

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare on Monday announced a National Suicide Prevention Strategy, the first of its kind in the country, with timebound action plans and multisectoral collaborations to achieve reduction in suicide mortality by 10% by 2030. The strategy broadly seeks to establish effective surveillance mechanisms for suicide within the next three years, establish psychiatric outpatient departments that will provide suicide prevention services through the District Mental Health Programme in all districts within the next five years, and to integrate a mental wellbeing curriculum in all educational institutions within the next eight years.

India has emerged as the second most coveted investment market after the United States for sovereign wealth funds and public pensions funds in 2022, according to a study by asset manager Invesco published on Monday. Sovereign investors, which now manage some \$33 trillion in assets, have also seen a rapid rise in allocations to private markets, though this development might start to slow with fixed income back in favour, the Invesco Global Sovereign Asset Management Study said.

The number of eggs exported from Namakkal district to Qatar has increased from 1.5 crore to 2.5 crore daily as the FIFA World Cup raised demand in the West Asian nation. With cheaper prices, Namakkal eggs have scored over the produce from Turkey.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Monday began consultations for the 2023-24 Union Budget, with industry captains seeking measures to revive domestic demand and create jobs to counter headwinds from slowing global growth. Apart from a reduction in the income tax burden for households, industry captains urged the government to bring petroleum products, ATF, and electricity into the GST regime, cut import duties and expand the scope of tax rebates granted to exporters.

The Supreme Court on Monday described the Morbi suspension bridge collapse which killed 141 people, including 47 children, as an "enormous tragedy". A Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud asked the Gujarat High Court, which has taken Suo motu cognisance of the incident, to "bear its time and attention" on ensuring an independent investigation into the role and the responsibilities of Nagar Palika (municipal corporation) officials and the agency which was in charge of maintenance and management of the 143 year old suspension bridge.

### INDIA'S FIRST NATIONAL CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR GREEN PORT & SHIPPING (NCoEGPS)

1. NCoEGPS is launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). It aims to develop a regulatory framework and alternate technology adoption roadmap for Green Shipping to foster carbon neutrality and circular economy (CE) in the shipping sector in India.
2. Green shipping is when people or goods are transported through ships using minimum resources and energy as possible, to protect the environment from the pollutants generated by the ships. Main source of CO2 emissions in ship operations: Combustion of fossil fuels in main engines, auxiliary engines, boilers and incinerators.
3. **Specific objectives of NCoEGPS are-Empower** 'Make in India' in Port, Coastal and Inland water transport, and Engineering. Enable fast-track innovations in these sectors. Create a pool of competent manpower to the industry. Achieve self-sufficiency in providing short term solutions through scientific studies technology development technical arm.
4. The NCoEGPS will act as a technological arm of MoPSW and will be working under the framework of the Sagarmala programme. **U.N. shipping agency the International Maritime Organization (IMO)** aims to reduce overall greenhouse gas emissions from ships by 50% from 2008 levels by 2050.
5. Maritime Vision Document 2030, a 10 Year blueprint on India's vision of a sustainable Maritime sector provides for Increasing share of renewable energy at major ports to around 60 per cent by 2030; Adopting multi-clean fuel for vehicles within port ecosystem; Gradual phasing out of diesel locomotives at ports etc. Working on a draft "Green Port Policy" document.

### NCPCR LAUNCHES TRAINING MODULES FOR CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE (CWC) AND PROTOCOLS FOR RESTORATION AND REPATRIATION OF CHILDREN

1. The objective of the training module is to enhance functional knowledge, improve relevant skills of members and Chairperson of CWC to deliver effective and timely service for protection and rehabilitation of children. CWC is the primary body for addressing issues related to children in need of care and protection (CNCP). Mandatory to form a CWC under Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 in every district of State. Acts as facilitators for all child welfare related activities in the district.
2. **Protocol for repatriation and restoration** aims to Eliminate challenges faced by authorities in repatriation like non-convergence/lack of sharing of information between authorities. Send the maximum number of children back to their native place with their families/relatives.
3. GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite (Portal for Restoration and Repatriation of Child) was also launched. Features of GHAR - GO Home and Re-Unite Digital tracking and monitoring of children who have to be repatriated to another Country/State/District. Digital transfer of cases of children to the concerned JJB/CWC of the State etc.
4. **National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)** is a statutory body constituted under Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CPCR) Act, 2005 to protect the child rights and other related matters in the country. The Commission is mandated to monitor the proper and effective implementation of Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and its Rules; Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 and Right to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009.

