

## What is the 'lost decade' in Economics?

This refers to the last decade of the 20th century when the Japanese economy witnessed economic stagnation after the bust of its housing bubble. Some even include the next decade of low growth to claim that Japan lost two decades of potential economic growth due to the lack of appropriate spending by the government. Critics have argued that the size of Japan's GDP does not project a complete picture of its economy as its total population has continued to shrink over the years. In terms of per capita GDP, for instance, Japan in the last few decades has managed to grow at about the same pace as the United States although its overall GDP has not reflected as much growth.

The new U.S. Fed Chairman is unlikely to opt for policies that might upset the President's plan

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## What is 'anthropocene' in Geology?

This refers to the period in earth's history when human activities began to have a significant impact on the state of the planet's ecology. The term was popularised by Dutch chemist and Nobel laureate Paul J. Crutzen in his 2002 article 'Geology of Mankind' published in the journal, Nature. Crutzen proposed that the Anthropocene period, which is currently underway, began during the latter part of the 18th century when Scottish inventor James Watt invented the steam engine. It is marked by increasing concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere which has had a substantial impact on the global climate.

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## What is 'trade war' in Economics?

This refers to an economic situation where countries raise protectionist barriers against each other to protect local industries from foreign competition and also to promote exports over imports. It may take the form of imposing tariffs and quotas on foreign trade as well as currency manipulation to favour local industries. The decades between the two World Wars is often noted as a period when major world economies were engaged in a trade war by devaluing their currencies in a competitive fashion. It was carried out under the belief that a cheaper currency would encourage more demand for a country's exports, thus boosting the domestic economy.

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**International Literacy Day – 2017****International Literacy Day – 2017****CURTAIN RAISER**

The 51<sup>st</sup> International Literacy Day is being celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and the theme announced by UNESCO is `Literacy in a digital world'. The programme would include; felicitation to the dignitaries, distribution of Saakshar Bharat Awards to the best performing States, Districts, Gram Panchayats and NGOs.

The International Literacy Day is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September every year throughout the world. On this day, in the year 1965 the World Congress of Ministers of Education met in Tehran for the first time to discuss the programme of education at the international level. The UNESCO in its 14<sup>th</sup> Session in November, 1966, declared 8<sup>th</sup> September as the **International Literacy Day**. Since then, ILD is celebrated on 8<sup>th</sup> September every year by most of the member countries. The key aspect of the observance of ILD is to mobilize public opinion in favour of struggle against illiteracy. ILD is a forum to disseminate information on literacy and raise the public awareness and the significance of literacy for individual and national development.

The National Literacy Mission Authority started celebrating International Literacy Day every year from 1988 onwards. The eradication of illiteracy has been one of the major national concerns of the Govt. of India since independence. The occasion of ILD is used for raising public awareness to eradicate illiteracy and create environment in favour of adult education programmes.

From 1996 onwards some new elements were introduced to make the programme more attractive. In the year 1996 a 'Mashal March' was organized involving school students and literacy functionaries. In subsequent years, variety of activities were included as a part of ILD celebration which includes: Competitions (Rangoli, Drawing etc) for the literacy functionaries at the State level by SLMAs, Exhibition of JSS products (KRITI), International Conferences, Seminars, Cultural Programmes etc.

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**Swachhathon 1.0 receives massive response from young innovators of the country****Swachhathon 1.0 receives massive response from young innovators of the country****Finals conducted in Capital today**

Swachhathon 1.0, the first ever Swachh Bharat Hackathon, was organized by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation to crowd source solutions to some of the Sanitation and Hygiene challenges faced in various parts of the country. The Ministry invited innovators from schools and colleges, institutions, start-ups and others to come up with exciting, innovative, novel and viable solutions to the following 6 challenges:

- a) Monitoring usage of toilets
- b) Triggering behaviour change
- c) Toilet Technologies in Difficult terrains
- d) Working solutions for maintenance and operations of school toilets.
- e) Technological solutions for safe disposal of menstrual waste
- f) Solution for early decomposition of faecal matter

The hackathon was open for all (including international entries), and was hosted on the [innovate.mygov.in](http://innovate.mygov.in) portal.

The Hackathon received a massive response from across the country, with 3053 entries received overall with 633 entries in triggering behaviour change, 229 in early decomposition of faecal matter, 750 in monitoring usage of toilets, 552 in maintenance and operations of school toilets, 405 in Technological solutions for safe disposal of menstrual waste and 484 in Toilet Technologies in Difficult terrains categories.

The selected finalists gave a short presentation showcasing their prototype/ strategy before a jury consisting of stalwarts and experts from the Sanitation sector. The Grand Jury for the final comprised Smt Naina Lal Kidwai, Shri Bindeshwar Pathak, and the Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri Parameswaran Iyer. The evaluation was based on an evaluation framework designed by the Ministry that took into account the originality of the solution, utility, cost-effectiveness, ease of maintenance, sustainability, scalability and environment-friendliness.

The winners of the Swachhathon were awarded by the Ministers of State, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Shri SS Ahluwalia and Shri Ramesh Jigajinagi. Speaking at the awards ceremony, Shri Ahluwalia, expressed his pleasure at seeing the young innovators who had participated in the Swachhathon. He said that the Swachhathon was a new concept adopted by the Ministry because linking government programmes with technology was the need of the hour. He acknowledged the good progress made by the Swachh Bharat Mission so far and said that he was sure that initiatives like the Swachhathon would go a long way in increasing involvement of innovators and the youth in the programme. Shri Jigajinagi spoke about the need for innovative approaches to take the Swachhta movement forward in the country, and congratulated all participants who contributed ideas to the hackathon. He expressed hope that the ideas coming out

of the Swachhathon would help lend innovation and renewed vigour to this citizens' movement.

Speaking at the ceremony, Secretary, MDWS, Shri Parameswaran Iyer, spoke about the progress made by the Swachh Bharat Mission so far. He mentioned that it was very encouraging that sanitation coverage in the country has gone up from 39% at the launch of the SBM to 67% today with 2.35 lakh villages having been declared Open Defecation Free (ODF), and that this progress had been verified by third-party independent agencies as well. He said that the ideas presented at Swachhathon would be crucial to help meet some of the special challenges being faced on the field in some parts of the country. He urged the innovators who participated in the Swachhathon to share these ideas to the Mashelkar Committee of the Ministry so that they may be implemented at scale in the country. He encouraged all participants by reminding them that the logo of Swachh Bharat Mission itself was a crowdsourced idea, which underscores the power than an individual's idea may have in taking the country forward.

Based on the cumulative assessment by the jury, the winners were announced for each category earlier today in the Capital. The final event was organized in collaboration with AICTE and supported by KPMG, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Water Aid, Rotary India Literacy Mission, HMEL, Accenture and Dettol Banega Swachh India.

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## Teer, Meghalaya's odds-on favourite

**Courting fortune**A man books his lucky number at a Teer bookie counter in Shillong. In this only government-approved gambling sport in Meghalaya, archers shoot at a target made of bamboo thatch, and the last two digits of the count of arrows that hit the target make up the day's lucky number.

Meghalaya is home to skilled archers, mainly from the Khasi tribe. And they use the bow and arrow in a gambling game called Teer. The game is part of the State's culture and tradition, and the only wager to get government sanction. The popular pastime takes place not in casinos but on archery grounds.

On all days barring Sunday, 50 archers from far-flung areas assemble around a cylindrical target made of bamboo thatch. For three minutes, each of them shoots 30 arrows at the target. The fusillade is thrilling to watch. The arrows that hit the target are counted, and the last two digits of that total are proclaimed as that day's number.

Meghalaya has over 5,000 Teer bookies, excluding those who operate along the Assam border. Shillong alone has 600 betting counters. Online gambling has a small presence. Seeing the potential for revenue, the State government increased the betting tax from 40% to 50% recently.

