

More than nine thousand street food vendors have been onboard on food delivery platforms like Swiggy and Zomato as part of the Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, making a wider market accessible to them, Union Minister for Urban Affairs Hardip Singh Puri has said. The total sales by these food vendors on these platforms till January 9, 2023, has been ₹21.93 crore. Mr. Puri said that in the past two years, more than 40.07 lakh loans worth ₹4,606.36 crore has been disbursed to 45.32 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, speaking at the conclusion of the virtual Voice of the Global South Summit on Friday, said institutions of global governance require "fundamental" changes. "We developing countries are also concerned about the increasing fragmentation of the international landscape. These geopolitical tensions distract us from focusing on our development priorities. They cause sharp swings in international prices of food, fuel, fertilizers, and other commodities. To address this geopolitical fragmentation, we urgently need a fundamental reform of the major international organisations, including the United Nations Security Council and the Bretton Woods institutions," said PM Modi.

The Supreme Court on Friday said the "buck ultimately stops with the government" to clamp down on hate speech and hate crimes, as they are offences committed on society. The government agreed that hate could not hide behind the colour of any religion. "We would not have liked the government to come in at all, but in certain areas when religious freedom, harmony and orderly progress are gravely affected, it has to intervene... Today what are we fighting about? We have more important things to achieve as a nation — people are starving without jobs," Justice K.M. Joseph observed. Justice B.V. Nagarathna was also part of the Bench that was hearing a batch of petitions seeking curbs on hate speech.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday flagged off the world's longest river cruise — MV Ganga Vilas — and inaugurated the tent city at Varanasi. Mr. Modi, who joined the function from New Delhi through video conferencing, also laid the foundation stones for many development schemes and inaugurated projects worth more than ₹1,000 crore for Varanasi. The longest river cruise from Kashi to Dibrugarh is starting from today, putting Indian tourism destinations on the global tourism map, the Prime Minister said. "Our country is entering into a robust phase of tourism. With a growing global profile, curiosity about India is also increasing," he said.

A sharp 61.2% sequential increase in capital spending by the Central and State governments propped up overall fresh investment plans announced in the third quarter (Q3) of 2022-23 to ₹7.1 lakh crore, even though private sector investments dropped 41% from ₹6.31 lakh crore in Q2

### INAUGURAL LEADERS SESSION OF THE VOICE OF GLOBAL SOUTH SUMMIT 2023 HELD

1. Amidst increasing global volatility and uncertainty, the summit is conceived by India as a platform for developing countries to share their concerns, perspectives, and priorities. E.g., concerns over COVID-19 pandemic impact, climate change, terrorism, fragile supply chains, ongoing conflicts, and debt crises.
2. Global South' largely refers to countries in Asia, Africa and South America and these countries have certain common attributes like a history of colonization, lacking role in governance of multilateral institutions etc. Redesigning global political and financial governance can help them to remove inequalities, enlarge opportunities, support growth, and spread progress and prosperity.
3. **During the session India called for:** A 'Global agenda to Re-energize the world' (refer image). A 'Global South Sensitive' model of globalization with three fundamentals shifts for it: Globalization: From self-centred globalization to human-centered globalization.
4. **Innovation and Technology:** From being on the receiving end of technological patronage, to deploying Global South-led innovations for societal transformation. Development Cooperation: From debt creating projects to a demand-driven and sustainable development cooperation.

### SUPREME COURT (SC) TO HEAR PLEA SEEKING NATIONAL HERITAGE STATUS FOR RAM SETU

1. Ram Setu, also known as Adam's bridge, is a chain of limestone shoals between Pamban Island or Rameswaram Island, off the south-eastern coast of Tamil Nadu, and Mannar Island, off the north-western coast of Sri Lanka. Recently, Tamil Nadu assembly also passed a resolution urging Centre to resume work on Sethusamudram Ship Canal project (SSCP). 2. National heritage status is sought in the backdrop of SSCP that envisages dredging of a ship channel across the Palk Straits between India and Sri Lanka. Two channels were suggested - one across Adam's Bridge and another through Palk Bay. SC, in 2007, had stayed the work for project and Centre was also willing to explore another route to SSCP without damaging Ram Setu.
3. **Significance of SSCP**-Reduce steaming distances between east and west coasts of India. Strengthen national security by improving navigation for Indian coast guards and naval ships.
4. **Concerns raised against SSCP**-Would destroy natural barrier between Bay of Bengal and Palk Bay. Oil and marine pollution associated with shipping traffic will aggravate ecological stress in region. Adam's bridge holds religious sentiments for the people. Threats to coral reef platforms in Gulf of Mannar.

### CENTRAL ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY RELEASED DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN (DMP) FOR POWER SECTOR

1. DMP provides a framework to utilities in power sector to evolve a proactive and integrated approach to strengthen disaster mitigation, preparedness, emergency response, and recovery efforts.
2. Growth of power sector is directly correlated with economic growth of the country and any disruption due to disaster creates severe hardship to human beings. Under Section 37 of Disaster Management (DM) Act, 2005 every Ministry/ Department of Government of India shall prepare a DMP. DMP is also consistent with Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), COP21 and PM's Ten Point Agenda for DRR.
3. **Key features of DMP** A four-tier structure at Central, Regional, State and Local Unit Levels, with intervention and response depending on severity of disaster /calamity. Risk assessment of power infrastructure, i.e., electric power generation stations, transmission distribution etc. to evolve methods for finding quantitative risk involved.
4. While uncertainty caused by climate change is unavoidable, electric utilities can manage risks by considering different climate scenarios and potential impacts on their assets. Use of social media for emergencies and disasters on an organizational level to disseminate information as well as for emergency communications and issuing warnings etc.

