinds of emissions,” said Sachchida Nand Tripathi, Professor, IIT-Kanpur and an

expert on air pollution in India. Other cities with high NO₂ population levels included Moscow, Beijing, Paris, Istanbul and Seoul.

Due to their highly reactive nature, nitrogen oxides also contributed to the formation of other pollutants, including ozone and particulate matter. NO₂ also has a shorter lifetime compared with PM_{2.5} and other air pollutants. As a result, NO₂ levels show very high variability in space and time - levels can vary significantly even across a few kilometres. In comparison, PM_{2.5} levels tend to show less spatial variation.

In 2019, the global average NO₂ exposure was 15.5 µg/m³, but exposure levels varied considerably across cities.

Ground monitoring of air quality remains limited in many regions of the world, the report adds, obscuring the true degree of NO₂ pollution in countries such as India.

170. Raksha Mantri *Rajnath Singh handed over indigenously-developed equipment to the Indian Army in New Delhi on August 16, 2022. These include a new generation anti-personnel mine _____.*

- A. Nipun
- B. Daksh
- C. Kushal
- D. Abhyast
- E. None of these

- Raksha Mantri *Rajnath Singh handed over indigenously-developed equipment to the Indian Army in New Delhi on August 16, 2022.*
- *These include Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS) and new generation anti-personnel mine 'Nipun'.*
- *These also include*

rugged and automatic communication systems with enhanced capabilities, upgraded sights systems for tanks, and advanced thermal imagers.

- *Raksha Mantri virtually handed over state-of-the-art high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats.*

AS | "You increase the salary. We lants said that the guidelines, l cy. Originally hailing from Bihar.

Rajnath hands over desi def equipment to Army

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised the armed forces for opting for self-reliance in defence manufacturing, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday handed over indigenously-developed equipment and systems to the Indian Army here.

State-of-the-art high mobility Infantry Protected Vehicles and Assault Boats were virtually handed over by Rajnath enabling the troops deployed along the Ladakh border to respond to any challenge in a befitting manner.

The Landing Craft Assault (LCA) can carry 30 troopers and is now deployed at the Pangong Tso (lake) in Ladakh. The lake saw the first face-off in 2020 between India and China snowballing into

tension at several points on the Line of Actual Control (LAC). At present, the boats operating in the lake have limited capabilities. The LCA is much more versatile and has overcome the limitations of launch, speed and capacity. It has enhanced the capability to operate across the water obstacles in Eastern Ladakh. LCA has been indigenously developed by Aquarius Shipyard Limited, Goa.

The other systems handed over to the army include Future Infantry Soldier as a System (F-INSAS) like AK-203 assault rifles, new generation anti-personnel mine 'Nipun', rugged and automatic communication system with enhanced capabilities, upgraded sights system for tanks and advanced thermal imagers. The equipment and systems have been jointly developed by Indian Army in collaboration with Defence

Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the industry, in line with the Prime Minister vision to modernise the Armed Forces, under the 'Aatmanirbharta Bharat Abhiyan'. Rajnath exuded confidence that the equipment and systems will enhance the operational preparedness of the Indian Army and increase their efficiency.

The weapons given to the Army include modern state of art AK-203 assault rifle along with day and night holographic and reflex sights. The sights are mounted on the weapon and also on helmet to enable a 360-degree visibility and accuracy in operational conditions.

In addition to the primary weapon system, the soldiers will also be kitted with multi-mode hand grenade which has

also been procured indigenously along with multi-purpose knife. The second sub-system is protection system. This gives protection through a specially designed helmet and a bullet proof jacket. The third sub system consists of communication and surveillance system. This F-INSAS system is capable of further upgradation by incorporating real time data connectivity.

As regards anti-personnel mine Nipun, for a long time, the Indian Army has been using vintage NMM 14 mines. With the efforts of Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune and the Indian industry, a new Indian mine named 'Nipun' has been developed. It will enhance the protection provided to the troops on borders. The mine is more potent and effective than existing anti-personnel mine.