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**MoS DoNER Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates two-day “North East Calling” festival**

**MoS DoNER Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurates two-day “North East Calling” festival**

**Dr Jitendra Singh launches ‘North East Venture Fund’ to boost Start-ups**

**‘North East Tourism Development Council’ to promote sustainable tourism in NE region launched**

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh inaugurated the “North East Calling” festival, here today. The “North East Calling” event is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Government of India under its ‘Destination North East’ series of this year. The purpose of the event is to promote the art, culture, heritage, cuisine, handicrafts, business and tourism of North East India.

On the above occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh also launched ‘North East Venture Fund’, which is a joint initiative of Ministry of DoNER and North Eastern Development Finance Corporation Ltd. The objective of the fund is to promote entrepreneurship and Start up in the North Eastern Region. It is the first dedicated Venture Fund for the region with a corpus of Rs 100 crores. The Minister also launched North East Tourism Development Council with objective to promote sustainable tourism in North East India.

The Business to Business (B2B) conference is also being organised during the event. On the occasion, three MoUs were also signed in the presence of the Minister. The first MoU was signed between North East Tourism Development Council and the Yes Bank. The other two MoUs were signed with the Ministry under Science & Technology Interventions in the North East Region (STINER) aiming at enabling STINER and promoting NISARGRUNA technology of BARC in bio-energy technology in association with Tripura State.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Jitendra Singh complemented that Ministry of DoNER and the young Assistant Secretaries attached to this Ministry, for giving their commitment and passion in organising this event. He also appealed to the public to come and visit the festival and understand the richness of culture of North East. He said that such events will not only enrich the economy and culture of North Eastern region, but will also bring the rest of India more closer to the North East. He said that the development, upliftment and growth of North East has been on the priority of the Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that the focus has not only been bringing North East closer to the rest of country, but also to bring rest of India closer to the North East. He said that these events, that too in the heart of National Capital, help the artisans and people of North East to showcase their talent. He also informed that similar events will be organised in various parts of the country in future. He said that Ministry had organised ‘Destination North East’ festival in Chandigarh recently. The Minister said that there is a lot to learn from North East for the rest of India. He said that some states of North East are having two digit growth rate and the literacy rate is also high in this region. He said that rest of India also needs to follow North East in terms of

cleanliness.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by the Ministry for the North East region, the Minister said that the DoNER Ministry had introduced a concept of “DoNER at doorstep”. He said that during each given fortnight, at least eight Union Ministers from New Delhi visit Northeast which means that one Minister each is available in each of the eight States every 15 days. This helps them to make an assessment of the development works related to their Ministries and also enables them to gain first-hand inputs from the local population there, he added. He said that ‘Purbashree’ stalls have been set up at Dilli Haat for the products of North East region. He also said that the rail and air connectivity is also on the focus of the Government.

Highlighting other initiatives, the Minister said that foundation stone of Barak Hostel in Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) campus was laid this year. He also said that last year, the Foundation Stone of a Hostel exclusively for Northeast girl students was laid in Bangalore University. He also informed that a North Eastern Cultural and Information Centre will be set up in Delhi soon. He said that Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has allotted a land measuring 5341.75 sqm. (1.32 acre) at Sector-13, Dwarka, New Delhi, to North Eastern Council (NEC) for the purpose of construction of this Centre. He also talked about setting up of “Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Centre for Policy Research & Analysis” at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Shillong and Brahmaputra Study Centre in the Guwahati University.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Naveen Verma, Secretary (DoNER) said that this event has been coordinated with the efforts put by the Assistant Secretaries attached to the Ministry. He said that this event coincides with the 16th Anniversary of the Ministry. He said that this is an occasion to take stock of the achievements and also to introspect what needs to be done.

Dr. R. Chidambaram, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government also complemented the Ministry of DoNER and said that they are ready to provide any support to the Ministry.

The senior officers the Ministry were also present on the occasion.

The Closing Ceremony of the event will be held here tomorrow evening. The Cabinet Secretary Shri P K Sinha will be the Chief Guest at the Closing Ceremony. During the Closing Ceremony, winners of various contests (Photography and Caption Contest, video contest, Choreography Contest for Colleges on the theme “Connect NE”, Quiz Competition for schools and colleges, Best North-Eastern attire in the crowd, Home Chef Contest) will be awarded.

The two-day event includes showcase of rich culture of North East, including Music Festival for bands of North-East, Cultural Night for Dances of North-East, Handloom Demo Show presenting the clothes of North-East, Exhibitions of activities being undertaken in NE, stalls by various Central Government ministries showcasing the works being undertaken by them in the region, stalls by State Governments offering

opportunities in their states, stalls for Sale of products of NERAMAC and NEHHDC, variety of food stalls including sale of delicacies of NE, contests for all sections of young population to expose them to NE, B2B Summits on Food Processing, Tourism and Start-up opportunities in the North-East.

The entry to this two-day event, being held at India Gate lawns from 11.00 AM to 10.00 PM, for the general public is free.

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## Why the Phillips curve does not work

An economic concept that serves as the linchpin for central bankers across the world is the Phillips curve. Developed by New Zealand economist A.W.H. Phillips, it states that there is an inverse relationship between inflation and unemployment in any economy. Phillips studied price and employment data in the United Kingdom from 1861 to 1957 to arrive at this interesting conclusion.

The underlying logic behind the Phillips curve is that wages are quite “sticky”, or inflexible, in a market economy, so unemployment is bound to shoot up whenever workers refuse to accept lower wages. Inflation, which increases nominal but not real wages, is assumed to trick workers into accepting a lower remuneration for their services; it is thus an indirect wage cut that helps prevent an increase in unemployment.

Central bank chiefs thus keep a very close eye on inflation and unemployment data of the overall economy to plan monetary policy accordingly. They try to maintain the level of unemployment at the non-accelerating inflation rate of unemployment, which is the unemployment rate at which inflation too is just under control.

Whenever inflation is too low and unemployment too high, central banks increase the money supply to encourage greater employment. When this causes inflation to shoot up too high, they reduce the money supply, which results in lower inflation but also slightly higher unemployment.

“Do Phillips curves conditionally help to forecast inflation?”, a 2017 paper by Michael Dotsey, Shigeru Fujita and Tom Stark published by the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, however, argues that central bankers may be using the wrong economic model to frame policy. The authors argue that there is no real trade-off between inflation and unemployment, as assumed by generations of economists, as models based on the Phillips curve have a poor forecasting record. This should not be surprising. The stagflation of the 1970s proved quite convincingly that high unemployment and high inflation can very well co-exist. Also, wages may not be as rigid as many economists assume, which means that they could adjust downward quite comfortably in many cases. Lastly, loose monetary policy, apart from ramping up inflation, often also causes structural distortions in the economy which lead to higher unemployment. Given such complexity in an economy, any effort to micromanage it may well be a fool’s errand.

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**Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad launches the Nation-Wide Hackathon #OpenGovDataHack****Sh. Ravi Shankar Prasad launches the Nation-Wide Hackathon #OpenGovDataHack**

- *The Hackathon would be conducted by NIC and IAMAI as a part of the Startup Eco-system Development Programme*
- *A 24hours Hackathon themed on Drinking Water & Sanitation, Transport, Education, Crime & Health will take place in seven cities*

Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology **Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad** today launched a nation-wide hackathon #OpenGovDataHack. As part of the Startup Eco-system Development program, NIC and IAMAI have collaborated to conduct Nation Wide Hackathon #OpenGovDataHack across seven states of India. It aims to Support & Showcase potentially great Ideas/Talent from Inner India by reaching out in their own State/City (**7 Cities**). It is to enable them making their ideas developed into Apps/Infographics primarily by use of Open Government Data around the themes of **Drinking Water& Sanitation, Transport, Education, Crime and Health** to a stage, after which it can be evaluated by jury and be selected for Prizes and future support/funding.

**Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad, Hon'ble Minister of Electronics and Information Technology said,** "The government is committed to make best use of big data in establishing rule of precision governance. While doing so every care would be taken to ensure that strict privacy rights of individuals are protected. However, unauthorised use of data would be dealt with iron-hand to ensure that nothing comes in the way of making data-analytics a national movement."

*"The big data analytics should focus on poor & under privileged and facilitate inclusive growth. While aiming at taking lead in data analytics it must be ensured that technology is inclusive, affordable, transformative & developmental. #OpenGovDataHack being taken up in seven states would catalyse further start up movement. I would like assure you all that the Government is determined to hand-hold successful start-ups and make it a big success."* added **Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad.**

**Shri Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology,** said, "The open data platform is a huge opportunity for the country and a brilliant foundation in place to have so much of data already being made available. However, there is big gap between data being available and data being utilized. I believe there are not only gaps, but we have serious opportunities available. A lot of intellectual effort needs to go into creating that value. On one side, we have this wonderful platform in reach our country, on the other side there is this huge opportunity for new services that can be made available, and thirdly there is massive resource available to us in terms of creative young minds in institutions, industry, start-ups across the country. I think Hackathon is a great opportunity, it fits in to our start-up movement as well, and I hope that our youngsters will be able to not only come out with new ideas, they will be able to

*provide valuable services to departments, to citizens, to communities across the country.”*

The workshops will be organized for Stakeholders Sensitization, identifying Problem Statements and Data Gathering at respective cities. Students, Community, Startups, Academia, and Industry etc. can participate.

The #OpenGovDataHack will be going with the onsite City Challenge, a 24 hours Hackathon event will be held at 7 centres/ institutes/ organizations across Hackathon cities on different weekends. The participating teams will be required to submit Apps prototypes and Info-graphics. Selected Apps prototypes from all seven onsite city Centre and online submissions will be taken forward for App development. Each team will be given 2 months of mentorship/incubation to develop the App, post which the teams will submit the final Apps for evaluation.

The apps will be evaluated by a panel of jury comprised of the members from the Community, Government, Academia and Industry etc., and the shortlisted teams will be invited for a presentation on the App. The Hackathon process will conclude with an International conference on Open Data, wherein the winners of the Apps Challenge will be awarded.

### **About Open Government Data Platform:**

The Open Government Data (OGD) Platform India has been set up by the National Informatics Centre (NIC) in compliance with National Data Sharing and Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) 2012. The objective of the policy is to provide proactive access to government owned sharable data along with its usage information.

#### **OGD Main Features Include:**

- Single point access to open datasets
- Workflow based web access to the departments to publish their datasets through a predefined metadata
- Enhanced visualization tool
- Better user experience and efficient discoverability of resources
- Cataloging of similar resources
- Consumable Open APIs
- Catalogue embedding
- Catalogue sharing widgets, catalogue subscription
- Mobile and Web Apps

- Community participation through blogs, infographics, visualizations and much more...

A number of Hackathons, Data Meets and Open App Challenges have been conducted to bring out innovative applications, info-graphics and visualizations using the government data.

### **OGD Analytics**

- 111 Chief data Officer have been nominated
- datasets:
  - o 1,18,450 datasets
  - o Under 4220 catalogs
  - o By 106 Departments
  - o 12.57 Million times viewed &
  - o 4.94 Million Times Download
- 1200 + visulizations have been created
- 2200 + APIs
- 1,44,307 Registered Users

### **Top 10 Sector data**

- Health and Family Welfare - 48525
- Home Affairs -031598
- Agriculture -21033
- Rajya Sabha - 4363
- Statistics & Programme -2199
- Niti Aayog - 1599
- Transport- 1303
- Water -1060
- Environment & Forests -917
- Human Resource Development - 747

### **Community Engagement:**

The Platform also acts as a knowledge - sharing platform through online communities. Citizens with specific interests are encouraged to contribute blogs and joins online forums around various

datasets or their domain of interest. Platform demonstrated its potential to the App Developers Community through various contest such as :

- 12th Plan Hackathon
- In pursuit of an Idea
- CMA Hackathon
- #OpendataApps Challenge with Nasscom
- Code for Honor 2014 with Microsoft

A separate Community Portal (<http://community.data.gov.in>) has been launched to provide a common platform for knowledge sharing through contribution of blogs, info-graphics, Visualization, etc. using data available on the platforms. Similarly a dedicated event portal (<https://event.data.gov.in>) also helps in management of workshops, hackathons, challenges, etc. OGD has organised 24 major events/apps-challenges/hackathons, workshops/training/awareness sessions, roundtable, etc.so far.

### **OGD SaaS (Software as a Service)**

OGD Platform is available as Software as a Service (SaaS) model. Following Open Data Portals have been created using OGD SaaS: Sikkim Open Data Portal (<http://sikkim.data.gov.in>)Tamil Nadu Open Data Portal (<http://tn.data.gov.in>) and Surat Municipal Corporation (<http://surat.data.gov.in>).

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## 1% DA hike for Central government staff

According to the government, the combined impact on the exchequer on account of both DA and DR increases will be Rs. 3,068.26 crore per annum and Rs. 2045.50 crore in the financial year 2017-18 (for the eight months from July 2017 to February 2018).

“This will benefit about 49.26 lakh Central government employees and 61.17 lakh pensioners,” the government release said.

The Cabinet also approved a proposed law amendment to double the maximum gratuity payout to private sector workers from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh.

The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017, will be introduced in Parliament soon to bring parity between public and private sector workers.

The gratuity limit for Central staff was raised from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh as part of the Seventh Pay Commission’s recommendations approved by the Centre in July last year. “Considering the inflation and wage increase even in case of employees engaged in private sector, the government is of the view that the entitlement of gratuity should be revised for employees who are covered under the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972,” the Labour Ministry said.

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**Press Note****Press Note**

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion have been receiving a number of complaints/representations regarding clandestine import of fireworks of foreign origin under false declarations. Various Fireworks Associations have time and again raised the issue and informed that these smuggled items include the chemical 'Potassium Chlorate' which is a dangerous and hazardous chemical and can ignite or explode spontaneously.

The manufacture, possession, use, sale, etc. of any explosive containing sulphur or sulphurate in admixture with any chlorate is banned in the country vide Notification GSR No.64(E) dated 27.01.1992. Besides, fireworks have been declared as restricted item under ITC (HS) in respect of import by the Director General of Foreign Trade. Till date, no license for import of fireworks has been granted under the Explosives Rules, 2008 by Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organization, a Subordinate Office of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion.

Possession and sale of fireworks of foreign origin is illegal and punishable under the Law. Information about possession and/or sale of such fireworks may be reported to the nearest Police Station for suitable action.

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## In economics, what is 'Easterlin paradox'?

This refers to the paradoxical relationship between the growth in the GDP of a country and the level of happiness enjoyed by its people. It is named after American economist Richard Easterlin who proposed the concept in his 1971 paper "Does Economic Growth Improve the Human Lot? Some Empirical Evidence". Easterlin argued that an increase in the GDP of a country did not always lead its citizens to become happier people as the marginal gain in happiness begins to decrease beyond a particular point. Critics, on the other hand, have contested the paradox saying that richer countries are generally happier than poorer ones.

