

Daily News Analysis

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NEWS





Govt issues guidelines to undertake pilot projects for using Green Hydrogen in transport sector

- The government issued scheme guidelines to support pilot projects based on the use of green hydrogen as fuel in buses, trucks and four-wheelers.
- The scheme will be implemented with a total budgetary outlay of Rs 496 crore till the financial year 2025-26.
- With the falling costs of renewable energy and electrolysers, it is expected that vehicles based on green hydrogen can become cost-competitive over the next few years.
- Future economies of scale and rapid technological advancements in the field of vehicles powered by hydrogen are likely to further improve the viability of transport based on green hydrogen.
- Considering this, under the National Green Hydrogen Mission, along with other initiatives, the MNRE will implement pilot projects for replacing fossil fuels in the transport sector with Green Hydrogen and its derivatives.
- These pilot projects will be implemented through the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and scheme implementing agencies (SIAs) nominated under the scheme.
- It will support the development of technologies for the use of green hydrogen as a fuel in buses, trucks and four-wheelers, based on fuel cell-based propulsion technology / internal combustion engine-based propulsion technology.
- **Q.** The guidelines issued by the government to support pilot projects based on the use of green hydrogen as fuel in buses, trucks and four-wheelers will be implemented by the financial year 2025-26 with a total budgetary outlay of . **Rs 496 crore**















Union Minister Sonowal inaugurates newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterways Transport terminal in Bihar

- Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the Kalughat Inland Water Transport (IWT) Terminal and two community jetties in Bihar and said the projects will usher in all-round economic prosperity to the riverine community of of the state.
- The IWT terminal constructed at Rs 82.48 crore will enhance capacity of 77,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU) annually.
- Kalughat, strategically located on the north bank of the River Ganga in Bihar's Saran District, emerges as a vital nexus in the region's transportation network.
- The terminal will have direct road connectivity with NH-19 and is at a critical location for the transportation of cargo originating or destined for the hinterland of North Bihar.
- As a part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project, IWAI initiated the development of the IWT ecosystem for NW-1 through the construction of Multimodal Terminals (MMTs) and Intermodal Terminals (IMTs) for cargo handling.
- As part of the comprehensive Maritime India Vision (MIV)-2030, the government has outlined ambitious plans to elevate the share of Inland Water Transport (IWT) to 5 percent.
- The Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 aims to operationalise 50 waterways by 2047, facilitating efficient transportation networks nationwide.
- Q. In which state, Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal has inaugurated the newly constructed Kalughat Inland Waterway Transport Terminal? Bihar















Tripura CM launches Rs 5 lakh health insurance scheme

- Tripura Chief Minister Manik Saha launched a universal health insurance scheme under which 4.15 lakh families in the northeastern state will get an insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh.
- Under the Chief Minister's Jan Arogya Yojana (CM-JAY) 4.15 lakh families including government employees who are not covered under PM-JAY will get the benefit of health insurance coverage of Rs 5 lakh each.
- Under the scheme, each enrolled family will get health insurance of Rs 5 lakh annually
- The scheme is designed in such a way that the patient's family will get free medicine for 15 days even after discharge from government or private hospitals and the entire process will be cashless.
- Tripura is the first northeastern state to have introduced universal health insurance coverage for all.

Tripura:

Capital: Agartala

Governor: Indrasena Reddy

Chief minister: Manik Saha

Q. How much amount of insurance coverage will available to 4.15 lakh families of the north-eastern state under a universal health insurance scheme launched by Tripura? Rs 5 lakh















Central banks of India, Nepal sign agreement to link UPI-NPI

- State-owned Central banks of India and Nepal signed terms of reference for the integration of the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Payments Interface (NPI).
- The integration is aimed at facilitating cross-border remittances between India and Nepal by enabling users of the two systems to make instant, low-cost fund transfers
- The collaboration between India and Nepal in linking their fast payment systems through the UPI-NPI linkage will further deepen financial connectivity and reinforce the enduring historical, cultural, and economic ties between the two countries.
- Based on the terms of reference exchanged between the RBI and NRB, the necessary systems will be put in place for the interlinking of UPI and Nepal's NPI.

Nepal:

Capital: Kathmandu

President: Ram Chandra Poudel

Vice President: Ram Sahaya Yadav

Prime Minister: Pushpa Kamal Dahal

Currency: Nepalese rupee

Q. India and which country's state-owned central banks have signed the terms of reference for the integration of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and National Payments Interface (NPI)? Nepal















PayU partners with NPCI to offer credit line on UPI for merchants

- payments solution company PayU announced acceptance of 'Credit Lines on UPI' feature on its platform, in collaboration with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The integration enables PayU's merchants to accept digital payments via credit line.
- To further embed innovation in this integration and empower merchants, whether small or big, with valuable digital payments insights, PayU will be sharing information about the relevant identifiers related to the type of credit the consumer has undertaken, such as pay-later, personal loans, etc, according to the company.
- Merchants can leverage this information to form growth strategies and create relevant, customized products for better customer experience.
- PayU currently offers over 100 local digital payment methods, data insight solutions, and affordability solutions across offline and online channels to help over 5 lakh merchants in India. In 2017, the company had entered the consumer credit segment with the development of LazyPay, an alternate lending platform which offers credit solutions at point-of-sale.
- In August last year, PayU had reached an agreement with Rapyd, a fintech-as-a-service provider, to sell its Global Payments Organisation (GPO) for a total cash consideration of \$610 million to enable PayU to focus on the large payments and fintech opportunity in India.
- Q. Which online payment solutions company has recently announced to accept 'Credit Lines on UPI' facility on its platform, in collaboration with NPCI? PayU