### IN LAST 5 YEARS, RS 10 LAKH CRORE IN WRITE-OFFS HELP BANKS HALVE NONPERFORMING ASSETS (NPAs)

1. According to data furnished by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the writeoff exercise helped the banking sector to reduce its gross NPAs to 5.9 per cent of the total advances (2022) from 11.2 per cent in 2017-18. The bank writes off a loan after the borrower has defaulted on the loan repayment and there is a very low chance of recovery. Lender then moves defaulted loan/NPA, out of assets side and reports amount as loss.
2. Loan write off is different from Loan waive off, **A loan waive-off is a complete cancellation of a loan account.** This means that the borrower is free from that particular debt. A loan waive-off is a facility provided by the government to farmers at times of natural calamities.

The Army on Monday issued two Requests For Proposals (RFP) for procurement of 7,000 body worn camera systems and 1,612 ballistic shields to be procured under Emergency Procurement (EP) through the FastTrack procurement (FTP) route. The last date for bid submission for both the RFPs is December 20, 2022. “The body cameras are for both the military police as well as Rashtriya Rifles engaged in counterterrorist operations in Kashmir valley. The ballistic shields are meant for counterterrorism operations,” a defence official said. The ballistic shields would be very helpful in preventing casualties in room interventions during antiterror operations, the official added.

The Centre is bringing out a standard for publishing product reviews on e-commerce platforms from Friday. To start with, the standard will be voluntary, but could become mandatory later after observing compliance with the standard by such platforms. The framework for the standard was prepared by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).

Qatar Energy announced a 27-year natural gas supply deal with China on Monday, calling it the “longest” ever seen as it strengthened ties with Asia at a time when Europe is scrambling for alternative sources. The state energy company will send four million tonnes of liquefied natural gas annually from its new North Field East project to China Petroleum and Chemical Corporation (Sinopec), it said.

Rating agency Crisil on Monday pared its 2022-23 real GDP growth forecast to 7%, from 7.3% estimated earlier, and said it expects the economy to face more stress in 2023-24 with growth likely to slow to 6% due to the global slowdown and tightening financial conditions in India.

3. However, the loan write-off does not take away the bank's right of recovery from the borrower through legal means. In the last five years, banks were able to recover only Rs 1,32,036 crore from the written off loans.

**INDIA TO TAKE OVER THE CHAIR OF GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP ON AI (GPAI) FROM FRANCE**

1. Launched on June 15, 2020, GPAI is an international and multis take holder initiative to guide the responsible development and use of artificial intelligence consistent with human rights, fundamental freedoms, and shared democratic values.
2. The alliance will look to bridge the gap between theory and practice by supporting advanced research and applied activities on AI-related priorities. At present, GPAI has twenty-five member states including the US, the UK, EU, Australia, Canada, France, Germany, etc. India joined the group as a founding member in 2020.
3. **Membership in GPAI is open to all countries, including emerging and developing countries.** Its secretariat is hosted at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Principles for responsible stewardship of trustworthy AI-Inclusive growth, sustainable development and well-being. Human-centred values and fairness. Transparency and explain ability. Robustness, security and safety. Accountability. AI is expected to add \$967 billion to the Indian economy by 2035 and \$450-500 billion to India's GDP by 2025, accounting for 10 per cent of the country's \$5 trillion GDP target.

**GOVERNMENT WITHDRAWS EXPORT DUTY ON STEEL**

1. The Central Government has withdrawn the export duty on specified pig iron and steel products as well as iron ore pellets. The import duty concessions on Anthracite / PCI coal, coking coal, coke & semi coke and ferronickel have also been withdrawn.
2. Earlier, duty was imposed to combat soaring inflation. Steel is the world's most important engineering and construction material commonly used in buildings and infrastructure, Automobiles, Equipments, Railways, Shipping, Defence, Space etc. In India, the steel industry has strong forward and backward linkages leading to an output multiplier effect of nearly 1.4X on GDP and employment multiplier effect of 6.8X.
3. India is the second largest crude steel producer in the world, with a total production of 103 MT in FY21. Initiatives taken by government for steel sector National Steel Policy 2017: It aspired to achieve 300MT of steelmaking capacity by 2030-31. **FDI: 100% FDI through the automatic route is allowed in the Indian steel sector.** Production-linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme: PLI scheme has been approved for specialty steel with a financial outlay of Rs. 6,322 crore (US\$ 858.50 million) over a five-year period.

**NETWORK READINESS INDEX 2022**

1. Index is published by the Portulans Institute and Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford. Ranking is based on each country's performance in technology, people, governance, and impact, covering 58 variables.
2. Report ranks a total of 131 economies and US has taken the first spot as per this year's report titled 'Stepping into the new digital era: how and why digital natives will shape the world.'
3. **India secures 1st rank in AI talent concentration and overall 61st Rank.** India has also improved its score from 49.74 in 2021 to 51.19 in 2022.



*“It is good to follow,  
better to lead and best to be yourself.”*

**DR. KHAN**  
(KSG)