

# KSG:NEWSPAPER CRUX

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## NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHT

India's gross tax revenues surged 34% in 2021-22 to exceed ₹27 lakh crore, lifting the tax to GDP ratio to an at least 23 year high of 11.7%, from 10.3% in the previous year, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj said. Tax collections were ₹5 lakh crore more than the Budget estimates, and surpassed the revised estimates by ₹1.87 lakh crore, with direct taxes surging 49% and indirect taxes rising by 20%.

India successfully flight tested Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR) booster, a missile system, at the Integrated Test Range (ITR) in Chandipur off the Odisha coast here. The SFDR based propulsion enables the missile to intercept aerial threats at supersonic speeds and the test demonstrated reliable functioning of all components.

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has constituted an Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics (AVGC) promotion task force. The body will frame a national AVGC policy; recommend national curriculum framework for graduation, postgraduation and doctoral courses in AVGC related sectors; and facilitate skilling initiatives in collaboration with academic institutions, vocational training centres and industry. It will boost employment opportunities and help in the promotion and market development activities to extend global reach of the Indian industry; enhance exports and recommend incentives to attract foreign direct investment in the sector.

World food prices jumped to a new record high in March as the war in Ukraine caused turmoil in markets for staple grains and edible oils, the U.N. food agency said on Friday. The Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) food price index, which tracks the most globally traded food commodities, averaged 159.3 points last month versus an upwardly revised 141.4 for February.

The Reserve Bank took steps towards normalisation of liquidity management to pre-pandemic levels, with the introduction of the standing deposit facility (SDF) as the basic tool to absorb excess liquidity, and narrowing the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) corridor to 0.50% from 0.90%. Governor Shaktikanta Das said the SDF would be at 3.75%, i.e., 0.25% below the repo rate and 0.5% lower than the

## PRADHAN MANTRI JAN VIKAS KARYAKRAM

1. Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram has been revised for implementation w.e.f from 2022-23 onwards in all Districts of the country including all the Aspirational Districts. The erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJVK) for effective implementation since 2018. 2. PMJVK is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme that seeks to provide better socio-economic infrastructure assets and basic amenities to the minorities mainly in the field of education, health & skill development. **This which would further lead to lessening of the gap between the national average and the minority communities with regard to backwardness parameters.**

3. In 2018, the restructuring was done to be implemented in 1300 identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the Country. MCAs include Minority Concentration Blocks (MCBs), Minority Concentration Towns (MCTs) and Minority Concentration District Headquarters (MCD Hqrs).

4. Beneficiaries - The communities notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM) Act, 1992 would be taken as Minority Communities under PMJVK. At present 6 communities namely Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as Minority Communities under Section 2 (c) of the NCM Act, 1992.

5. Special focus by earmarking funds - 80% of the resources under the PMJVK would be earmarked for projects related to education, health and skill development. 33 to 40% of resources under the PMJVK would be specifically allocated for women centric projects.

## LINGARAJ TEMPLE

1. The Ministry of Home Affairs has opposed Odisha's Lingaraj Temple Ordinance, 2020, saying that the proposed ordinance is in conflict with the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains (AMASR) Act provides for preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance.

2. Lingaraj temple of Odisha was constructed by King Jajati Keshari in the 10th century and completed by King Lalatendu Keshari in the 11th-century. It is the largest temple in Bhubaneswar (Odisha), which was the cradle of the Kalinga School of Temple Architecture. Bindusagar Lake is located in the north side of the temple. On the western banks of Bindu Sagar, lies the beautiful garden of Ekamra Van (Forest of a single mango tree) named after the Hindu texts where Bhubaneswar was referred as Ekamra van.

3. Significance - **Historian James Fergusson said that the Lingaraj temple is one of the finest examples of purely Hindu Temple in India. Lingaraj is referred to as 'Swayambhu' (self-originated Shivling).** This temple signifies the syncretisation of Shaivism and Vaishnavism sects in Odisha. The Shivling is known as Hari Hara. Perhaps the rising cult of Lord Jagannath which coincided with the completion of the Lingaraj Temple had a role to play.

4. Protection - In 2019, the Odisha Government had announced a development plan for the temple and its peripheral area in Bhubaneswar. The 66-acre "Ekamra Kshetra" development plan was launched to preserve the heritage and development of the 9 sites and their nearby areas at a cost of around Rs 700 crore.

## INDIAN NATIONAL CALENDAR

1. According to the Indian National Calendar or the Saka calendar, this Year (2022) marks the start of the year 1944. The Indian National Calendar, based on the Saka era, is one of the National Identity Elements. [National Identity Elements - National Flag, National Bird, National Flower, National Tree, National Anthem, State Emblem, National Calendar, National Animal, National Song, Currency Symbol].

marginal standing facility (MSF) which helps the banks with funds when required. The SDF has its origins in a 2018 amendment to the RBI Act and is an additional tool for absorbing liquidity without collateral.

The Reserve Bank held benchmark interest rates and retained its 'accommodative' stance, even as it emphasised it was pivoting to focus on 'withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation remains within the target'. The RBI raised its forecast for inflation in FY23 to 5.7% from its February projection of 4.5%. The central bank also lowered its growth estimate for the current fiscal to 7.2% from the 7.8% forecast earlier.