- *Indian Army has jointly developed the equipment in collaboration with Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), and the Industry.*
- *Future Infantry Soldier as a System is equipped with three primary subsystems. It is capable of further upgradation by incorporating real-time data connectivity.*
- *For a long time, the Indian Army has been using vintage NMM 14 mines.*
- *With the efforts of the Indian industry and Armament Research and Development Establishment, Pune, a new Indian mine named 'Nipun' has been developed.*
- *It is more potent and effective than the existing anti-personnel mine.*

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- A solar photo-voltaic plant has been installed to obviate dependence on fossil fuels. This plant at Partapur (near Siachen) was virtually dedicated to the Nation by the Raksha Mantri.
- Boats are operating in Pangong Tso Lake (Eastern Ladakh), however, they have limited capabilities. Landing Craft Assault (LCA) has enhanced the capability to operate across water obstacles in Eastern Ladakh.
- It has been indigenously developed by M/s Aquarius Ship Yard Limited, Goa.

171. In August United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) awarded a contract for the first ever supply of a malaria vaccine to _____ for the provision of 18 million doses of the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine for three years.

- A. Bharat Biotech
- B. Zydus Cadila
- C. Gennova Biopharma
- D. Serum Institute of India
- E. GlaxoSmithKline Plc

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) announced it has awarded a contract for the first-ever supply of a malaria vaccine to pharmaceutical company GSK for the provision of 18 million doses of the RTS,S/AS01 malaria vaccine for three years.
- UNICEF said that the contract has been awarded to GSK with a value of up to USD 170 million. It further said that the vaccine could potentially save the lives of thousands of children every year.
- UNICEF said that in 2020, nearly half a million children died from malaria in Africa alone, a rate of one child death per minute.
- In 2019, pilot routine vaccine use was launched in three countries - Ghana, Kenya, and Malawi - as part of the Malaria Vaccine Implementation Programme coordinated by WHO.

172. Consider the following statement regarding the **NASA Artemis program**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. NASA's new rocket to be sent to the moon is ready for its first flight.
2. The rocket is called Space Launch System (SLS).
3. It aims for the first touchdown on the lunar South Pole by 2023.
4. If successful, it will be the first crewed lunar landing mission since Apollo 17 in December 1972.
5. Artemis program was started in December 2017.

- NASA's new rocket to be sent to the moon is ready for its first flight.
- The rocket is called Space Launch System (SLS). It is being taken to Pad 39B at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida for a launch scheduled for 29th August.
- It will be a demonstration launch to the moon in NASA's Artemis program.

NASA readies giant moon rocket for 1st test flight

AGENCIES
Cape Canaveral (US)

NASA's new moon rocket was moved to the launch pad on Wednesday ahead of its debut flight in less than two weeks.

The 322-foot (98-metre) rocket emerged from its mammoth hangar late Tuesday night, drawing crowds of Kennedy Space Centre workers. It took nearly 10 hours for the rocket to make the four-mile trip to the pad, pulling up at sunrise.

NASA is aiming for an August 29 liftoff for the lunar test flight. No one will be inside the crew capsule atop the rocket, just three mannequins — test dummies.

The capsule will fly around the moon in a distant orbit for a



couple weeks, before heading back for a splashdown in the Pacific. The entire flight should last six weeks.

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- The first flight is a test launch with no crew aboard. However, future missions will send astronauts back to the lunar surface for the first time in over 50 years.
- As per media reports, NASA has backup launch dates on the 2nd and 5th of September.
- Artemis program: It is a NASA-led human spaceflight program to explore the moon. It was started in December 2017.
- It aims for the first touchdown on the lunar South Pole by 2024.
- If successful, it will be the first crewed lunar landing mission since Apollo 17 in December 1972.

173. In August **China said that its troops will take part in the Vostok-2022 military exercises which are to be held in _____** later this month, a drill which will also see the participation of the Indian military.

