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ENVIRONMENT AND HEALTH

**Science
Reporter**



MK Yadav Sir

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P-notes to make a return via Gift City

Some global banks weigh shifting to Gift City as it offers tax sops

Pavan Burugula
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NEW DELHI

Participatory notes (P-notes) are poised for a comeback, this time through the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gift City, Gujarat, after nearly a decade of being discouraged by Indian regulators.

Some leading global banks that currently issue P-notes from global jurisdictions, such as Singapore, are considering shifting to Gift City as the special economic zone offers both tax sops and regulatory clarity, a senior stock exchange official said.

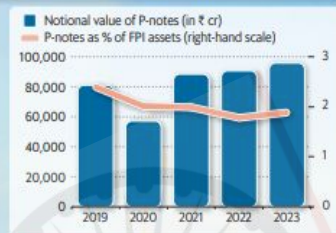
The official added that these banks are also receiving interest from ultra-wealthy global traders and smaller hedge funds interested in taking exposure to India without having to set up shop in India.

Some of the banks have already started pitching these instruments to their clients and are expected to launch full-scale issuances by the end of the year.

P-notes allow foreign funds to take indirect exposure to India without applying for a licence with Indian regulators. Typically, large international banks with foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licences are the biggest issuers of P-notes. In P-notes, the banks purchase the

RENEWED INTEREST

The tax exemption in the FY24 budget on income distributed by banks located in IFSC has reinvigorated interest in P-notes



mint

Data as of 30 April every year
Source: Sebi

POPULAR INSTRUMENT

P-NOTES were a popular route for FPI investments in India

IT contributed to more than 30% of FPI inflows in 2008

BUT regulators grew uncomfortable with the confidentiality

SARVESH KUMAR SHARMA/MINT

shares or derivative contracts on behalf of the clients. They hold these securities and issue a certificate, which is called a P-note of such holding, which is called a P-note, to the client.

"In the last decade, the bulk of the P-note market has moved offshore amid regulatory crackdown in India. But such instruments are vital for a country to attract a wider pool of foreign investors," said the stock

exchange official cited above. "A lot of discussions are now happening between the banks and regulators regarding P-note issuances," the official said.

The exemption of taxes in the Union Budget 2023-24 on income distributed by banks located in IFSC has sparked renewed interest in P-notes. The tax tweak effectively

TURN TO PAGE 6

PARTICIPATORY NOTES (Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: Participatory notes (P-notes) are poised for a comeback, this time through the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), Gift City, Gujarat, after nearly a decade of being discouraged by Indian regulators.

- Some leading global banks that currently **issue P-notes from global jurisdictions**, such as Singapore, are considering shifting to Gift City as the special economic zone offers both tax sops and regulatory clarity.

Participatory Notes

- About:** P-Notes or Participatory Notes are **Overseas Derivative Instruments that have Indian stocks** as they are used by the investors abroad but not within India.
 - They **allow foreign investors to buy stocks** listed on Indian exchanges **without being registered**.
- Issued by:** registered Foreign Institutional investors (FIIs).
 - The PNs are issued for the overseas investors who want to invest in the stock markets in India, without being registered under SEBI.
- Advantages of participatory notes**
 - Any entity can invest in the participatory notes **without registering under SEBI** while registering under SEBI is compulsory for all FIIs.
 - These are **transferable through endorsement** and delivery making trading easy in the country.
 - Some of the entities route their investment through participatory notes to take **advantage of the tax laws of certain preferred countries**.

PLI 'course correction' likely in some sectors

Progress sluggish in six of 14 sectors and are yet to receive incentives

SHREYA NANDI
New Delhi, 13 June

The Centre will weigh in on the move to 'course correct' as regards production-linked incentive (PLI) schemes in sectors that have seen little progress, government officials said on Tuesday. The government will take a call by the end of 2023-24 (FY24), helping lift the haze on it.

According to data collated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), incentives have been given to PLI beneficiaries in eight of the 14 sectors — mobile manufacturing, information technology (IT) hardware, pharmaceutical drug, bulk drug, medical device, telecommunications, food product, and drone.

Progress has been sluggish for the remaining six sectors — steel, textile, battery, white goods, solar photovoltaic, and automotive — and are yet to receive incentives. A detailed analysis is being conducted by relevant ministries.

DPIIT Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh ruled out a course correction for sectors doing well.

"The ministries concerned will have to look at course correction in cases where disbursements are low. Relaxation will be needed in case firms are not able to meet the threshold. Individual schemes may need some course correction," Singh told reporters at a media briefing.

