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1. 6 million tonnes of sugar export allowed by the government till May 23 (Nov. 6, 2022)

The government of India has allowed the export of **6 million tonnes** of sugar till **31st May 2023** in the 2022-23 sugar season .The sugar season in India is from October to September. In the 2021-22 sugar season the government has allowed the export of **10 million tonnes of sugar**. The notification was issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) under the Union ministry of Commerce and Industry on 5 November 2022.

On 29 October 2022 the government of India had extended the ban on the [export of sugar](#) till the 2022-23 season so as to check the price of the sugar in the domestic market. Also it kept sugar in the restrictive list meaning that it can be exported only with the permission of the government of India.

In the latest order the government has allowed the export of 6 million tonnes of sugar and has also allocated export quotas for various sugar mills.

With an expected bumper sugar production of 41 million tonnes in the current season the government has allowed the export of sugar in the current season.

India is the **largest producer and consumer** of sugar in the world and **second largest** exporter of sugar in the world after Brazil.

2. Currency in circulation declines for the first time in 20 Year during Diwali week: SBI Ecwrap (Nov. 4, 2022)

Currency in circulation declines

State Bank of India (SBI) in its latest research report **Ecwrap** published on 3 November 2022 has said that the currency in circulation declined by Rs 7,600 crore in the Diwali week this year. This was for the first time in the last **20 years** that the cash circulation has come down during Diwali festival season where there is generally a spike in discretionary spending.

However in 2009 there was a decline of Rs 950 crore but it was due to the economic slowdown in the country due to the global financial crisis. It was not considered by the report as it was an unusual occurrence.

Reason for the decline of the cash circulation

According to the report the main reason for the decline in cash circulation was the change in the Indian payment system from a cash led to smartphone led payment economy.

The innovation in fintech has led to development of interoperable payments systems like Unified Payment Interface (UPI), Wallets & Prepaid Instruments have made it simple and cheaper to transfer money digitally, even for those who don't have bank accounts.

The report always gives credit to the government initiative to push digital payment systems instead of cash.

Future projections

According to the report there has been a progressive decline in the share of currency in circulation in the country and rise in the share of digital payments.

The share of the currency in circulation in the payment system was 88% in 2015-16 which declined **to 20%** in 2021-22.

It is estimated to go down further to 11.15% in 2026-27.

Consequently, the digital transactions share is continuously increasing from 11.26% in 2015-16 to **80.4%** in 2021-22 and is expected to touch 88% in 2026-27

What is currency in circulation?

The currency in circulation represents the banknotes and coins in circulation, held by the general public and financial institutions, recorded at the face value.

Banknotes are the currency notes that are issued by the Reserve Bank of India. **One Rupee notes and Coins are issued by the Government of India.**

However not all the notes and coins issued are in circulation.

Some of the banknotes and coins are not in circulation like currency notes and coins held in the vault of the RBI, Banks have to maintain Cash Reserve Ratio requirements where currency is blocked etc.

3. CBDT unveils single ITR form for all taxpayers (Nov. 4, 2022)

CBDT unveils single ITR form for all taxpayers

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** on 1 November has proposed a single **income tax return (ITR)** form for all taxpayers.

Important facts

- All taxpayers, except trusts and non-profit organisations, can file returns with the proposed new common ITR form, on which the CBDT has invited stakeholder comments by 15 December.
- Currently, taxpayers are required to furnish their income tax returns in **ITR-1 to ITR-7**, depending on the category.

What is Income Tax Return (ITR)?

- ITR is a form which a person is supposed to submit to the Income Tax Department of India.
- It contains information about the income of the individual during the year and the taxes to be paid on it.

Kinds of ITR forms

- There are **seven types of ITR forms**, which are used by different categories of taxpayers.
- 1. **ITR Form 1** - ALSO called 'Sahaj', is for small and medium taxpayers. Sahaj forms can be filed by individuals who have an income up to Rs 50 lakh, with earnings from salary, one house property/ other sources (interest etc).
- 2. **ITR-2** - It is filed by people with income from residential property.
- 3. **ITR-3** - It is intended for people who have income as profits from business/ profession.
- 4. **ITR-4 (Sugam)** - It is, like ITR-1 (Sahaj), a simple form, and can be filed by individuals, Hindu Undivided Families (HUFs) and firms with total income up to Rs 50 lakh from businesses and professions.
- 5. **ITR-5 and 6** - These are for limited liability partnerships (LLPs) and businesses respectively.
- 6. **ITR-7** - It is filed by trusts and non-profit organisations.

The changes that has been proposed

- As per the proposal, all taxpayers, **except trusts and non-profit organisations (ITR-7)**, will use a single ITR form, which will include a separate head for disclosure of income from virtual digital assets.
- The current ITR-1 and ITR-4 will continue.
- The purpose of the draft form is to make return filing easier, and save the time of individuals and non-business-type taxpayers.

