

19 August, 2023

## Investor Education and Protection Fund

**Context:** IEPFA and NCAER are partnering for a webinar on "Enhancing Investor Protection in India: Addressing Challenges and Future Steps."

### Investor Education and Protection Fund

- **Establishment of IEPF:** It was established under Section 205C of the Companies Act, 1956 through the Companies (Amendment) Act, 1999.
- **Unclaimed Funds:** Transfers unpaid amounts after 7 years to IEPF.
- **Funds Management:** Deposited funds managed within India's Consolidated Fund (Article 266).
- **Investor Awareness:** Funds used to boost awareness and protect investors.
- **Disgorged Amounts:** IEPF distributes disgorged sums to affected stakeholders based on Court orders.
- **Disgorgement Order:** Fraudulent gains lead to repayment with interest to affected investors.
- **IEPF Authority:** Investor Education and Protection Fund Authority established in 2016 under Ministry of Corporate Affairs for fund administration.
- The following categories of amounts that have remained unpaid and unclaimed for a span of seven years from their payment due date are deposited into the Fund:
  - Unpaid dividend amounts in corporate accounts
  - Application funds collected by companies for securities allotment, awaiting refunds
  - Matured deposits held by companies
  - Matured debentures held by companies
  - Contributions from Central Government, State Governments, companies, and institutions to the Fund's purposes
  - Interest or other earnings generated from investments made using the Fund

### SEBI's Investor Protection and Education Fund

- **SEBI's Investor Fund:** Established to promote investor protection and education.
- **Formation:** The Investor Protection and Education Fund (IPEF) was created by SEBI.
- **Core Objective:** Safeguarding investor interests and enhancing awareness.
- **Funding Sources:** IPEF is sustained by unclaimed dividends, investment returns, and penalties.
- **Educational Focus:** The fund supports investor education through workshops and online resources.
- **Protection Role:** IPEF assists affected investors by redistributing disgorged funds from wrongdoers.
- **SEBI Oversight:** SEBI ensures transparent management of the fund.
- **Empowerment:** IPEF cultivates a knowledgeable and resilient investor community.

## UDGAM Portal

**Context:** RBI has launched a centralized web portal called UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation). It enables the public to search for their unclaimed deposits in multiple banks from one place.

- **RBI's UDGAM Portal:** The RBI introduced the UDGAM (Unclaimed Deposits – Gateway to Access inforMation) Centralised Web Portal.
- **Public Convenience:** UDGAM is designed for public use, making it simpler to locate unclaimed deposits across multiple banks from one platform.
- **Deposit Management:** The portal assists users in identifying their unclaimed deposits/accounts, allowing them to claim the deposit amount or activate their accounts at respective banks.
- **Collaborative Development:** The portal is a joint effort of RBI Technology Pvt. Ltd. (ReBIT), Indian Financial Technology & Allied Services (IFTAS), and participating banks.
- **Initial Banks:** Initially, information on unclaimed deposits from 7 banks will be available: State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Dhanlaxmi Bank, South Indian Bank, DBS Bank India, and Citibank.
- **Expansion Plans:** Access to unclaimed deposit details for more banks will be phased in by October 15, 2023.
- **Unclaimed Deposits Definition:** Deposits unclaimed for 10 years are termed as unclaimed deposits.
- **Depositor Education and Awareness (DEA) Fund:** Unclaimed deposits are transferred to this fund managed by the Reserve Bank of India.
- **Unclaimed Deposit Trends:** Unclaimed deposits in public sector banks have risen over 70% from December 2020 to February 2023, more than doubling compared to December 2019.

## Face to Face Centres





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## Gandhinagar Declaration

**Context:** The WHO South-East Asia Region has pledged to intensify efforts to end tuberculosis by 2030, with member countries adopting the Gandhinagar Declaration.

### WHO South-East Asia Region's Commitment to End Tuberculosis

- **Burden of Disease:** The WHO South-East Asia Region, accounting for nearly half of global TB cases and deaths, has renewed its commitment to expedite efforts to eliminate tuberculosis by 2030.
- **Gandhinagar Declaration:** Member countries of the region adopted the Gandhinagar Declaration, signifying their dedication to accelerating TB eradication.

