

### NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

States' revenues are expected to grow by about 15% this year after a 3% drop in 2020-21, Crisil said on Tuesday, citing an estimated 20% rise in GST collections and about 25% jump in tax receipts on petroleum products. However, States' indebtedness levels would only improve marginally, from a decade high 34% last fiscal to 33% this year, the rating agency reckoned, estimating that a 10-11% rise in revenue expenditure would negate the higher tax inflows.

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI), approved the framework for a gold exchange as well as for vault managers, facilitating trading in securities tied to the yellow metal. The markets regulator's approval for the proposals made in the Union Budget paves the way for gold exchanges to be set up for trading in 'Electronic Gold Receipts' (EGRs) like in the case of other securities. Existing stock exchanges will be allowed to provide the platform for trading of EGRs, SEBI said after a board meeting in Mumbai. The denomination for trading the EGRs and conversion of EGRs into gold would be decided by the exchanges with the approval of SEBI.

The Defence Ministry has issued an order for the dissolution of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) with effect from October 1 upon which its assets, employees and management would be transferred to seven newly constituted defence public sector undertakings (DPSUs). This would mean the end of the OFB, the establishment of which was accepted by the British in 1775.

The lockdowns slowed renewable energy installations in the country and the pace of such installation is lagging India's 2022 target, according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA), a research think tank. As part of its commitment to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, India has said that it would install 175 gigawatts (GW) of green energy by 2022 and 450 GW by 2030 but only 7 GW of such capacity was added in the financial year 2020-21.

Technology driven fintech firms can play multiple roles in areas such as

### SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2021

1. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched the seventh consecutive edition of Swachh Survekshan (SS), the world's largest urban cleanliness survey conducted by Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban (SBM-U).

2. **What's new in the seventh edition?** Designed with 'People First' as its driving philosophy, Swachh Survekshan 2022 is curated towards capturing the initiatives of cities for the overall welfare and well-being of frontline sanitation workers. The survey, flavoured with the Azaadi@75 spirit, will also give priority to the voices of senior citizens and young adults alike and reinforce their participation towards upholding the cleanliness of urban India. SS 2022 has incorporated specific indicators that drive cities to improve working conditions and livelihood opportunities for sanitation workers in urban India's sanitation journey. The survey is set to protect India's ancient legacy and culture by nudging citizens to take ownership and initiative to clean urban India's monuments and heritage spots.

3. This year's Survekshan is committed to creating a level playing field for smaller cities by introducing two population categories under 15K and between 15-25K. To further expand the Survekshan footprint, district rankings have been introduced for the first time. The scope of the survey has been expanded to now cover 100% wards for sampling, as compared to 40% in previous years.

4. Who conducts the survey? **The Quality Council of India (QCI) is in charge of evaluating the performance of the participating cities.** This is an autonomous accreditation body which was set up by the Government of India in 1997 for quality assurance in all fields, including governance.

### AYUSHMAN BHARAT DIGITAL MISSION

1. The Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was recently launched by PM. The mission will provide a digital health ID to the people who will hold their health records. Note: The pilot project of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was announced on August 15 last year. Currently, the programme is being implemented in the pilot phase in six union territories (Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep).

2. Features of the Mission: **It is a digital health ecosystem under which every Indian citizen will now have unique health IDs, digitised health records with identifiers for doctors and health facilities.** The scheme will come under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana. It comprises six key building blocks — HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy and Telemedicine. The National Health Authority has been given the mandate to design, build, roll-out and implement the mission in the country. The core building blocks of the mission is that the health ID, DigiDoctor and Health Facility Registry shall be owned, operated and maintained by the Government of India.

3. Private stakeholders will have an equal opportunity to integrate and create their own products for the market. **The core activities and verifications, however, remain with the government. Under the Mission, every Indian will get a Health ID card that will store all medical details of the person including prescriptions, treatment, diagnostic reports and discharge summaries.** Health ID is a randomly generated 14 digit number used for the purposes of uniquely identifying persons, authenticating them, and threading their health records (only with their informed consent) across multiple systems and stakeholders. The citizens will be able to give their doctors and health providers one-time access to this data during visits to the hospital for consultation.

4. What was the need for this mission? The mission aims to liberate citizens from the challenges of finding the right doctors, seeking appointment, payment of consultation fee, making several rounds of hospitals for prescription sheets, among several others and will empower people to make an informed

digital fraud prevention, financial inclusion and cross border payments, said RBI Deputy Governor T. Rabi Sankar. The technological innovation in finance, he said, also raises hopes for substantial efficiency gains, better customer experience and greater social welfare.

Bihar has proved to be hostile terrain for Right to Information (RTI) activists, with as many as 20 having been killed since 2010. Six activists were killed in 2018 alone. The RTI Act came into force in June 2005.