### INDIA AIMS TO SEND PERSONS TO 6000 METERS BELOW SEA LEVEL, SAYS MINISTRY OF EARTH SCIENCES(MoES)

1. As part of Samudrayyan Mission, under MoES, a self-propelled manned submersible (MATSYA 6000) will carry three persons to a depth of 6000

to ₹3.71 lakh crore between October and December 2022.

Joshimath town sank 5.4 cm in a period of just 12 days, according to a report released by the National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on its website. However, the report was removed from the website later on Friday.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar will travel to Sri Lanka next week, sources told. This will be his first trip to the country since President Ranil Wickremesinghe was sworn in last July after protests forced out the previous Rajapaksa regime. Officials said that while a full review of bilateral ties is on the agenda, the visit comes amid efforts by the Sri Lankan government to get “written financial assurances” from their closest and biggest creditors — India and China — on restructuring their debt.

India’s development and production of its own vaccines against COVID-19 was an important part of dealing with the pandemic, pushed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s view that the “entrepreneurial state” of government would bear the frontloaded risks of the effort, cushioning the private sector, according to a new book. The authors of *Braving a Viral Storm: India’s Covid-19 Vaccine Story*, Ashish Chandorkar and Suraj Sudhir, have put together the story of how India got two Indian made vaccines — one fully developed in India as well — to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

On the lines of the ‘Ironman triathlon’ long distance triathlon challenge in Europe which tests an individual’s grit and endurance, a ‘Soul of Steel’ challenge is set to be launched in India. The challenge, which will test one’s high-altitude endurance, will be undertaken in Uttarakhand. The effort is spearheaded by a venture, CLAW Global, run by veterans and is being supported by the Indian Army.

NATO will send surveillance aircraft to Romania to bolster its eastern flank and “monitor Russian military activity,” the alliance said on Friday. The military alliance has strengthened its presence in the region since Russia invaded Ukraine, which borders Romania, a NATO member. “Our AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System planes) can detect aircraft hundreds of kilometres away, making them a key capability for NATO’s deterrence and defence posture,” spokesperson Oana Lungescu said.

meters for exploration of deep-sea resources. MATSYA 6000 is being developed by National Institute of Ocean Technology, Chennai. It has an endurance of 12 hours under normal operation and 96 hours in case of emergency.

- It is being developed under Deep Ocean Mission (DOM). DOM aims to explore deep ocean for resources and develop deep sea technologies for sustainable use of ocean resources. It will be a mission mode project to support Blue Economy initiatives. Blue Economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods etc. Its size in India is about 4% of the GDP. DOM (MoES as nodal ministry) was approved in 2021 and will be implemented over a period of 5 years.
- Major components of DOM**-Development of Technologies for Deep Sea Mining, and Manned Submersible. Development of Ocean Climate Change Advisory Services. Technological innovations for exploration and conservation of deep-sea biodiversity. Deep Ocean Survey and Exploration. Energy and freshwater from Ocean. Advanced Marine Station for Ocean Biology.

**ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA DISCOVERED TWO 1200-YEAR-OLD MINIATURE VOTIVE STUPAS AT NALANDA**

- Votive stupas (offered in fulfilment of a vow) were discovered near Sarai Tila mound within premises of Nalanda Mahavihara in Bihar. Stupa, Sanskrit for heap, is a mound-like (hemispherical) burial structure containing relics of Buddhist monks. E.g., Sanchi Stupa built over Buddha relics.
- Architectural features of Stupa:** A hemispherical mound or anda’s shaped dome A square railing or harmika Central pillar supporting a triple-umbrella form (chhatra), representing three jewels of Buddhism. Enclosure wall with decorated gateways (toranas) at cardinal directions. A circular terrace (medhi) for ritual circumambulation.
- About Nalanda Mahavihara**-It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with archaeological remains of a monastic and scholastic institution from 3rd century BCE to 13th century CE. Gautam Buddha as well as Mahavira stayed at Nalanda. Other famous scholars at Nalanda Nagarjuna, Dharmapala, Dinnaga, Jinamitra Santaraksita etc. Imminent pilgrim monks like Hiuen Tsang and I-tsing also visited.
- It prospered under Gupta Dynasty, Harsha of Kannauj and Pala Dynasty. It includes stupas, shrines, viharas (residential and educational buildings) and important art works in stucco, stone, and metal.

**SWEDEN DISCOVERS BIGGEST RARE EARTH ELEMENTS (REE) DEPOSIT IN EUROPE**

- REE deposits were discovered in Arctic region of Kiruna, Sweden (home to world’s largest underground iron-ore mine). REE are a set of seventeen metallic elements - fifteen lanthanides on periodic table plus scandium and yttrium. They are necessary components for critical sectors, like, cellular telephones, electric vehicles, defence applications like guidance systems, lasers, etc.
- REE shares some common properties such as high luster, high electrical conductivity etc. as well as some distinguishing properties, present in few REE, such as luminescence, magnetism etc. Also, Heavy REE (higher atomic weights) are less common as compared to Light REE.
- Although REE are fairly distributed across different geographies, the extraction of REE is most challenging part, because of complex processing and intensive environmental effects. At present more than 80% of the world’s rare earths processing capacity is in China.
- India produces only 1% of global output despite having around 6% of world’s reserves. Steps taken by India: Set up Khanij Bidesh India Ltd. (KABIL), Bilateral agreements like Australia-India Critical Minerals Investment Partnership.



“Fake it till you make it is training the subconscious”

**DR. KHAN**  
(KSG)