The Supreme Court upheld amendments introducing restrictions in the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) while holding that no one has a fundamental or absolute right to receive foreign contributions. In a judgment that may hit non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working at the grassroots level with no direct link to foreign donors, the court reasoned that unbridled inflow of foreign funds may destabilise the sovereignty of the nation.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah's statement that people from various States speaking different languages should communicate with each other in Hindi instead of English has triggered widespread criticism from opposition leaders, who dubbed it "Hindi imperialism". A statement from the Ministry of Home Affairs quoted Mr. Shah, the chairman of the Parliamentary Official Language Committee, as saying the time had come to make the official language an important part of national unity. He said that when citizens of States who speak other languages communicate, it should be in the language of India. Hindi should be accepted as an alternative to English and not to local languages.

The Finance Ministry said it has released the first instalment of revenue deficit grant of ₹7,183 crore to 14 States. The grant has been released as per the recommendations of the 15th Finance Commission to Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

A rocket attack on a train station in the eastern Ukrainian city of Kramatorsk killed dozens as civilians raced to leave the Donbas region in the crosshairs of the

**2.The Saka calendar was adopted as the national calendar in 1957 on the recommendation of a committee headed by Indian astrophysicist, and chairman of the Calendar Reform Committee, Meghnad Saha.** The Indian National Calendar was adopted, along with the Gregorian calendar, on 22 March 1957 by the government.

**3.History -** The calendar is based on the ascension of King Shalivaahan to the throne in 78 AD. The Saka calendar started being used from the year 79 AD. About the Calendar - Like the Gregorian calendar, the Indian National Calendar consists of 12 months, with 30-31 days in each month. The first month of the New Year is Chaitra, while the last is Phalgun. Chaitra lasts from 21/22 March (the day following the vernal equinox ) to 20 April.

**4.The calendar follows the tropical zodiac signs, which are also used by Western astrologers. Usage -** The national calendar is used along with the Gregorian calendar for all communications and calendars issued by the Indian government.

**5.The Saka calendar is also used in the Gazette of India as well as the daily morning broadcast of All India Radio. The Saka calendar still in use in states like Maharashtra and Goa. It is also used countries such as Nepal and Indonesia.**

#### **EOS-02 SATELLITE**

**1.A Union Minister said that EOS-02 satellite will be launched in second quarter of 2022, which was slated to launch during Quarter-4 of 2021. EOS-02 is an Earth Observation Satellite (EOS) that will function as a Technology demonstration satellite for various new technologies.**

**2.It will be launched by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). The first developmental flight of Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV-1) is scheduled to launch the EOS-02.**

**3.EOS-02 is a 4-stage microsatellite that will carry a payload of 500 kg to Sun-Synchronous Low Earth Orbit (LEO). It has various applications that include agriculture, forestry, geology, hydrology, miniaturized power electronics, reaction wheels etc.**

#### **INDIAN TENT TURTLES**

**1.**There are no reports to indicate that the Indian tent turtle is on the verge of extinction due to illegal mining in Narmada River. Indian tent turtle (*Pangshura tentoria*) is a species of turtle in the family Geoemydidae. The species is native and endemic to India, Nepal and Bangladesh, with three subspecies recorded from the region. They are terrestrial, oviparous, precocial in nature. Habitat - Freshwater, Wetlands and Swamp

**2.**Steps by the Government to protect wildlife and its habitats Protected Areas, viz., **National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves** have been created in the country covering important habitats to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat. **Financial assistance** is provided to the State/Union Territory Governments under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats', for providing better protection to wildlife and improvement of habitat.

**3.Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972** provides for stringent punishment for violation of its provisions. The Act also provides for forfeiture of any equipment, vehicle or weapon that is used for committing wildlife offence(s). **Local communities** are involved in conservation measures through eco-development activities which help the forest departments in protection of wildlife. **Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB)** coordinates with State/UTs and other enforcement agencies to gather intelligence about poaching and unlawful trade in wild animals and animal articles.

#### **ASHWINI VAISHNAW COMMITTEE**

**1.**The advisory committee for semiconductor manufacturing in India has been formed. The committee will be chaired by Ashwini Vaishnav, minister of electronics and IT, includes venture capitalist Vinod Dham, who led Intel's iconic Pentium microprocessor since its inception. Arogyaswami Paulraj, who has invested in MIMO wireless communication useful in 4G technology, is also included in the committee.

**2.**The Committee shall steer the objectives in a structured, efficient, and strategic manner, and provide necessary guidance to the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) executives.

#### **ASIA'S LARGEST SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANT**

**Russian army.**

**The Ministry of Home Affairs has sought another six months to frame the rules of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, 2019 (CAA), a legislation to fast track the citizenship process of six non - Muslim undocumented communities from Pakistan, Bangladesh and Afghanistan. Without the rules being framed, the Act cannot be implemented.**

- 1.**Okhla Sewage Treatment Plant is expected to play a major role in the Yamuna cleaning process. It is located in Delhi.
- 2.**The plant will be the largest one in Asia, when completed in December this year.