The new U.S. Fed Chairman is unlikely to opt for policies that might upset the President's plan

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**SAIL's retail sales gets boost with SAIL's Gaon ki Ore campaign****SAIL's retail sales gets boost with SAIL's Gaon ki Ore campaign**

Steel Authority of India Ltd. (SAIL), is running a nation-wide campaign – (*SAIL steel – Gaon ki ore*) which is aimed at boosting steel consumption in country. This has started to reflect positively through the dealer sales numbers, which recorded an 18% jump in the month of August 2017 over CPLY selling 91,000 tonnes of steel in the month. SAIL targets to sell 1 Million Tonnes steel through its dealer network this financial year and aims at doubling it in next three financial years, as per the directions from Steel Minister Shri Birender Singh to SAIL to go for smart marketing.

SAIL had identified the potential of rural markets for enhancing steel consumption which is currently around 10 kgs per capita per year as against around 150 Kg per capita consumption in Urban India.

The *Gaon ki ore* campaign is designed to familiarize end users at the Grass-root level, especially of rural areas, with innovative usage of SAIL steel and its applications and advantages in construction, household equipment, agriculture etc. Through engagement activities the audience are informed how using SAIL steel can increase durability, life, safety and longevity of any construction and product. SAIL's product basket has branded products like SAIL TMT, SAIL Jyoti GP/GC sheets, Salem stainless utensils products in its basket which fit the rural requirements well and has popular acceptance.

Through this nation-wide campaign initiated at Nalbari, Assam, SAIL aims to cover more than 100 locations by the end of this year and within months of its inception around twenty workshops have already been conducted in various states. This new age marketing campaign strategically aims to develop a stronger link with consumers through direct engagement. All workshops of the campaign are designed to familiarize participants about SAIL's production process, product range, applications and advantages and the interactive sessions are conducted in local language for easier connect with audience. SAIL Earth-Quake Resistant (EQR) TMT Rebars received special attention of the audience who were keen to know regarding the bendability of the EQR and its higher resistance to earthquakes.

Company's recently held campaign at Mandi, Himachal Pradesh successfully involved a wide participation from locals and their families. Taking the buzz forward, SAIL organized

another round in Palampur today, integrating it with an on-going exhibition on 'Destination Himachal' leveraging the crowd presence to raise awareness about steel consumption.

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## Vice President of India lays Foundation Stone for the first Regional Vocational Training Institute (RVTI) in Hyderabad

### Vice President of India lays Foundation Stone for the first Regional Vocational Training Institute (RVTI) in Hyderabad

Vice President Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, today in Hyderabad laid the foundation stone for Regional Vocational Training Institute which is the first of its kind for the State of Telangana boosting skill development opportunities among women ready to contribute to the country's workforce. Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan was also present during the foundation laying ceremony along with Shri Mohammad Mahmood Ali, Deputy Chief Minister, Govt. of Telangana, Shri Naini Narsimha Reddy, Minister of Home, Labour & Employment, Telangana and Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, Former Minister of State for Labour & Employment and Member of Parliament.

Laying the foundation stone Shri Venkaiah Naidu, said, "Setting up of RVTI in Hyderabad is one defining step towards women empowerment. It is the duty of all government bodies including gram panchayat, to do everything possible to empower women in the society. I would like to congratulate and extend my best wishes to Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for such a great job. Through skill development we will not only empower our own country and its industries but also contribute to economies across the world. There is a huge demand for skilled workforce world over and it is the right that we reap our demographic dividend and bridge this demand supply gap. Shri Naidu also said that the country is facing an acute shortage of trainer and teachers and under skill development initiatives, it is a delight to see that the country now had more avenues for training of trainers.

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Shri Dharmendra Pradhan said, "Women training and their empowerment has been one of the priority areas of Government of India. Participation of women in the workforce in our country will certainly lead to the growth of our nation's economy. To ensure this, we have target of setting up one RVTI in each state. MSDE is presently running 17 such Institutes across India."

He further added that "Skill training exclusively for women is being provided through the network of 11 Central Government Institutions and 1408 State Women ITIs and Women Wings in General ITIs. Besides this, 30% of the seats in general ITIs in most of the States are also reserved for Women. It is heartening to see the contribution made by all States, Departments and other entities to skill development in the country. People from Hyderabad support the manpower requirement all over the world. The launch of RVTI Hyderabad is our endeavor to empower the students in this city with more new age skills, so that they could earn a better livelihood along with their due respect,". Shri Pradhan also mentioned that it is under Shri Bandaru Dattatreya's esteemed guidance that we have been able to set this facility in such record time. He thanked the Minister for the huge contribution that he made in setting up of RVTI Hyderabad.

Minister of Home, Labour & Employment, Telangana Shri Naini Narsimha Reddy, said, "Telangana has huge potential in its workforce and skill development will give them the right direction in their careers." Addressing the gathering, Former Minister of State for Labour & Employment and Member of Parliament Shri Bandaru Dattatreya, said, "We are grateful to our Hon. Prime Minister for emphasizing the importance of skill development and allocating required resources for setting of this RVTI in Hyderabad."

The competent authority has approved the expenditure of Rs. 19,95,90,000/- for construction of building for RVTI-Hyderabad. RVTI campus will be spread over approximately four acres of land

with the campus of ATI-Vidyanagar, Hyderabad. Once established in its new permanent building, around 1000 trainees would be trained here every year. This RVTI is expected to cater to the vocational training needs of 480 women annually in regular courses under Craftsmen Training Scheme (CTS) and Craft Instructor's Training Scheme (CITS) and around same number of candidates would be trained under various short term courses in skill areas having a high market demand. The courses identified to be run in this Institute are Fashion Design & Technology, Architectural Assistantship, Cosmetology, Front Office Assistant, Secretarial Practice (English), Food and Beverages Service Assistant.

From the venue of the event, Vice President e-inaugurated and launched training at 5 PMKKs and dedicated these centres to the people of India. Five PMKKs which are e-inaugurated today from Hyderabad are located at Etah (Uttar Pradesh), Phulpur (Uttar Pradesh), Singrauli (Madhya Pradesh), Aligarh (Uttar Pradesh) and Dhar (Madhya Pradesh). During the event, Vice President also handed over Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) certificates and placement certificates to candidates who got placed in different companies. Recognition of Prior Learning recognizes an individual's skills through certification and enhancing their career opportunities.

Under the overall leadership of Prime Minister shri Narendra Modi, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), has pioneered to establish Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) in every district of India.

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## Bird malaria in the Himalayan foothills

Bird or avian malaria caused by parasites *Plasmodium* and *Haemoproteus* is one of the most common and widespread diseases in birds. Avian malaria leads to decrease in reproductive success, anaemia, changes in body condition and even mortality in extreme cases. Mosquitoes transmit *Plasmodium*, while biting midges (*Culicoides* sp.) are responsible for *Haemoproteus* transmission in birds.

Previous studies from the temperate regions have shown that temperature plays an important role in the transmission of the parasites and also regulates the presence of these blood-feeding insect vectors. But a new study by scientists from Indian Institute of Science, (IISc) Bengaluru, and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun, showed that seasonal variation had no influence on prevalence of avian malarial parasites in India. The results were recently published in *Ecology and Evolution*.

Though human malaria follows a seasonal pattern in the Himalayan foothills with peak transmission from July to October, the avian malaria parasites showed no peak and were found to stay in blood throughout the year

### Temperature effects

The team conducted year-round (December 2008 to December 2009) sampling inside WII campus using mist-nets. They collected a small quantity of blood from the resident Himalayan birds before releasing them. A systematic record on avian abundance was also maintained. They also sampled mosquitoes in the same habitat to understand the influence of seasons on mosquito species and their abundance with change in temperature.

Among the 413 birds screened, 153 i.e. 38% (37 *Plasmodium*, 97 *Haemoproteus*, 21 co-infections) showed infection with blood parasite. They examined the relationship between monthly temperature, mosquito abundance and parasite prevalence. Though the mosquito abundance increased with temperature, the *Plasmodium* infection decreased. This could probably be due to a temperature threshold above which the parasite cannot develop into an infective stage inside the mosquito.