4. Bank of England makes biggest interest rate hike in 33 years to cool rampant inflation (Nov. 4, 2022)

The central bank of the United Kingdom, **Bank of England** (BoE) raised its interest rates by the most since 1989 on 3 November 2022. It joins the US Federal Reserve and other central banks worldwide in rapid hikes as it tries to beat back high inflation fuelled by the conflict between Russia and Ukraine.

The BoE increased the Bank Rate to 3% from 2.25% and warned that the British economy might not grow for another two years.

The BoE Governor **Andrew Bailey** said that "High energy, food and other bills are hitting people hard. Households have less to spend on other things. This has meant that the size of the UK economy has started to fall,"

The BoE said it now expects inflation will hit a 40-year high of around 11% during the current quarter, more than five times its 2% target. But it also thinks the economy has entered a recession.

When there is a negative growth in the economy for the two consecutive quarters then the economy is in **recession**.

Problem of Gas in Europe

Europe has been particularly hard hit by a jump in natural gas prices as Russia responded to Western sanctions and support for Ukraine by curtailing shipments of the fuel used to heat homes, generate electricity and power industry and European nations competed for alternative supplies on global markets.

Important Central Banks in the world

Country	Central Bank	Central Bank Head
India	Reserve Bank of India	Shaktikanta Das
United States of America	Federal Reserve	Jerome Powel
Japan	Bank of Japan	Haruhiko Kuroda
China	People's Bank of China	Yi Gang
United Kingdom	Bank of England	Andrew Bailey
European Euro Zone	European Central Bank	Christine Lagarde

European Central Bank (ECB)

It is the Central Bank of the 19 European Union countries which have adopted Euro as their common currency.

Member countries of Eurozone: **Belgium, Germany, Spain, France, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Austria, Portugal and Finland, Slovenia , Cyprus, Malta, Slovakia, Estonia , Latvia, Lithuania.**

5. India tops list of countries with cheapest manufacturing costs (Nov. 4, 2022)

cheapest manufacturing costs

According to a report published by the **US News and World Report**, India has been ranked as the country with the cheapest manufacturing cost, far ahead of China and Vietnam. The report was compiled on the survey conducted by the US media company amongst 85 countries.

The report evaluates 85 countries on 73 attributes. The attributes are grouped into 10 sub categories like adventure, agility, and entrepreneurship, open for business, social purpose and quality of life.

Performance of India

On a scale of 100, India has scored **cent percent** when it comes to cheap **manufacturing costs**.

According to the report India has an overall score of 37 out of 100 in the 'Open for Business' category.

However India has scored low on certain attributes. India has scored low 16.2/100 when it comes to 'favourable tax environment', 18.1/100 in the 'not corrupt' sub-category and 3.5 in 'transparent government policies'.

The report comes at a time when the Modi government is attempting to make India a hub of global manufacturing. The 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' was launched by the government months after the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, is aimed at boosting the country's production capacity by attracting foreign players.

Best Country Ranking

In the overall Best country ranking, **Switzerland** has topped the chart, followed by Germany, Canada, US and Sweden.

India has been ranked **31st** in the best country ranking amongst 85 countries.

6. Vadodara becomes the second city to successfully issue municipal bonds with assistance from US Treasury (Nov. 3, 2022)

Vadodara

Vadodara city of Gujarat became the second city in India to successfully issue its municipal bonds with the assistance of the US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance.

Earlier **Pune** was the first city in India to issue Municipal bonds in 2017 with the assistance of US Treasury Department's Office of Technical Assistance, Finance Ministry in the United States of America is known as Treasury department.

The successful issuance of the bond was celebrated by the US Embassy and the US Treasury officials, the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Vadodara city and the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 3 November 2022.

The **Rs 100 crore fund** raised by the bond will be used for infrastructure development in Vadodara.

What is a Municipal Bond?

Municipal Bonds also known as **Muni bonds**. It is a debt instrument which is issued by Urban Local Bodies in India. The fund is used to develop Infrastructure developments in the municipal areas.

The first Municipal bonds were issued in **1997 by the Bangalore Municipal Corporation**.

SEBI guidelines on Municipal bonds

The municipality which meets the following criteria can issue municipal bonds:

- The municipality must not have a negative net worth in each of the three previous years.
- The municipality must have no default history in repayment of loans to financial institutions in the last year.
- The municipality, promoter and directors must not be enlisted in the wilful defaulters published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- The municipality should have no record of default in the payment of interest and repayment of principal with respect to debt instruments.

Other features of the Bond

The time period of the bonds shall be **3 years**.

The bonds must be rated by Credit Rating agencies with a rating above investment grade.

7. India Post Payment Bank launches India's first Floating Financial Literacy Camp in Srinagar (Nov. 3, 2022)

India Post Payment Bank

The Government of India owned India Post Payment Bank (IPPB) launched India's first floating financial literacy camp around the world-famous Dal Lake of **Srinagar**, Jammu and Kashmir. The financial literacy camp was organised under the **Niveshak Didi** or **female Dakiya** initiative of the IPPB.