Thimmaiah, 75, of Dindagur in Channarayapatna taluk in Karnataka, was elated on Tuesday. For the first time in his life, he could enter the temples in his native place. In fact, none of his forefathers had this opportunity. Dalits entered the temples in groups. They went to Malleshwara temple, a Hoysala structure; Keshava temple, also a Hoysala structure built in the 13th century; Basavanna temple, Santhamma temple, which was built for the local deity, among others.

India is successfully carrying out the world's largest free vaccination programme against COVID19 and has taken strategic steps towards jobs and social protection during the pandemic, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said at a highlevel United Nations meet. Stressing the need for collaboration and learning from the experiences of other countries, the Minister shared ideas with the panel on jobs and social protection for poverty eradication, based on India's experience. "India unveiled a financial package of \$366 billion amounting to more than 13% of GDP to create employment opportunities for workers in the unorganised sector, strengthening the MSME sector and for promoting the rural economy," Ms. Sitharaman said.

Road works totalling ₹1.5 lakh crore are being undertaken in the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Minister for Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari said. He arrived at Sonmarg on Tuesday to review the construction work at the Zojila tunnel, likely to be ready by September 2026. The 13.5 km tunnel will be Asia's longest bi-directional tunnel and will allow all-weather connectivity between Ladakh and Srinagar, which is disrupted during the winter months. It is located at 11,578 feet above sea level. "It takes 3.5 hours to travel between Srinagar and Ladakh. The tunnel will reduce the travel time to 15 minutes.

decision to avail the best possible healthcare.

## NUCLEAR SITE IMAGES WON'T BE SHARED WITH IAEA:IRAN

1.The EU and the U.S. have urged Iran to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to access a nuclear site, while Tehran argued the facility was exempt from a recent agreement with the UN watchdog.

2.Background: IAEA and Tehran struck the three-month monitoring agreement in February to cushion the blow of Iran reducing its cooperation with the agency. The agreement was extended several times.

3.Implications/concerns: **The announcement could further complicate talks between Iran and six major powers on reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.** Three years ago, former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact and reimposed crippling sanctions on Tehran; Iran reacted by violating restrictions.

4.About IAEA: Set up as the world's "Atoms for Peace" organization in 1957 within the United Nations family. Reports to both the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council. Headquarters in Vienna, Austria.

5.Functions: **Works with its Member States and multiple partners worldwide to promote the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear technologies.** Seeks to promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and to inhibit its use for any military purpose, including nuclear weapons. Programs: Program of Action for Cancer Therapy (PACT). Human Health Program. Water Availability Enhancement Project. International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles, 2000.

## WHAT IS GOVERNMENT BORROWING?

1.The government will borrow Rs 5.03 lakh crore in the second half of the current fiscal to fund the revenue gap for reviving the pandemic-hit economy. During the first half, the government has raised Rs 7.02 lakh crore by issuing bonds.

2.Background: The government raises money from the market to fund its fiscal deficit through dated securities and treasury bills. The Budget has pegged fiscal deficit at 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal, down from 9.5 per cent of the GDP projected for FY21.

3.What is government borrowing? **Borrowing is a loan taken by the government and falls under capital receipts in the Budget document.** Usually, the Government borrows through the issue of government securities called G-secs and Treasury Bills.

4.How does increased government borrowing affect government finances? Bulk of the government's fiscal deficit comes from its interest obligation on past debt. If the government resorts to larger borrowings, more than what it has projected, then its interest costs also go up risking higher fiscal deficit. That hurts government's finances. Larger borrowing programme means that the public debt will go up and especially at a time when the GDP growth is subdued, it will lead to a higher debt-to-GDP ratio.

5.What are off-budget borrowings? **Off-budget borrowings are loans that are taken not by the Centre directly, but by another public institution which borrows on the directions of the central government.** Such borrowings are used to fulfil the government's expenditure needs.

## SOCIAL BONDS IN VAMPIRE BATS

1.Scientists have shown how the Vampire bats that have forged "friendships" with others will rendezvous with these friends while foraging for a meal. Each of these blood-feasting vampire bats in the colony has its own network of close cooperative social bonds. Vampire bats that roost in trees can form long-term social bonds with each other through grooming, sharing regurgitated blood meals and generally hanging out together at the roost.

2.The study has found that the social bonds formed in roosts extended into the hunt. It also showed that the female bats have stronger social relationships than males.

3.**Vampire Bats Vampire bats are the only mammals with a blood-only diet. They reside in colonies of thousands. Habitat - Tropical and subtropical regions Locations - Warmer regions of Latin America (Central America and South America).**

4.Specialty - Vampire Bats are amazing runners. They have heat

**The success of India's latest gambit to clean up the banking system's toxic assets through a 'bad bank' will hinge on several factors, and global evidence shows such initiatives worked better when accompanied by recapitalisation of banks, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) said. It noted that the resolution process under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) was 'skewed'. There were also concerns about rising nonperforming loans (NPLs) and low uptake of bank credit deterring private investment, the multilateral lender flagged in its outlook update last week.**

sensors in their snouts that help them find a spot to make a bite.  
IUCN Status - Least Concern Threat - Habitat loss.