### Bimodal patterns

“In U.K., we see a bimodal pattern where the infection peaks during spring and autumn and subsides during winter. In spite of well-defined summer–winter conditions in Dehradun, the mosquito abundance did not vary much between seasons,” explains Dr. Farah Ishtiaq from IISc and first author of the paper. But the composition of mosquito species changed with season — *Culex* mosquito dominated in summer while *Uranotenia* mosquito was prevalent in winter leading to infection throughout the year.

Dehradun is a wintering ground for many high elevation Himalayan birds as well as small European perching birds.

The team sampled migrants to understand parasite prevalence. Molecular analysis on the parasites revealed that most parasites found in resident birds were locally transmitted and not from the migrant birds. This confirmed that there was no exchange of parasite from migrant to resident birds.

“This study [carried out on birds on the Himalayan foothill] provides a basis for furthering our

understanding on the ecology and epidemiology of avian malaria and the spread of disease across the resident high-elevation Himalayan bird communities. These high elevation birds are probably not exposed to parasites throughout the year,” adds Dr. Ishtiaq, commenting on the significance of the work.

A study of nearly 300 people living in different parts of India found that nine single-base variants (single-nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) account

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## Sail Supplies 80 Per Cent Steel for Sardar Sarovar Project

### Sail Supplies 80 Per Cent Steel for Sardar Sarovar Project

Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has supplied 80 per cent steel required for construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi today. Once again partnering in one of the most prestigious and important national projects, SAIL supplied around 85,000 tonnes of steel (TMT) for the entire Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd. (SSNNL) project, which comprises all the canals throughout Gujarat, which are connected to Narmada River and Dam. Sardar Sarovar project is the second largest concrete gravity dam (by volume) and has the world's third largest spillway discharging capacity.

The Sardar Sarovar Dam is a gravity dam built on Narmada river near Navagam, Gujarat, which will benefit four Indian states namely Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. A part of the Narmada Valley Project, it will help in irrigation and electrical power supply. It is a part of a large hydraulic engineering project involving the construction of a series of large irrigation and hydroelectric multi-purpose dams on the Narmada river. One of the 30 dams planned on river Narmada, Sardar Sarovar Dam (SSD) is the largest structure to be built. The project will irrigate more than 18,000 m<sup>2</sup> (190,000 sq ft), most of it in drought prone areas of Kutch and Saurashtra. The total installed capacity of the power facilities is 1,450 MW.

SAIL has been supplying steel for many prestigious projects taken by the Government for fast-paced infrastructure development of the country.

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## Cabinet approves Rationalization/Merger of the Government of India Press (GIPs) and their modernization

### Cabinet approves Rationalization/Merger of the Government of India Press (GIPs) and their modernization

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its for rationalization/merger and modernization of 17 Government of India Presses (GIPs)/Units into 5 Government of India Presses (GIPs) at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Minto Road and Mayapuri, New Delhi; Nashik, Maharashtra and Temple Street, Kolkata, West Bengal.

These 5 Presses will be redeveloped and modernised by monetisation of their surplus land. Land measuring 468.08 acres of the other merged Presses will be given to Land & Development Office, Ministry of Urban Development. Land measuring 56.67 acres of the Government of India Text Books Presses (GITBPs) at Chandigarh, Bhubaneswar and Mysuru will be returned to the respective State Governments.

Modernisation of the Presses will enable them to undertake important confidential, urgent and multi-colour printing work of the Central Government Offices all over the country.

This will be carried out at zero cost to the exchequer and without any retrenchment.

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**Environment Ministry to conduct five rounds of Quiz - 'Prakriti Khoj' across the Country****Environment Ministry to conduct five rounds of Quiz - 'Prakriti Khoj' across the Country**

The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change will hold a quiz on environment - 'Prakriti Khoj' throughout the country. The quiz is planned in five rounds and the qualifying round will begin on September 25, 2017 by paying tribute to Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya on his birth anniversary. The qualifying round will continue till September 29, 2017. The second, third, fourth and fifth rounds will be held subsequently, as per the schedule given below:-

- Second Round: 30th October to 3rd November 2017
- Third round: 20-24, November 2017
- Fourth round: 4-6, December 2017
- Fifth round: 18-20, December 2017

The quiz will be conducted online through multiple-choice questions. Thematic areas like climate change, biodiversity, forest and wildlife, pollution, waste management, rivers and lakes, natural history, international conventions such as Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework - convention on climate change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora etc. have been chosen for the quiz. A separate web portal - [www.ngc.nic.in](http://www.ngc.nic.in) and [www.pkeq.nic.in](http://www.pkeq.nic.in), containing information on the quiz has been developed by the Ministry. The link for first qualifying round will be open for five days from September 25 2017 to September 29, 2017 between 8.00 Am to 6.00 PM. Dates of the quiz will be updated on the Prakriti Khoj portal, as well as Ministry's website.

In this phase, the quiz is open to only students of Eco-clubs (NGC programme of MoEF&CC). The students who are members of Eco-clubs in particular schools are required to send their names for registration through State Nodal Agency. The User Id and password will be provided to the registered students through email on their personal email IDs, as well as on their school IDs.

During the first phase, the Ministry in cooperation with State Nodal Agencies - National Green Corps, State Pollution Control Boards, state government bodies within the Environment departments and State Science Council will implement the quiz programme through online mode. The quiz will be organized in the school premises under the supervision of Principals/Eco-club Coordinators. There will be cash prizes for the winners. All participants will receive an E-certificate of participation duly signed by the Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

This environment awareness initiative - "Prakriti Khoj had been launched on September 5, 2017. It has been launched with an aim to reach out to young, aspiring minds of school students through a fun-filled interactive learning mode for triggering a sense of awareness towards environment protection and conservation. This quiz, in a way, will provide a unique platform for students to measure their awareness levels regarding environmental issues and motivate them to participate in major programmes of the Ministry related to conservation and protection.

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## Curtain raiser on Shri Laxman Madhav Rao Inamdarji

### Curtain raiser on Shri Laxman Madhav Rao Inamdarji

Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar, popularly known as “Vakil Saheb” was born in Khatav, a village 130 kms south of Pune on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1917 in a large joint family having seven brothers (he was third among them) and two sisters. His father Shri Madhav Raoji was a canal Inspector. Madhav Rao had six sisters, out of these six sisters four became widows and moved into their ancestral house along with their children. Shri Madhav Rao had a transferable job and was constantly moving from one place to other, compelling him, to always maintain two establishments to save his family from frequently being uprooted and making adjustments in new locations. He was forced to maintain not only his large family but his four widow sisters and their children within the meagre income he earned. Living in these conditions Vakil Saheb learned the art of caring, sharing and coexistence very early in life. This childhood learning made him a true advocate of teamwork which is the cornerstone of ‘cooperation’.

The ideology he perceived for cooperatives led to the formation of “Sahakar Bharati”. The responsibility for taking the cooperative movement was soldered by Lakshman Rao Inamdar. Embedded with national fervour, a cooperative mindset and sensitivity towards poor, Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar took up the challenge. He could accomplish the task since he was not an individual but an institution in himself. The mantle of furthering the vision and aspirations of the great leaders who helped in its formation is now on Sahakar Bharati.

Sahakar Bharati the dream project of the late Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar came into existence on 11 January 1979 in Mumbai (Maharashtra). Shri Lakshman Rao Inamdar, who was also an advocate by qualification, was always open to new ideas.

It was perhaps the teachings of Shri Rao and lessons in cooperation learnt under his tutelage which must be echoing in the mind of our Hon’ble Prime Minister when he defined his module of development in the words “Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas”.