Niveshak Didi scheme

Niveshak Didi " or female dakiya, is a joint initiative of [**Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority \(IEPFA\)**](#), Ministry of Corporate Affairs with **India Post Payment Bank**.

The aim of the scheme is to promote financial and investor education amongst the women.

Trained women agents of the IPPB educate the general female population to develop adequate knowledge, skills, attitude and behaviour which are needed to manage their money better and plan for their future. This is also called as **Financial Literacy**.

Objectives of Financial Literacy

To promote and strengthen financial inclusion in India, government of India and the four financial sector regulators Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Securities Exchange Board of India (SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) have launched National Strategy for Financial Education.

Currently the **2nd National Strategy for Financial Education (2020-2025)** is being implemented in India. It has laid down the following objective to create a financially aware and empowered India:

- Inculcate financial literacy concepts among the various sections of the population through financial education to make it an important life skill
- Encourage active savings behaviour
- Encourage participation in financial markets to meet financial goals and objectives

- Develop credit discipline and encourage availing credit from formal financial institutions as per requirement
- Improve usage of digital financial services in a safe and secure manner
- Manage risk at various life stages through relevant and suitable insurance cover
- Plan for old age and retirement through coverage of suitable pension products
- Knowledge about rights, duties and avenues for grievance redressal
- Improve research and evaluation methods to assess progress in financial education

India Post Payment Bank (IPPB)

It is a payment bank which has been promoted by the Department of Post under the Ministry of Communication, Government of India .

IPPB was launched as a pilot project on 30 January 2017 in Ranchi (Jharkhand) and Raipur (Chhattisgarh).

It was formally launched on 1 September 2018 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The Headquarter of IPPB : **New Delhi**

Punchline of the bank : **Apka Bank Apke Dwar**

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer : J. Venkatramu

8. Union Cabinet approves naming Hollongi Airport as Donyi Polo Airport (Nov. 2, 2022)

Donyi Polo Airport.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 2 November approved naming of **greenfield airport at Hollongi, Itanagar, as 'Donyi Polo** Airport.

Important facts

- A resolution was passed by the state government of Arunachal Pradesh to name this airport '**Donny Polo Airport, Itanagar**'.
- The '**Doni Polo**' reflects the people's respect for the **Sun (Doni)** and the **Moon (Polo)**, symbols of the state's traditions and rich cultural heritage.
- The Government of India had given 'in-principle' approval for the development of Hollongi Greenfield Airport in **January 2019**.
- The project is being developed by the **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** in collaboration with the Central Government and the State Government of Arunachal Pradesh at a cost of **Rs 646 crore**.
- Hollongi Airport is the **third airport** in the state and the only airport in the capital city after Pasighat and Tezu airports.
- Doni Polo Airport in Itanagar is the **16th airport in Northeast India**.

Operational airports in the north-eastern region

- Guwahati, Silchar, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Lilabari, and Rupsi (Assam); Pasighat and Tezu (Arunachal Pradesh); Agartala (Tripura); Imphal (Manipur); Shillong (Meghalaya); Dimapur (Nagaland); Lengpui (Mizoram) and Pakyong (Sikkim).

9. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurates the FIBAC 2022 (Nov. 2, 2022)

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das

Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das inaugurated one of the largest annual banking conferences of Asia, FIBAC 2022 in **Mumbai** on 2 November 2022.

The FIBAC 2022 has been organized by [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry](#) (FICCI) and [Indian Banks' Association](#) (IBA) on 2nd and 3rd of November 2022 at Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Theme of the Conference: '**Helping India step change its growth: How tech enabled banking can contribute to realization of \$5 trillion economy goal**'.

Speaking on occasion the governor said that the e-rupee launch on 1 November 2022 was a landmark moment in the history of currency in the country as it will transform the way business is done and transactions are conducted.

He added that the central bank hopes to launch digitized [Kisan Credit Card](#) loans in a full-fledged manner by the calendar year 2023.

Indian Bank Association is an association of Banks and Financial institutions in India which was set up in 1946.

10. Invest Karnataka - 2022 Summit (Nov. 2, 2022)

Invest Karnataka

The Prime Minister, **Narendra Modi**, addressed the inaugural function of the **Global Investors Meet Invest Karnataka 2022** through video conferencing on November 2, 2022.

Important facts

- More than 80 speakers will present their views in the three-day event to be held in **Bengaluru from November 2-4**.
- The key **themes** to be addressed during the event will be related to **innovation, sustainability, equity and resilience**.
- Speakers include some top industry leaders including **Kumar Mangalam Birla, Sajjan Jindal, Vikram Kirloskar** among others.
- **The aim of the Summit** is to attract potential investors and establish a growth agenda for the next decade.
- The sessions of the conference will be hosted separately by **Germany, Netherlands, South Korea, Japan and Australia** who are in India along with high level ministerial and industrial delegations from their respective countries.

- The global scale of the event will give Karnataka an opportunity to showcase its culture to
- the world as well.