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

• **China said that its troops will take part in the Vostok-2022 military exercises in Russia to be held later this month, a drill that will also see the participation of the Indian military.**

• **As per the annual cooperation plan between the Chinese and Russian militaries and the consensus of the two sides, the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) will send some troops to Russia to participate in the military exercise shortly, the Chinese Defence Ministry said in a press release.**

• **India, Belarus, Tajikistan, Mongolia, and other countries will also participate in the drills, it said.**

• **There were no immediate comments from the Indian Army or the Ministry of Defence in New Delhi on the participation of Indian soldiers at the Vostok-2022 military exercises in Russia.**

• **Last year, India attended Exercise ZAPAD 2021 drills in Russia in which 17 countries including China and Pakistan took part.**

India, China troops to take part in Russia war games in Vostok

The drills would include airborne troops, bombers and military cargo aircraft

ANANTH KRISHNAN
BEIJING
 Indian and Chinese troops are set to take part in military exercises in Russia later this month, the first such major war games to be hosted by Russia since its invasion of Ukraine in February. China's Defence Ministry in Beijing on Wednesday in a statement announced the participation of People's Liberation Army (PLA) troops in the exercises, adding that "India, Belarus, Tajikistan, Mongolia and other countries will also participate". India has also indicated its participation in the war games. There was no response from the Indian Army on Wednesday to questions on India's participation. Russia's Defence Ministry said last month the Vostok



Russia's Vladimir Putin shaking hands with a Chinese serviceman during a joint exercise in Vostok in 2018. — AP

(East) 2022 exercises will be held from August 30 to September 5 in 13 training grounds in Russia's Eastern Military District, and that the manoeuvres would include units of airborne troops, long-range bombers and military cargo aircraft. It remains unclear if Indian and Chinese troops will

be present together or if they will take part in different drills which will be spread across the 13 different training grounds.

Deepening cooperation
 The Chinese Defence Ministry statement noted the exercises were "unrelated to the current international and re-

gional situation" and were aimed at "deepening the pragmatic and friendly cooperation with the militaries of participating countries, enhancing the level of strategic coordination of all participating parties, and enhancing the ability to deal with various security threats".

Indian and Chinese troops have remained in a stand-off that has lasted for more than two years along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh following the transgressions by the PLA in April 2020.

Disengagement has taken place in some areas along the LAC but talks to restore the status quo in the remaining friction areas in Hot Springs, Demchok and Depsang have been slow-moving.

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- *The Vostok-2022 exercises will be held from August 30 - September 5, Russia's state-run Tass news agency reported.*
- *The Vostok-2022 strategic command and staff exercise will be held under the command of the chief of Russia's General Staff, Valery Gerasimov, at 13 training grounds of the Eastern Military District.*

174. In August _____ launched its **Public Systems Lab (PSL)** to develop scalable solutions for civic systems and services that impact millions, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP)**.

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

- *The Indian Institute of Technology-Delhi's (IIT-D's) Foundation for Innovation and Technology (FITT) on Tuesday launched its **Public Systems Lab (PSL)** to develop scalable solutions for civic systems and services that impact millions, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP)**.*
- *The PSL will help public systems enhance performance and thereby ensure fundamental levels of well-being for communities these systems serve, by harnessing data science, smart manufacturing, economics, and research in all relevant branches of knowledge.*
- *The lab is expected to function as a multi-stakeholder-engaging entity, collaborating with governments, the private sector, and multilateral organizations to develop sustainable solutions in domains such as food, public transportation, and health.*

IIT-D launches lab for offering civic solutions

ANVITII RAI
New Delhi, August 16

THE INDIAN INSTITUTE of Technology-Delhi's (IIT-D's) Foundation for Innovation and Technology (FITT) on Tuesday launched its **Public Systems Lab (PSL)** to develop scalable solutions for civic systems and services that impact millions, in collaboration with the **United Nations World Food Programme (UNWFP)**.