**Sahkar Bharti Organisation (Vision):** The Co-Operative Movement in our Country should be built up as one of the primary instruments of decentralised and labour –intensive economy, which only will generate speedy and balanced economic growth.

WHEREAS there is a pressing need of the time to make the Co-Operative Movement truly a shield of the weak and the down-trodden and to enlighten the masses about the benefits of the Co-Operative Movement.

WHEREAS with this end in view, it is desirable that by organising Training Camps, Lecture Series, Seminars, Conferences, etc. at regular intervals people at large should be enlightened to organise the Co-Operative Movement comprising of Self-sustaining and Self-reliant Institutions, which are free from external control and political manipulations.

AND WHEREAS with this background, the Sahakar Bharati envisages and endeavors to create a strong and devoted cadre of selfless and dedicated Co-Operators who would be well equipped for spreading the knowledge of the Co-Operative Movement which in the present circumstances can only act as the 'savior' for upliftment of Vanavasis (Tribals), Small farmers, Landless Labourers, Rural Artisans, Jobless Technicians and Consumers from the middle and lower income groups.

**The aims and objective set out by Sahakar Bharati:**

- (i) To enlighten the masses about the benefits of the Co-Operative Movement.
- (ii) To encourage people - at National, State, District, Taluka and Primary levels - to promote, form and run Co-Operatives of various types.
- (iii) To advise and help the existing Co-Operatives to overcome problems and difficulties in their working.
- (iv) To assist Co-Operatives to represent matters relating to promoting forming and their working with the Co-Operative Department, State and Central Governments, R B I and such other Institutions at State and National levels.
- (v) To encourage, undertake, institute research in various fields, especially related to social, economic and Co-Operative sectors.
- (vi) To provide techno-economic services to individuals, institutions and Co-Operatives.
- (vii) To undertake surveys and studies and assist projects to improve socio-economic Conditions in rural and tribal areas.
- (viii) To open branches for the fulfilment of the objectives of the Sahakar Bharati.
- (ix) To do any other thing to help especially the backwards people and areas to improve their Social and Economic conditions through the Co-Operative Movement.

**Activities of Sahkar Bharti:**

- (i) To organise Seminars, Conferences, Meetings, Camps, Sessions, Lectures, etc. to instruct, guide, educate and enlighten the people and all those associated with the Co-Operative Movement.
- (ii) To publish, print, circulate and distribute Papers, Articles, Periodicals, Magazines, Reports, Books, etc. to further the objectives of the Co-Operative Movement.
- (iii) To produce Films, Photographs, Posters, etc. and arrange their exhibition.

- (iv) To establish, Educational and Training Institutions to empower all those associated with Social, Economic and Co-Operative fields, in various disciplines as per their needs.
- (v) To form Cells, Branches, Offices, etc to undertake Projects, Surveys, Studies and Research and to provide techno-economic services.
- (vi) To raise funds in order to help Individuals, Institutions carrying out activities similar to those of the Sahakar Bharati and to carry out various activities of Sahakar Bharati.

**Purpose of the event:**

- To celebrate 100 years of Shri Laxman Madhav Rao Inamdar ji and to laud and reiterate the importance of cooperative movement.
- To release two books proposed by NCUI:
  - (i) On Shri Laxman Rao Inamdar Ji
  - (ii) 9 important leaders of cooperative movement in India.

To recognize the excellent work done by 7 cooperatives in their respective fields by giving certificates and mementoes.

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## Tata Steel set for Europe venture with Thyssenkrupp

Forging ahead: The merged entity would supply about 21 million tonnes of flat steel products worldwide annually. AP

Tata Steel is set to forge ahead with a long-awaited merger of its European assets with Germany's Thyssenkrupp AG after the firms signed a memorandum of understanding to create an equal joint venture.

The move — the path for which had been eased after Tata Steel reached agreement with U.K. authorities to reduce its U.K. pension scheme liabilities — ends months of uncertainty over the fate of a potential transaction and underlines the significance of the development to the two companies as they chart the difficult waters of Europe's steel market, including overcapacity and cheap competition from abroad. The merger, if it goes through, would create Europe's largest steel company after top-ranked ArcelorMittal.

"Today's announcement marks the latest step in building a future for Tata Steel's activities in Europe which is sustainable in every sense," Tata Steel Europe Chairman Andrew Robb said on Wednesday, following the signing of the MoU for the 50:50 venture. To be named Thyssenkrupp Tata Steel, the merged entity would annually supply about 21 million tonnes of flat steel products worldwide.

### Non-cash transaction

The company — created by the non-cash transaction — would generate pro forma sales of about €15 billion a year, with about 48,000 employees across 34 locations. The companies estimate the merger would generate up to €600 million in synergies a year through the integration of research and development, and commercial functions, and optimisation of procurement and logistics.

Tata Steel and Thyssenkrupp anticipate concluding the deal in 2018, and closing it by the end of that year, following a period where further detailed negotiations take place on the shape of the final agreement. The transaction would also be subject to shareholders' approval and the scrutiny of competition authorities.

Production at the joint venture would be subject to review in 2020, generating further synergies, which would be determined by a number of currently indeterminable factors such as Brexit and the regulatory environment at the time.

### Job reductions

For now, up to 2,000 jobs in administration and 2,000 jobs in production are expected to be cut as a result of the deal — split equally between the two companies — though Thyssenkrupp insisted that the cuts would have been necessary even without the deal, and could have been worse.

"By combining our steel activities the burden for each partner are lower than they would have been on a standalone basis," said Heinrich Hiesinger, CEO of ThyssenKrupp, pointing to the pressures on the industry from "structural overcapacity in supply and constantly high import pressure."

He added that the companies had a complementary fit: with Thyssenkrupp's strength in working with original equipment manufacturers and Tata Steel's in its work with industrial customers, while restructuring carried out by both had created some of the most efficient facilities in Europe.

## Cautious welcome

Britain's Unite, GMB and Community Unions cautiously welcomed the MoU. In a joint statement, they said the deal delivered "industrial logic... as always, the devil will be in the detail and we are seeking further assurances on jobs, investment and future production across the UK operations." The unions said they were seeking an urgent meeting with Tata Steel to ensure Thyssenkrupp's pension liabilities would be ring fenced.

European steel makers have been opting for consolidation to combat the persistent challenges facing the industry including overcapacity and pricing, particularly amid competition from China and beyond. Earlier this year, an Arcelor Mittal-led consortium bid for Ilva, a large Italian nationalised steel plant.

The development marks a turnaround from last March when Tata Steel announced it was looking for a buyer for its U.K. steel business. Months later the company confirmed it was in talks with Thyssenkrupp over the merger of assets. In August, Tata Steel U.K. got the go ahead to separate its £15 billion pension scheme from the business, in a deal that cost the company £550 million and a 33% equity stake.

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## A 'Boat Lab' to study Brahmaputra

Harsh Vardhan

Soon, it will be possible to cruise along the Brahmaputra along while doing some serious science.

The Department of Biotechnology will commission a two-tiered barge that will roughly be the size of two large conference rooms and host scientists and a full-fledged lab that will allow those on board to collect samples from various stretches of the river, perform tests on water quality and biodiversity of the wider ecosystem. The proposed vessel, now only known as the Brahmaputra Biodiversity Biology Boat (B4), would also be linked to smaller boats and research labs, said Union Science Minister Harsh Vardhan at a press conference.

The first experiments will likely begin this December and will have the boat — a re-purposed one — trawl Pasighat, Dibrugarh, Neemati, Tejpur and Guwahati in Assam and managed by the Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati. The "B4" will also have a teaching laboratory for school and college children.

Specifying that this wouldn't be just a show boat, officials said there would also be 'mobile labs' that would run along the tributaries of the Brahmaputra to feed in data to the B4.