"Apart from the recently revamped

PRODUCTION BOOST

₹2,874 crore
disbursed in FY23 for 8 sectors

► **Mobile manufacturing, IT hardware, pharma drugs, bulk drugs, medical devices, and telecom** among top-performing sectors

► **Disbursements yet to happen** in steel, textile, battery, white goods, solar PV, and automobile sectors

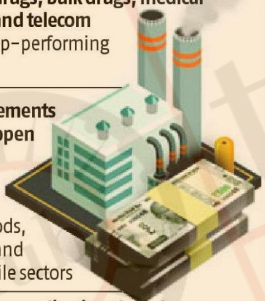
► **So far, 733 applications have been approved** in 14 sectors with expected investment of ₹3.65 trillion

EDIT: THE RIGHT INCENTIVE PAGE 9

PLI scheme for IT hardware, observation in areas where disbursements have not taken off will be needed," he added.

Towards this, there will also be a review meeting of the PLI scheme with stakeholders on June 27. Government officials said the review would focus on six sectors where the scheme is in a state of torpor. This would help in better utilisation of fund allocation over the next two to three years.

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PLI for mobile production led to 20% value addition: Govt

The production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for smartphone manufacturing has resulted in local value addition of 20 per cent within a span of two-three years, Rajesh Kumar Singh, secretary in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, said on Tuesday.

"Vietnam achieved 18 per cent value addition in over 15 years, and China achieved 49 per cent value addition in 25 years... It is a big achievement," Singh told reporters. An official statement said the PLI scheme for smartphone manufacturing, along with the Phased Manufacturing Programme, had led to increased value addition in the electronics sector at 23 per cent.

Of the \$101 billion electronics production in FY23, smartphones constituted \$44 billion.

SHREYA NANDI

PLI SCHEME

(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Economy)

Context: The Centre will weigh in on the move to 'course correct' as regards **production linked incentive (PLI) schemes** in sectors that have seen little progress.

- According to data collated by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), **incentives have been given to PLI beneficiaries in eight of the 14 sectors** - mobile manufacturing, information technology (IT) hardware, pharmaceutical drug, bulk drug, medical device, telecommunications, food product, and drone.

PLI Scheme

- About:** PLI scheme is an initiative that **provides incentives to domestic industries** to boost local production.
 - Through this scheme the Government aims to **give companies incentives on incremental sales** from products manufactured in domestic units.
 - PLI has been introduced to boost domestic manufacturing and **cut down on import bills.**
- Eligibility:** A **company registered in India** that proposes to produce items related to the Target Segments there and submits an application for approval under the Scheme is an applicant for the purposes of the Production Linked Incentives Scheme.
 - The applicant is **permitted to run either brand-new or current production facilities** to produce goods for the Target Segments.
- Sectors Included:** Automobile and auto components, electronics and IT hardware, telecom, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, metals and mining, textiles and apparel, white goods, drones, and advanced chemistry cell batteries.
- Incentives Under the Scheme:** The incentives, **calculated on the basis of incremental sales**, range from as low as 1% for the electronics and technology products to as high as 20% for the manufacturing of critical key starting drugs and certain drug intermediaries.
 - In some sectors such as advanced chemistry cell batteries, textile products and the drone industry, the **incentive to be given will be calculated on the basis of sales, performance and local value addition** done over the period of five years.

IBBI to Form 'Common Panel' of Insolvency Pros

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The bankruptcy regulator will prepare a "common panel" of insolvency professionals (IPs) from those registered with it and share the list in advance with the adjudicating authority to choose from to oversee various cases of resolution or liquidation from July 1.

At present, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) is required to recommend the IP's name only after receiving reference from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).

The proposed move, the regulator believes, will "avoid administrative delays" in the appointment of IPs and help expedite insolvency resolution.

This list of IPs will also be submitted with the Debt Recovery Tribunal for handling individual insolvency cases as well, according to the IBBI.

In its latest guidelines, dated June 12, the regulator said: "The board will prepare a common panel of IPs for appointment as IRP (interim resolution professional), liquidator, RP (resolution professionals) and BT (bankruptcy trustee) and share the same with the AA (adjudicating authority)".

The panel will have a validity of six months and will be followed by an updated one. The first panel will be effective from July 1 to December 31.

The regulator has asked IPs to submit their expression of interest for being a part of such a panel by June 25. It will send the panel to the adjudicating authority by June 30.