### Key Points from the Declaration

- **High-Level Multisectoral Commission:** The Declaration calls for the creation of high-level multisectoral commissions in each country. These commissions will report to the highest political levels, promoting collaboration among various stakeholders and monitoring progress toward ending TB and other priority diseases.
- **Responsive Health Systems:** The commissions are envisioned to strengthen health systems, advancing universal health coverage and health security.
- **Equitable Access to TB Services:** The Declaration emphasizes the adoption and utilization of science and technology for equitable, human rights-based TB services. These services should be accessible to all, transcending social, cultural, and demographic barriers. A primary health care approach is endorsed.
- **Resource Allocation:** To achieve targeted TB service coverage, the Declaration urges the allocation of necessary resources. Addressing social determinants of health is stressed for a comprehensive impact on multiple diseases.
- **Continued Prioritization:** The Declaration urges WHO to maintain TB as a Flagship Priority Programme, providing leadership, technical assistance, and research-backed innovation.
- **Support from Partners:** All partners are called upon to intensify their support to end TB and priority diseases, aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals target 3.3.

### Meeting and Adoption

- The Gandhinagar Declaration was adopted at a two-day meeting held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, focusing on the progress toward ending TB in the WHO South-East Asia Region.
- The Declaration sets the stage for collaborative, concerted efforts to achieve a TB-free region and contribute to global health goals.

### Tuberculosis

- **Infectious Disease:** Tuberculosis (TB) is an infectious disease caused by the bacteria *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.
- **Airborne Transmission:** TB spreads through the air when an infected person coughs or sneezes.
- **Global Impact:** Around 10 million people got sick with TB in 2020, resulting in 1.4 million deaths.
- **Drug Resistance:** Drug-resistant TB is a growing concern. Multidrug-resistant TB (MDR-TB) and extensively drug-resistant TB (XDR-TB) occur when the bacteria become resistant to standard TB drugs.
- **Vulnerable Groups:** People with weakened immunity, like those with HIV, are at higher risk.
- **Latent TB:** Some individuals have latent TB, not active but can develop into active TB.
- **Curable:** TB can be cured with proper treatment, usually antibiotics for six months.
- **Vaccine:** BCG vaccine offers partial protection, especially in children.
- **Social and Economic Impact:** TB can contribute to poverty and hinder economic growth.

## NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

### India's first 3D printed Post Office



India's first 3D-printed post office is situated in Bengaluru's Cambridge Layout.

Union Minister for Railways, Communications, Electronics, and IT, Ashwini Vaishnaw, virtually inaugurated it from the General Post Office building.

#### Construction and Technology:

- Done by L&T with IIT Madras assistance, using 3D concrete printing technology.
- Completed in 43 days, ahead of schedule.
- Robotic printer deposited layers of concrete based on design, with quick-hardening, strong bonding concrete.

#### Cost and Efficiency:

- Built at Rs 23 lakh, 30-40% cheaper than conventional methods.
- IIT Madras and L&T collaborated, with guidance from Prof Ravindra Gettu.
- Indigenous robotic tech hints at scalability; concrete material has important properties.

**3D Printing:** 3D printing, also known as additive manufacturing, is a revolutionary process of creating three-dimensional objects from a digital model.

## Face to Face Centres





## Indian Council of Social Science Research



**About:**

**Establishment:** Founded in 1969 by the Government of India following the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

**Objective:** To promote and facilitate research in the field of social sciences across India.

**Headquarter:** New Delhi.

**Status:** An autonomous organization operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD).

**Functions:**

- Supports projects, fellowships, surveys, and publications in social sciences.
- Encourages quality research in various disciplines like sociology, economics, political science, etc.
- Facilitates partnerships among Indian and global scholars for advancing social science research.

**National Social Science Documentation Centre (NASSDOC):**

- Established in 1970 under ICSSR.
- Central documentation hub, offers resources and services to social science researchers.
- ICSSR's key role in funding, collaborating, sharing knowledge, and building capacity drives social science progress and informs policymaking.

## Aegean Sea

**Location:** Northeastern part of the Mediterranean Sea, between Greece and Turkey.

**Historical Significance:** Center of ancient Greek civilization, birthplace of city-states like Athens and Sparta.

**Islands:** Scattered archipelago with numerous Greek islands, known for cultural heritage.

**Current Affairs and Challenges:**

- The Aegean Sea has witnessed ongoing migration challenges, with migrants often attempting dangerous sea crossings to reach Europe.
- It has also been a focus area for discussions on regional stability, security and cooperation between Greece and Turkey.



**Turkey-Greece Aegean Dispute:**

- The dispute centers around the territorial sea breadth, presence of islands and delimitation of continental shelves.
- Greece and Turkey both claim a 6-nautical-mile territorial sea in the Aegean.
- UN Convention on the Law of the Sea 1982 allows extending territorial sea to 12 nm from shore.
- Greece follows UNCLOS and claims a 12-nm territorial sea.
- Turkey hasn't adopted UNCLOS consistently, resulting in differing approaches.