"For a river of the size and diversity of the Brahmaputra, there is very little research done to understand its hydrology, water quality and biodiversity," said K. Vijay Raghavan, Secretary, Department of Biotechnology. "The idea for it came from a scientist who's of Chinese and Indian-origin and based in Shillong."

### 'A few precedents'

He added that a boat of this nature would be one of its kind in the world though there were a few precedents in China and mobile laboratories that studied the Amazon river.

He didn't specify a budget for the boat but said the government aimed to spend Rs. 200 crore across a range of programmes.

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**M/o Railways Commission 2<sup>nd</sup> Vistadome Coach Funded by M/o Tourism**

**M/o Railways Commission 2<sup>nd</sup> Vistadome Coach Funded by M/o Tourism**

The Ministry of Railways has commissioned the second Vistadome Coach, funded by the Ministry of Tourism, on the Jan Shatabdi Express plying on the scenic Mumbai-Goa Route, to provide a panoramic view of the picturesque Western Ghats.

The Vistadome Coach boasts of a glass roof which has electrically controlled opalescence, that is, it can be made transparent or opaque at the turn of a switch. Passengers wanting a better view can head for a special observation deck. All seats are rotatable by 360o and are pushback chairs. The coaches are fitted with automatic sliding compartment doors, multiple TV screens and wider body side door.

Ministry of Tourism provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs.12 Crore @ Rs.4 crore per coach to Ministry of Railways for the manufacture of three glass top coaches, for developing rail tourism in the country. The first Vistadome Coach was commissioned by the Ministry of Railways on the Vishakhapatnam – Araku Valley Route in April, 2017 and is attracting a large number of tourists.

**Sanjay Kumar/jk/Tourism/**

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## Prime Minister dedicates Deendayal Hastkala Sankul to the Nation

### Prime Minister dedicates Deendayal Hastkala Sankul to the Nation

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, today dedicated to the nation, the Deendayal Hastkala Sankul – a trade facilitation centre for handicrafts – at Varanasi. The Prime Minister had laid the foundation stone of this Centre in November 2014. Today, he visited the Centre, and was given an overview of the facilities developed there, before arriving on the dais for the dedication.

He described the Trade Facilitation Centre as one of the biggest projects for Varanasi for a long time. He said this Centre would help the artisans and weavers showcase their skills to the world, and facilitate a brighter future for them. He asked the people to encourage all tourists to visit this Centre. He said this would result in increased demand of handicrafts, and also boost the tourism potential of Varanasi, and indeed the economy of the city.

The Prime Minister said the solution to all problems is through development. He said the Government is focused on bringing about positive change in the lives of the poor and of succeeding generations. In this context, he praised the efforts of Utkarsh Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Textiles Minister Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani said that the Ministry of Textiles is fortunate that the Rs. 300 crore Deendayal Hastkala Sankul has been dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister, on the auspicious occasion of Nav Durga. The Minister recalled that the foundation stone of the Sankul was laid by the PM on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 and that the first phase was inaugurated by the PM on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016. She said that the dedication of the Sankul today is a demonstration of the leadership of the Prime Minister. She said that it will help increase the earnings of weavers and artisans, and help better showcase their products to the world.

The Textiles Minister said that Government wants every member of the families of weavers and artisans to be able to fulfil their dream of acquiring good education. She informed that towards this, the Ministry of Textiles has entered into MoUs with Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) and National Institute of Open Schooling (NIOS), whereby children of weavers and artisans are able to avail school and university education, with 75% of fees being borne by the Government of India.

Speaking about the success of the MUDRA scheme, the Minister said that beneficiaries receive security-free loans ranging from 50,000 rupees to 10 lakh rupees under the scheme. She said that more than 33,000 weavers have benefited by MUDRA scheme, receiving loans worth more than 170 crore rupees. She added that weavers receiving MUDRA loans have been able to increase their income by more than 50% within just two months. The Minister said that the Government will reach out to artisans across the country, in order to provide them benefits of MUDRA loans and other facilities.

The Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Ram Naik; the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath; and Minister of State, Textiles, Shri Ajay Tamta were other dignitaries present on the occasion.

### A Brief on Deendayal Hastkala Sankul

The Finance Minister in the Budget 2014-15 had announced setting up of a Trade Facilitation Centre and a Crafts Museum to develop and promote handlooms, handicrafts and silk products of Varanasi and to provide necessary help to weavers, artisans and entrepreneurs of Varanasi in strengthening their marketing activities in domestic as well as international markets and in carrying forward the rich tradition of handlooms at Varanasi.

A Trade Facilitation Centre is an indispensable step to help weavers/artisans of Varanasi to integrate into the global economy. There is a need for trade facilitation and advisory services to provide support for compliance with trade procedures, formalities and legal and regulatory requirements; this is needed to make entrepreneurs aware of new rules, regulations, thereby facilitating their import/export activities and enhancing their competitiveness. There is also a need to showcase the rich tradition of Varanasi through museum, live demonstration and audio visual medium to domestic and international tourists.

The Sankul will facilitate the weavers/artisans/exporters in promotion of handlooms/handicrafts in both domestic and international markets. The Crafts Museum in the Sankul will preserve the traditional handloom/handicrafts products of Varanasi and showcase the handloom & handicraft products, which will be an inspiration for the new generation, scholars, designers and tourists.

The project spans 7.93 acres, with a built-up area of 43,450 square metres. The approximate cost of the complex is 300 crore rupees.

The Prime Minister had laid foundation stone of Trade Facilitation Centre and a Crafts Museum on 7<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 at Bada Lalpur, Varanasi. The first phase of the project, consisting of Crafts Museum, Entrance Plaza and Shopping Arcade was inaugurated by the Prime Minister on 22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2016.

The project is strategically located near the upcoming bypass between NH-29 (Varanasi - Gorakhpur Road) and NH-56 (Varanasi - Sultanpur Road) which shall reduce travel time to Sankul from Varanasi airport to 30 minutes and from Sarnath to Sankul to 20 minutes. The location of the site also allows its connectivity to all prominent locations within Varanasi and Sarnath. The location is expected to be the new growth corridor of development.

The complex is equipped with automated Building Management Systems (BMS), central air conditioning and ventilation systems, power backup, fire protection and public address systems, lifts/escalators for ease of public movement on all levels and centrally monitored CCTV system for safety and security.

The project consists of five blocks: Marts-cum-Office, Convention hall-cum-Exhibition, Food court-cum-Guest House, Shopping Arcade and Crafts Museum. It has double-basement parking facilities with parking capacity of around 370 cars and 430 two-wheelers.

[View the story "Prime Minister dedicates Deendayal Hastkala Sankul to the Nation" on Storify](#)

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## What is Nanny state in Political Science?

A term that refers to any government that intervenes excessively in the daily lives of its citizens. The term is attributed to British Conservative politician, Iain Macleod, who used it in a derogatory sense to criticise government intervention in people's lives. It is usually used to refer to governments that engage in heavy taxation and regulation of the economy. A nanny state's supporters believe it can improve the lives of citizens through careful policies, while its critics believe that its policies are not aimed at enhancing the welfare of citizens but instead enriching the lives of the political class with an ulterior agenda.

The new U.S. Fed Chairman is unlikely to opt for policies that might upset the President's plan

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**Government celebrates 'Bharat ke Kaushalzaade' on the eve of Antyodaya Diwas****Government celebrates 'Bharat ke Kaushalzaade' on the eve of Antyodaya Diwas****An event honouring beneficiaries of its key skilling programmes**

Rural Skills Division, Ministry of Rural Development has organized '*Bharat ke Kaushalzaade*', an event honouring beneficiaries of its key skilling programmes, on the eve of *Antyodaya Diwas* 2017. Staying true to the spirit of Antyodaya Mission, which lies in 'reaching out to the last person, the event, was graced by almost 800 plus candidates and alumni to celebrate and honour beneficiaries from both of MoRD's flagship skill development programmes i.e. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) and Rural Self Employment Training Institutes (RSETI).