Context: The bankruptcy regulator will prepare a "common panel" of **insolvency professionals (IPs)** from those registered with it and share the list in advance with the adjudicating authority to choose from to oversee various cases of resolution or liquidation from July 1.

- At present, the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI)** is required to recommend the IP's name only after receiving reference from the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP).

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

- About:** It is the **regulator for overseeing insolvency proceedings** and entities like Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU) in India.
 - It covers **Individuals, Companies, Limited Liability Partnerships and Partnership firms.**
- Origin:** It was established as a statutory body in 2016 under the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.**



भारतीय दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

Insolvency and bankruptcy regulator in India

Established in 2016 by the Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code (IBC)

Headquarters: New Delhi
Headed by IBBI Board Chairman

- Regulating authority for insolvency and bankruptcy proceedings
- Oversees the activities of the Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPA), Insolvency Professionals (IP) and Information Utilities (IU), Registered Valuers, and Registered Valuer Organisations
- Makes and implements rules governing the corporate insolvency resolution process, individual insolvency, corporate liquidation and individual bankruptcy

NBFCs' micro loan growth beats banks'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: In the first year of the new regulatory framework for microlending, the microfinance industry (MFI) has grown 22%, indicating that the new norms have had a positive impact. MFI loans by non-bank finance companies (NBFCs) have grown faster than those from banks or small finance banks.

According to the Micrometer report by MFIN, an association of microloan providers, as of March 31, the microfinance industry reached Rs 3,48,339 crore with a YoY growth of 22. NBFC-MFIs regained their position as the largest microfinance provider, holding a 39.7% share.

The microfinance industry served 6.6 crore unique borrowers through 13 crore loan accounts, with a total gross loan portfolio (GLP) of Rs 3,48,339 crore. The GLP exhibited a 22% YoY increase.

Context: In the first year of the new regulatory framework for microlending, the **microfinance industry (MFI)** has grown 22%, indicating that the new norms have had a positive impact.

- MFI loans by **non-bank finance companies (NBFCs)** have grown faster than those from banks or small finance banks.
- The Reserve Bank has issued **Reserve Bank of India (Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans) Directions, 2022** for regulating microfinance loans.

RBI issues Regulatory Framework for Microfinance Loans

- **Applicability:** The provisions of these directions shall apply to the following entities:
 - **All Commercial Banks** (including Small Finance Banks, Local Area Banks, and Regional Rural Banks) excluding Payments Banks;
 - **All Primary (Urban) Co-operative Banks/ State Co-operative Banks/ District Central Cooperative Banks;** and
 - **All Non-Banking Financial Companies** (including Microfinance Institutions and Housing Finance Companies).
- **Definition of a Microfinance Loan:** The RBI revised the definition of a microfinance loan to indicate a collateral-free loan given to a household having annual income of up to Rs. 3 lakh.
 - Earlier, the upper limits were Rs.1.2 lakh for rural borrowers and Rs.2 lakh for urban borrowers.
- **Assessment of Household Income:**
 - Each **Regulated Entities (REs)** shall put in place a board-approved policy for assessment of household income.
 - **Self-regulatory organisations (SROs)** and other associations/ agencies may also develop a common framework based on the indicative methodology.
 - The **REs may adopt/ modify** this framework suitably as per their requirements with approval of their boards.
- **Qualifying Assets Criteria:** The minimum requirement of microfinance loans for NBFC-MFIs also stands revised to **75 per cent of the total assets**.

Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI), Hyderabad gets Accredited as “Athi Uttam”

Context: The **Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)** functioning under the Ministry of Mines, has been awarded with the accreditation by the **National Accreditation Board of Education and Training (NABET)** in recognition of the yeomen services it has rendered and high standards maintained in the field of earth science training.

- The team from **Capacity Building Commission (CBC)**, NABET and Quality Control of India conducted the on-site assessment and awarded the Certificate of Accreditation with the grading of **Athi Uttam**.
- The assessment was made on the basis of the **inspection of all standard operating procedures** and methodologies followed by the institute in different levels.