The PSL will help public systems enhance performance and thereby ensure fundamental levels of well-being for communities these systems

serve, by harnessing data science, smart manufacturing, economics, and research in all relevant branches of knowledge. Inaugurating the lab, Union minister for commerce and industry Piyush Goyal said, "This lab can be an absolute game changer and what better day to launch this lab in IIT-Delhi than the first day when the nation enters the Amrit Kal?"

The lab is expected to function as an entity collaborating with governments, the private sector, and multi-lateral organisations to develop sustainable solutions in domains such as food, public transportation and health.

175. In August **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** announced the opening of its first international marketing and sales office in which of the following city?

- A. Singapore
- B. **Kuala Lumpur**

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- C. Paris
- D. Tokyo
- E. None of these

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MoU to open its first international marketing and sales office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
- This office will help HAL in signing the deal with the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) for other services like the upgradation and servicing of the Russian Su-30s and British Hawk trainer aircraft.
- Su-30 is a multi-role combat aircraft with a twin engine. BAE Systems Hawk is a British single-engine, jet-powered advanced trainer aircraft.
- HAL is also looking into supplying spare parts to the RMAF for the Su-30s.
- In 2021, HAL submitted a proposal for supplying 18 FLIT LCAs in a global tender issued by the Malaysian Ministry of Defence.
- HAL's office in Kuala Lumpur will act as a center to expand the services of HAL in the South-East Asian region.
- HAL's office in Kuala Lumpur will be the first one dedicated solely to focus on marketing and business development.
- HAL has already offices in London and Moscow. Recently, India has also offered to set up a production facility for LCA Tejas in Egypt.
- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL): It was formed on 1 October 1964, Its headquarters is located in Bengaluru.

HAL set to open office in Kuala Lumpur, eyes SE Asia market



HAL officials during the signing of an MoU in Kuala Lumpur. ANI

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18
Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for setting up an office in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
The office will help the HAL tap new business opportunities as it is in the race for selling Tejas fighter jets to Malaysia. The Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) flies Sukhoi-30 MKM and BAE Hawk, both used by the IAF. It will reinforce India's commitment to support the Malaysian Defence Forces

■ The HAL had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Defence, Malaysia, in October 2021 for the supply of 18 light combat aircraft against a global tender

■ The office will help the HAL tap new business opportunities as it is in the race for selling Tejas fighter jets to Malaysia.



and industry for sustainable aerospace and defence landscape in Malaysia.

The HAL had submitted a proposal to the Ministry of

Defence, Malaysia, in October 2021 for the supply of 18 light combat aircraft (LCA) against a global tender. The final winner of the tender is expected to be

declared soon by the Malaysian authorities. The LCA Tejas stands a fair chance of selection in the bid as it meets all parameters sought by the RMAF. The HAL's office in Kuala Lumpur will be responsible for market promotion in the entire South East Asia. The MoU was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar, High Commissioner of India in Malaysia BN Reddy and Additional Secretary (Defence Production) Sanjay Jaju. — TNS

176. In August Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announces financial aid of Rs _____ to a **Hydrogen StartUp** from Maharashtra M/s Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited, Maharashtra for indigenous development of Hydrogen Sensing & Analysis Technology.

- A. Rs 2.56 Crore
- B. Rs 3.29 Crore**
- C. Rs 4.42 Crore
- D. Rs 2.96 Crore
- E. None of these

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- **Dr. Jitendra Singh announced financial aid of Rs 3.29 crore to a Hydrogen StartUp from Maharashtra for indigenous development of Hydrogen Sensing & Analysis Technology.**
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Hydrogen Startup funding is in tune with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of the National Hydrogen Mission (NHM) launched on India's 75th Independence Day, last year from ramparts of the Red Fort.**
- **Dr. Jitendra Singh presided over the signing of an MoU between the Technology Development Board under DST and M/s Multi Nano Sense Technologies Private Limited, Maharashtra to support the manufacturing of Hydrogen sensors indigenously.**
- **The patented hydrogen gas sensor and analyzer are based on a core sensor; which has been conceptualized, developed, manufactured, and serviced entirely in India.**
- **The Minister added that as per NITI Aayog's report titled 'Harnessing Green Hydrogen: Opportunities for Deep Decarbonisation in India' Hydrogen will provide a pathway to accelerate the emergence of a green hydrogen economy, which is critical for India to achieve its net-zero ambitions by 2070.**