The event was significant as it was on this day 3 years ago that the Ministry of Rural Development announced DDU-GKY with a focus on building capacity of rural youth to address the needs of domestic and global skills requirements. Additionally, MoRD has re-energized RSETI through alignment with Common Norms for skills development schemes. And through sustained efforts and focus on both programmes, the Ministry has successfully skilled 5.05 lakh rural candidates under DDU-GKY and has also been conducting skilling for self-employment through RSETI with a total of 14.09 lakhs candidate skilled and 9.70 lakhs candidates settled till date.

DDU-GKY not only offers industry relevant skill training to candidates, it also works closely with industry and leading corporates to strengthen the post-training employment scenario for its trainees. A result of this is sustained and fruitful corporate linkages pan-India, with leading names like Pizza Hut, KFC, OCIFIT, Safe Express, Matrix to name a few, whose employees i.e. DDU-GKY alumni participated at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Guest, Minister of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj and Mines, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar said that, if India had adopted the skilling mission soon after it got independence, the problem of unemployment would not have achieved such a dimension as it is today. But, he lauded the vision of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to create a new Ministry of Skill Development after it came to power in 2014 and expressed the hope that in coming years more and more youth will be provided training for gainful employment through various skilling missions. He also exhorted the youth present on the occasion to encourage and make aware the rural youth and fellow friends to register on Kaushal Panjee launched at the event from 1<sup>st</sup> to

15<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017 for getting quality training and jobs.

In his address, the Minister of State for Rural Development Shri Ram Kripal Yadav said that it is a matter of great pride that after getting training through RSETIs and DDU-GKY, the youth are getting monthly income of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 30,000. He said that quality training imparted at these institutes will make them stand not only at Indian job market, but they can also make a mark in foreign countries.

The event also witnessed the mobilization platform launch, branded '*Kaushal Panjee*' (Skill Register). It aims to be citizen centric end-to-end solution to aid mobilization of candidates for RSETIs and DDU-GKY. It facilitates mobilization of candidates through Self Help Group members, Gram Panchayat Functionaries, Block Officials, CSCs and directly by the candidate. RSETIs and DDU-GKY Partners can access the Kaushal Panjee to connect with the mobilized rural youth. Kaushal Panjee is connected to the Social Economic Caste Census (SECC 2011) which will help the States plan and target their mobilizations based on the socio-economic profile of households in their State.

Another highlight of the event is the re-branding exercise undertaken by MoRD for Rural Self Employment Training Institutes, wherein a new logo for RSETI was unveiled. The logo, depicting 'reaching for the stars' aims to portray the RSETI beneficiaries and their achievements.

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## Cabinet approves Enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years

### Cabinet approves Enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the enhancement of age of superannuation of doctors other than Central Health Service (CHS) doctors to 65 years in the following manner:

- i. Ex-post facto approval to enhance the superannuation age of doctors of Indian Railways Medical Service to 65 years.
- ii. Ex-post facto approval to enhance the superannuation age to 65 years for doctors working in Central Universities and IITs (Autonomous Bodies) under Department of Higher Education and doctors in Major Port Trusts (Autonomous Bodies) under Ministry of Shipping.
- iii. The superannuation age has been enhanced to 65 years in respect of doctors under their administrative control of the respective Ministries/Departments [M/o of AYUSH (AYUSH Doctors), Department of Defence (civilian doctors under Directorate General of Armed Forces Medical Service), Department of Defence Production (Indian Ordnance Factories Health Service Medical Officers), Dental Doctors under D/o Health & Family Welfare, Dental doctors under Ministry of Railways and of doctors working in Higher Education and Technical Institutions under Department of Higher Education].
- iv. The Union Cabinet has further approved that doctors shall hold the administrative posts till the date of attaining the age of 62 years and thereafter their services shall be placed in Non-Administrative positions.

The decision would help in better patient care, proper academic activities in Medical colleges as also in effective implementation of National Health Programmes for delivery of health care services.

Around 1445 doctors of various Ministries/Departments of the Central Government would be benefitted.

The decision will not have much financial implications as large number of posts are lying vacant and the present incumbents would continue to work in their existing capacity against sanctioned posts.

#### Background :

- The age of superannuation of doctors of Central Health Service was enhanced to 65 years w.e.f 31st May, 2016.
- The doctors other than Central Health Service including doctors of other systems of Medicine of Central Government requested for enhancement of age of superannuation on the ground of parity with CHS and shortage.

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## Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha to launch the first ever India Mobile Congress 2017

### Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha to launch the first ever India Mobile Congress 2017

#### More than 100 leading global companies to participate

The Minister of Communication Shri Manoj Sinha today announced DoT's first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event in India - **India Mobile Congress 2017**, which is beginning from tomorrow, 27<sup>th</sup> September till 29<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

Led by Department of Telecom as the nodal ministry, the India Mobile Congress is being organised by Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI), the industry association of mobile and telecom operators and internet companies will be a congregation to display, discuss, unveil, imbibe, educate and recognise the importance of the global and Indian telecommunications, mobile, internet, connectivity and digital services sector to the world.

The largest and first ever event also has the support of the other ministries like the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Skill Development and Entrepreneurship amongst others and will see participation from senior government representatives from the centres as well as various states. This is a true example of a public-private collaboration where the government and the industry have put together a world class event in India to further the Prime Minister's vision of a fully connected and digitally empowered India.

Terming it as a grand event of the Indian telecom industry, Shri Sinha said, "We are proud to say that our country is now hosting its own first ever Mobile, Internet and Technology event, The India Mobile Congress. We are hopeful that this will be a huge platform for mobile and internet technology sector in the sub-continent. We are expecting a convergence of various thoughts, ideas and views from all corners and involvement of key stakeholders and the government will make this event a huge success.

The Ministry has been making concerted efforts to bring affordable and universal access to all of India's 1.32 Billion population and creating success stories in India for the world to emulate. This is a true celebration of Digital India."

Mr. Rajan Mathews, DG COAI said, "We are truly thankful to the Telecom Minister, Shri Manoj Sinha for his unstinting support, guidance and leadership for translating this vision into a reality. We are truly grateful to the Government of India for their support and creating a facilitative environment for the industry. The India Mobile Congress will be the marquee event of the country. We are sure that the deliberations will inform global policy and over the years, all stakeholders will look forward to this event for launches and releases of new technologies. Officials and senior decision makers from both the Government as well as the industry will be present and tech companies will be displaying the best that this ecosystem has to offer."

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## C.N.R Rao chosen for international honour for materials research

Eminent scientist, Professor C.N.R Rao, has become the first Asian to be chosen for the prestigious Von Hippel Award for his immense contribution in materials research.

The award is the US-based Materials Research Society's (MRS) highest honour.

It recognises "those qualities most prized by materials scientists and engineers - brilliance and originality of intellect, combined with vision that transcends the boundaries of conventional scientific disciplines," according to the MRS.

The award citation noted Mr. Rao's immense work on novel functional materials, including nanomaterials (having particles of nanoscale dimensions), graphene (the strongest and thinnest material) and 2D materials, superconductivity, and colossal magnetoresistance (change in electrical resistance of a material in a magnetic field).

The award will be presented in Boston on November 29, during an MRS meeting, according to a release issued by the Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research here of which Mr. Rao, a Bharat Ratna awardee, is the founder president.

The award includes a cash prize, trophy and a diploma.

A study of nearly 300 people living in different parts of India found that nine single-base variants (single-nucleotide polymorphisms or SNPs) account

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