Geological Survey of India Training Institute (GSITI)

- **Established in 1976**, GSITI with its headquarters at Hyderabad, GSITI is a **national training facility**, under the Ministry of Mines that provides training and capacity building to multiple stakeholders including Central and State Departments, PSUs (MECL, ONGC, OIL, NMDC), national academic institutions (IITs, Central Universities and Colleges) and colleges.
- The institute **regularly conducts courses** on remote sensing under **National Natural Resource Management System (NNRMS) Programme** sponsored by the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)**.
- It is an **institute of international repute and offers** training to participants of developing nations under ITEC programme sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- GSITI **provides domain specific and terrain specific training programmes** through its Center at Hyderabad and RTDs and FTCs located across the country.
- Training courses are offered to hone the domain competencies in mapping techniques of different terrains including **Himalaya, exploration methods to target mineralized zones** (Gold, Diamond, Copper, Lithium, REE, Iron, Manganese etc.), photo-geology and remote sensing, geographic information system, petrology, geochronology, geophysics, analytical methods in chemistry, environmental and urban geology and natural hazard mitigation.
- The institute **provides courses for up-gradation** of functional competencies of employees. It also takes care in including topics that harness behavioural competencies in the officials.

MSDE certifies 98 Trainers trained in the cluster-based Training of Trainers project under the SANKALP programme

Context: The **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** demonstrated its commitment to creating a pool of highly skilled trainers through the cluster-based Training of Trainers (ToT) project undertaken in collaboration with Automotive Sector Development Council (ASDC), GIZ-IGVET and Maharashtra State Skill Development Mission (MSSDS).

- Developed as part of the National component of **Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP)**, the trainers received dual certification following assessments by the Automotive Sector Development Council and IGCC (German certification agency).
- The **ToT program covered trades** such as Advanced Welding, CNC operations, Robotics, Quality Control, and Advanced Automotive Technology. Key stakeholders involved in the project included MSDE, Automotive Skills Development Council (ASDC), GIZ-IGVET, and Maharashtra State Skill Development Mission (MSSDS).

SANKALP programme

- **About:** The **Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE)** launched the Sankalp programme in 2018, in alignment with the overall objectives of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM). Here are its key initiatives.
 - It is a **World Bank loan assisted project** and aligned with the overall objectives of the National Skill Development Mission (NSDM).
- **Objectives:** The project focuses on **transforming the overall skilling ecosystem** of India, covering both central and state-level agencies for improved outcomes. SANKALP has three result areas namely:
 - **Institutional Strengthening** at National, State and District level;
 - **Quality Assurance** of skill development programmes; and
 - **Inclusion of marginalized population** in skill development programmes.
- **Eligibility:**
 - The Sankalp scheme is **exclusively available to Indian citizens**, and candidates must be at least 18 years old to begin vocational training.
 - To grasp the training program, candidates must have a **basic education**.
 - The program is also **open to those from scheduled castes**, scheduled tribes, and people with impairments.
 - **Women, like males**, are eligible to participate in the scheme and get vocational training.

Prejudices against women didn't reduce in last decade; 90% people still hold gender bias: UN

Countries with greater bias in gender social norms also show a lower presence of women in parliament



NEXT NEWS >

By Susan Chacko
Published: Tuesday 13 June 2023



DIMENSIONS

Political

Educational

Economic

Physical Integrity

INDICATORS

Women having the same rights as men is essential for democracy

University is more important for men than for women

Men should have more right to a job than women

Proxy for intimate partner violence

Men make better political leaders than women do

Men make better business executives than women do

Proxy for reproductive rights

GENDER SOCIAL NORMS INDEX

Context: Around half the world's population believe that men make better political leaders than women, and two in five believe that men make better business executives than women, according to UNDP's 2023 **Gender Social Norms Index (GSNI)**.

- UNDP tracked people's attitudes towards women in four dimensions - **political, educational, economic and physical integrity**.

Key Findings

- Nearly 90% of people still hold at least one **bias against women**.
- A **staggering 25 percent of people** believe it is justified for a man to beat his wife.
- Countries with **greater bias in gender social norms** also show a lower presence of women in parliament.
- **Indigenous women, migrant women and women** with disabilities have meagre political representation, demonstrating how overlapping biases can further reduce opportunities for women.
- On average, the **share of heads of state or government** who are women has remained around 10 per cent worldwide since 1995, and women hold just over a quarter of parliament seats globally.
- The recent **increase in education achievements** has not translated into better economic outcomes and opportunities for women.
- As women catch up in education, the **gender gaps in income** can no longer be explained by gaps in education. Instead, gender gaps in income can be correlated with GSNI values.
- The **birth control pill** followed a volatile process until its eventual social acceptance, and this had a tremendous impact on women's control over their bodies and ability to plan their families and professional lives.