'Udaan' Actor Kavita Chaudhary passes away at 67

- Kavita Chaudhary, famous for her portrayal of an IPS officer in the popular TV series 'Udaan' from 1989 and her role as Lalita-ji in iconic Surf advertisements of the '90s, has passed away due to cardiac arrest at Parvati Devi Hospital in Amritsar.
- Kavita rose to fame after appearing in numerous television shows on Doordarshan during the 1980s and 1990s. Her notable works include roles in shows like "Your Honour," "Apradhi Kaun!," and "IPS Diaries."
- Chaudhary gained widespread recognition for her role as IPS officer Kalyani Singh in "Udaan," a groundbreaking television series on women empowerment aired on Doordarshan from 1989 to 1991. Not only did she star in the series, but she also wrote and directed it, drawing inspiration from the life of her elder sister and police officer, Kanchan Chaudhary Bhattacharya.
- Q. Name the actress, who known for her portrayal of an IPS officer in the popular TV series 'Udaan', passed away recently? Kavita Chaudhary















NHAI omits Paytm from list of authorised banks for FASTag service

- The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has removed Paytm Payments Bank Ltd (PPBL) from its list of 30 authorised banks for FASTag service as the company faces regulatory action over alleged violation of rules.
- The banks the NHAI has listed for FASTag services include Airtel Payments Bank, Allahabad Bank, AU Small Finance Bank, Axis Bank, Bank of Baroda, Bank of Maharastra, Canara Bank, Central Bank of India, City Union Bank, Cosmos Bank, Equitias Small Finance Bank and Federal Bank.
- It also features Fino Payments Bank, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank, IDBI bank, Idfc first Bank, Indian bank, IndusInd bank, J&K Bank, Karnataka bank, Karur Vysya bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Nagpur Nagarik Sahakari bank, Punjab National Bank, Sarswat bank, State Bank of India, Thrissur District Cooperative bank, UCO Bank, Union bank of India, and Yes Bank.
- FASTag is a device that employs Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology for making toll payments directly while the vehicle is in motion. The FASTag (RFID Tag) chip is affixed on the windscreen of the vehicle and enables a customer to make toll payments directly from the account which is linked to FASTag. FASTag is operational at over 750 toll plazas, including all national highway toll plazas and over 100 state highway toll plazas across the country.
- The NHAI Fastag is managed by the Indian Highways Management Company Ltd.
- Q. Recently NHAI has removed Paytm from the list of authorized banks for service. **FASTag**















DoT unveils an unparalleled venture 'Sangam: Digital Twin' initiative

- The telecommunication department has invited industry pioneers, startups, MSMEs, academia, innovators, and forward-thinkers to pre-register and actively participate in Sangam's outreach program and explore, create, and commit to transforming the future of infrastructure planning and design.
- Sangam: Digital Twin is a PoC distributed in two stages to be conducted in one of the major cities of India. The first stage is Exploratory for clarity of horizon and creative Exploration to unleash potential. While second stage is for practical demonstration of specific use cases generating to future blueprint that may serve as a roadmap to scale and replicate successful strategies in future infrastructure projects through collaboration.

Department of Telecommunications:

• Formed: 1985

Headquarters: New Delhi, India

Minister: Ashwini Vaishnaw

• Deputy Minister: Devusinh Chauhan

• Chairman : K. Rajaraman

Q. 'Sangam: Digital Twin' is an initiative of which governmentDepartment?Departmentof

Telecommunications















R Ashwin becomes fastest Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket

- Veteran spinner R Ashwin became the fastest Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket as he took only 98 Tests to reach the landmark. He reached the milestone of 500 wickets during the India vs England 3rd Test in Rajkot. Zak Crawley was R Ashwin's 500th wicket in Test cricket.
- Also, Ashwin is the only Indian bowler after legend Anil Kumble to take 500 wickets in Test cricket. Anil Kumble is the leading wickettaker for India in Test cricket history with 619 scalps to his name.

Second fastest to 500 Test wickets:

• 37-year-old Ashwin is only the second bowler after Sri Lanka's Muttaiah Muralidaran to reach 500 wickets in less than 100 Tests. Murali reached 500 wickets in only 87 matches. Ashwin, the fastest Indian to reach 50, 100, 150, 200, 350, 400 and 450 Test wickets, is the fastest in the world to reach 250 and 300 Test wickets.

Most wickets in the history of Test cricket:

- Muthaiah Muralidaran is the highest wicket-taker in the history of red-ball cricket. In 133 matches, Muralidaran took 800 wickets. Muralidaran is followed by Shane Warne, James Anderson, Anil Kumble and Stuart Broad among others.
- Q. Who became the fastest Indian bowler to take 500 wickets in Test cricket? R Ashwin















Defence ministry approves proposal to buy 15 maritime aircrafts

- The Defence Ministry has given approval for a proposal to buy nine maritime surveillance aircraft for the Indian Navy and six maritime patrol aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.
- The patrol planes would be built upon the indigenously made C-295 transport aircraft and the entire project is estimated to cost around Rs 29,000 crore.

Boost to Make in India

- The move will give a boost to the Centre's push for the 'Make in India' initiative in a bid to promote self-reliance in the defence sector and overall economic growth.
- The development comes as the Centre is closely monitoring the developments in the wake of the West Asia tensions due to the Israel-Palestine conflict. It also followed days after a Chinese survey vessel reached Maldives, prompting India to keep a close eye on the Indian Ocean Region
- Q. The Defense Ministry has approved the proposal to procure nine maritime surveillance aircraft for the Indian Navy and six maritime patrol aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard which is estimated to cost approximately ____. Rs 29,000 crore



















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