177. Exercise **Pitch Black** is a biennial warfare exercise hosted by the Air Force of Australia in _____.

- A. **Darwin**
- B. **Perth**
- C. **Melbourne**
- D. **Sydney**
- E. **None of these**

- **The exercise is being held in Darwin till the 8th of next month.**
- **This is a biennial, multi-national exercise hosted by the Royal Australian Air Force.**
- **Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partner**

IAF planes in Aus for 17-nation exercise

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Four Indian Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets and two C-17 Globemaster-III strategic airlifter have touched down in Australia for the major 'Pitch Black' air combat exercise, which will see participation of around 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations.

On way to the Darwin base in Australia, the Sukhois were refuelled midair by tankers of the French Air & Space Force, which is taking part in the exercise along with the air forces from the US, UK, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and UAE.

The exercise will focus on "large force employment warfare" from August 19 to September 8. "The IAF con-



EN ROUTE: India's Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jets get refuelled midair from a tanker aircraft of French Air and Space Force, while heading towards the Royal Australian Air Force Darwin base

tingent, led by Group Captain YPS Negi, will undertake multi-domain air combat missions in a complex environment and will exchange best practices with the participating air forces," an officer said on Friday.

The Pitch Black comes after the IAF also sent Sukhoi fighters and C-17 aircraft for the "tactical leadership programme" to the Egyptian Air

Force (EAF) Weapon School at Cairo West Airbase, which saw its aircrew also take part as instructors, in June-July.

Earlier this month, an IAF contingent of four Sukhoi-30MKI fighter jets, a C-17 aircraft and an IL-78 midair refueller had also left for Malaysia to participate in the bilateral 'Udarashakti' air combat exercise, even as India also remains the frontrunner

to sell the indigenous Tejas light combat aircraft to the Southeast Asian nation.

Since the IAF last participated in the Pitch Black exercise in 2018, India and Australia have cranked up their military ties and engagements in a major way as an important pillar of the bilateral "comprehensive strategic partnership".

Australia has also become a regular participant in India's top-notch Malabar naval exercise with the US and Japan, with the four "Quad" countries declaring their intent to deter any "coercion" in the Indo-Pacific with an eye firmly on China.

China's expansive military build-up and its assertiveness in the Indo-Pacific is the "biggest security anxiety" for both Australia and India, Australian deputy PM Richard Marles had said during his visit here in June.

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countries, later this

month for Exercise

Pitch Black, the

biennial exercise

hosted by the

Australian Air Force.

- *About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will arrive in the Northern Territory in two weeks to commence Exercise Pitch Black 2022.*
- *With a four-year hiatus since the last Pitch Black due to the global pandemic, this year's exercise will see a return of the combined force to Australian skies, enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships.*
- *The participants this year are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, UAE, the U.K., and the U.S.*
- *The 2020 edition of the exercise was canceled at the last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

178. In August **Union government awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana** of which of the following state?

- A. **Bihar**
- B. Jharkhand
- C. West Bengal
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of these

- *Union government has awarded Geographical Indication (GI) tag to Mithila Makhana.*
- *Mithila Makhana or Makhan (botanical name: Euryale ferox Salisb.) is a special variety of aquatic fox nuts cultivated in the Mithila region of Bihar and Nepal.*
- *Once a product gets this tag, any person or company cannot sell a similar item under that name. This tag is valid for 10 years following which it can be renewed.*
- *Makhana is one of the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila. Pan, Makhan, and Machh (fish) are the three prestigious cultural identities of Mithila.*
- *In Mithila, Makhana is also termed Makhan. It is also very famous in the Kojagara festival of Maithil Brahmins celebrated for newly married couples.*
- *Makhana contains protein and fiber, along with micronutrients like calcium, magnesium, iron, and phosphorus.*

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