WHY THE US WALKED OUT OF UNESCO, AND WHY IT NOW WANTS TO REJOIN

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUNE 13

THE UNITED Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Monday announced that the United States would rejoin it in July, after leaving in 2018 over the agency's alleged "bias against Israel". The US will also pay more than \$600 million in back dues.

The move to rejoin will face a vote by UNESCO's member states and is expected to pass easily.

"This is a strong act of confidence, in UNESCO and in multilateralism. Not only in the centrality of the Organization's mandate – culture, education, science, information – but also in the way this mandate is being implemented today," UNESCO's Director-General, Audrey Azoulay, said.

Why did the US leave?

The issue goes back to 2011, when UNESCO inducted Palestine as a member state. This led to the US halting the agency's funding under then President Barack Obama. US laws, owing to the country's historical ties with Israel, prohibit funding to any UN agency that implies recognition of the Palestinians' demands for their own state.

In 2018, under Donald Trump, one of UNESCO's traditionally top donors decided to withdraw from the body altogether over "long-running anti-Israel bias and management problems".

And why is it rejoining?

UNESCO director general Azoulay, who is Jewish, has worked to address US concerns since her election in 2017.

Also, according to AP, US officials said that the decision to return was partially due to China filling the gap left by the US in UNESCO policy making, such as in setting standards for artificial intelligence and technology education around the world.

Undersecretary of State for



UNESCO is a UN body to promote educational, scientific and cultural causes. AP

Management John Bass said in March that the US absence from UNESCO had strengthened China. "So if we're really serious about the digital-age competition with China... we can't afford to be absent any longer," he said.

China's ambassador, Jin Yang, said of the US's return to UNESCO, "Being a member of an international organisation is a serious issue, and we hope that the return of the US this time means it acknowledges the mission and the goals of the organisation."

Has the US withdrawn from the UNESCO earlier?

The United States previously pulled out of UNESCO under the Ronald Reagan administration in 1984 because it viewed the agency as mismanaged, corrupt and used to advance Soviet interests.

It rejoined in 2003 under then President George Bush, who said, "As a symbol of our commitment to human dignity, the United States will return to UNESCO. This organisation has been reformed and America will participate fully in its mission to advance human rights and tolerance and learning."

UNESCO

(Syllabus: GS Paper 2 - International Organisations)

Context: The United States will rejoin the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** after a hiatus of over four years, and will pay back over \$600 million worth of dues to the global body.

- The US had officially **quit UNESCO from 1 January 2019** after US government denounced the agency for having an "anti-Israel" bias.
- **Israel** had followed suit and backed out of UNESCO at the same time.
- Both the US and Israel had stopped paying dues after Palestine was voted in as a member state in 2011.



**United Nations Educational,
Scientific and Cultural
Organization (UNESCO)**



Paris, France



About: Specialised agency of UN, established in 1945 to **contributes to peace and security by promoting international cooperation in education, sciences, culture, communication and information.**



Objectives: Attaining quality education for all and lifelong learning; Addressing emerging social and ethical challenges etc.



Membership: 195 countries and 8 Associate Members



Composition: Secretariat, headed by Director-General, implements the decisions of General Conference and Executive Board.



Awards related to UNESCO

○ **UNESCO Asia-Pacific Awards for Cultural Heritage Conservation programme** (awarded to private individuals and organizations).

○ **UNESCO Felix Houphouet-Boigny Peace Prize** awarded (to living individuals, active institutions) for promoting peace.



Other key information:

○ It is also a member of United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG).

○ Three UNESCO member states are **not UN members: Cook Islands, Niue, and Palestine.**

○ Three UN member states (**Israel, Liechtenstein, United States**) are **not UNESCO members.**

No CERT-in update yet on CoWIN data leak; experts demand transparency

The cybersecurity agency for India has not issued any statement or security alert directly on the leak of personal information; govt. had said data put out by Telegram bot was stolen previously

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in), the nodal cybersecurity agency that deals with breaches and vulnerabilities in cyberspace, has not directly put out any update on its assessment of the leak of personal information of people who received COVID-19 vaccinations, registered on the CoWIN platform. CERT-in has not put out any alert to citizens that their Aadhaar or passport numbers, along with other personal details, may be hacked.

Additionally, a senior police official told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that no first information report has been filed following the breach. CERT-in was not immediately available for comment on Tuesday. While privacy, including informational privacy, was upheld as a fundamental right in the Constitution by the Supreme Court in 2017,



Big breach: A report said that the data is not from CoWIN directly, but from a 'threat actor database'. VIJAY SONEJI

the government has not passed a data protection Bill yet.

The only information from CERT-in so far comes from Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology Rajeev Chandrasekhar, who said that the cybersecurity agency had found that "data being accessed by [the Telegram messaging app] bot from a threat actor da-

tabase... seems to have been populated with previously stolen data." It is unclear when this data was stolen and from where.

A report by private cybersecurity firm CloudSEK said the data appears to be not from CoWIN directly, but from a health worker who had inadequately protected vaccination beneficiary data. Commentators also pointed out that the

data appeared slightly richer than what CoWIN possessed: namely, precise dates of birth were available for vaccine beneficiaries, though the CoWIN portal only collected the year of birth.

'Need probe'

Prasanth Sugathan, Legal Director at the Software Freedom Law Centre, said that CERT-in's investigation "should be a transparent process" that "should inspire confidence in citizens in their infrastructure".

CERT-in may soon be exempt from responding to the Right to Information requests as well, as a proposal for its inclusion in the Second Schedule of the RTI Act is pending.

The Department of Personnel and Training declined, in response to an RTI request, to provide *The Hindu* a copy of the proposal to exempt the body, and copies of inputs received from government agencies in response to the proposal.

Context: The Indian Computer Emergency Team (CERT-in), the nodal cybersecurity agency that deals with incidents like breaches and vulnerabilities in cyberspace, has not directly put out any update on its assessment of the apparent breach of personal information of people who received vaccinations, registered on the Union government's CoWIN platform.

- **CERT-in has not put out any alert to citizens** that their Aadhaar or passport numbers, along with other personal details, may be hacked.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In)

- **About:** It is an organisation of the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** with the objective of securing Indian cyberspace.
- **Functions:** It is the nodal agency which deals with cybersecurity threats like hacking and phishing.
 - CERT-IN provides **Incident Prevention and Response Services** as well as **Security Quality Management Services**.
- **Power:** Empowered under **Section 70B of the Information Technology Act** to collect, analyse and disseminate information on cyber security incidents.
- **Mandates of the CERT-In:**
 - **Mandatorily Enable Logs:** It mandates all service providers, intermediaries, data centres, corporates and government organisations to mandatorily enable logs of all their ICT (Information and Communication Technology) systems.
 - **Connect and Synchronize all ICT systems:** To ensure the chain of events is accurately reflected in the time frame, service providers have been asked to connect and synchronize all their ICT systems clocks to the Network Time Protocol (NTP) Server of the National Informatics Centre (NIC) or National Physical Laboratory (NPL).
 - **Requires Maintaining Records:** It also require virtual asset, exchange, and custodian wallet providers to maintain records on KYC and financial transactions for a period of five years.

ASIATIC LION CONSERVATION**(Syllabus: GS Paper 3 - Env & Eco)****Biporjoy: As cyclone nears Kutch & Saurashtra, concern grows over Gir lions, Naliya bustards**

Some 700 lions are spread across the Gir landscape, whereas Naliya is home to 4 Great Indian Bustards

By Rajat Ghai
Published: Tuesday 13 June 2023**LEONINE FACTS**

► Unlike African lions, male Asiatic lions do not live with the females

 The male Asiatic lion has a shorter, sparser and darker mane compare to the fuller mane of the African lion

**African lion**

**Gujarat Tourism
Policy 2021-25**



Poster issued by Gujarat Tourism

 Asiatic lions are slightly smaller than African lions

► The most distinguishing characteristic of the Asiatic lion is the longitudinal fold of skin that runs along its belly. This is absent in African lions

Asiatic lion

Context: As the **Cyclone Biporjoy** nears, conservationists are worried about the **Great Indian Bustards (GIB)** of Naliya near Jakhau as well as the famous **Asiatic lions** of the Gir forest.

Key Points

- There are nearly 700 lions in the **Asiatic Lion Landscape (ALL)** spread across the Gir-Somnath, Amreli, Junagadh and Bhavnagar districts of Gujarat Saurashtra region.
 - The area is the last bastion of the **Asiatic Lion (Panthera leo leo)** in the world.
- Similarly, there is concern for the four Great Indian Bustards in the **grasslands of Naliya**.
 - All are females and the last of the GIB population in Gujarat.
- Lions, being **woodland species**, were at greater risk than GIBs, a **grasslands species**, which were birds and a grassland species.
 - There is **scientific evidence** that wild animals sense danger and tend to move away if they can.
 - So the **birds will be able to fly away** if they sense danger. While that will not be possible for mammals.

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