**Treaty of Lausanne (1923):** Related historical treaty influencing the dispute.

## F-16 Fighter Jet



**Approval:** US grants approval for F-16 fighter jets to be sent to Ukraine from Denmark and the Netherlands.

**Objective:**

Strengthen Ukraine's defense against Russian forces.

**About F-16 Fighter Jet: Origin:** Developed by General Dynamics for USAF.

**Role:** Versatile, used for air superiority, ground attack, and reconnaissance.

**Features:** Agile, advanced avionics, compact design.

**Global Usage:** Widely used by air forces worldwide.

**Weapons:** Equipped with air-to-air and air-to-ground weaponry.

**About F-16 Fighting Falcon:**

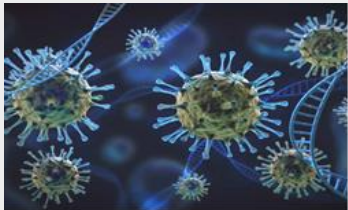

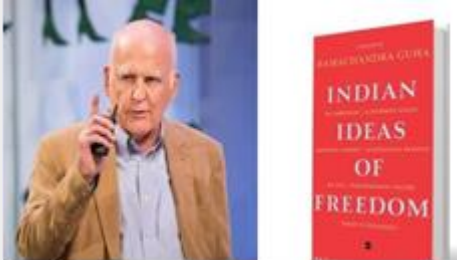
**Origin:** Developed by General Dynamics for the United States Air Force (USAF).

**Aircraft Type:** Single-engine multirole fighter aircraft.

**Global Usage:** Employed worldwide for various military roles.

### Face to Face Centres



<p><b>Variant BA.2.86 (BA.X)</b></p> 	<p><b>Identification:</b> A new variant of the novel coronavirus causing COVID-19.  <b>Monitoring Source:</b> Monitored by WHO and US CDC.  <b>Detection:</b> Found in the US, Denmark, and Israel.  <b>Classification:</b> Categorized as Variant Under Monitoring (VUM).  <b>Importance of Monitoring:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ BA.2.86 has significant mutations.</li> <li>➤ Close monitoring crucial for understanding its characteristics and potential impact.</li> <li>➤ Surveillance, sequencing and reporting are vital.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recent COVID-19 Trends (July 17 - August 13, 2023):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ WHO reported 1.4 million new COVID-19 cases and 2,300 deaths in 28 days.</li> <li>➤ 63% increase in cases, 56% decrease in deaths compared to the previous 28 days.</li> </ul> <p><b>Global COVID-19 Statistics (As of August 13, 2023):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Over 769 million cases globally.</li> <li>➤ Approximately 6.9 million deaths.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Places in News</b></p> <p><b>La Brea Tar Pits</b></p>	<p>Recently, the late Pleistocene period has drawn interest for the extinction of over three dozen mammal genera, including mammoths, mastodons, bison, and saber-toothed cats.  <b>Location:</b> Los Angeles, California, USA (Latitude, Longitude) .  <b>Natural Feature:</b> Pools of sticky tar due to natural asphalt.  <b>Fossil Collection:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ World's largest Ice Age fossil collection.</li> <li>➤ Reflects diverse species and Pleistocene epoch.</li> </ul> <p><b>Scientific Role:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Vital for understanding prehistoric ecosystems.</li> <li>➤ Studying animal and plant life in Pleistocene.</li> </ul> <p><b>Research Use:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Paleontologists, archaeologists study ancient life.</li> <li>➤ Reveals species, behaviors, and ecological shifts.</li> </ul> <p><b>Museum and Exhibits:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Museum displays fossils, interactive exhibits.</li> <li>➤ Offers educational programs.</li> </ul> 
<p><b>Personality in News</b></p> <p><b>Dennis Dalton</b></p>	<p><b>Dennis Dalton</b>  Dennis Dalton is a notable scholar and academic.  ➤ Known for his expertise in political science and philosophy.  <b>Contributions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Renowned for his work on political theory, especially Indian political thought.</li> <li>➤ Known for his insightful analyses and interpretations of prominent Indian thinkers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Notable Work - "Indian Ideas of Freedom":</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Authored "Indian Ideas of Freedom."</li> <li>➤ Original edition published in 1982.</li> <li>➤ Revised edition (2023) explores how Indian thinkers conceptualized freedom.</li> <li>➤ Focuses on thinkers like Vivekananda, Aurobindo, Gandhi, Tagore, Ambedkar, MN Roy, and JP Narayan.</li> </ul> 

## POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ **What is the highest point in Lithuania?** - Mount Juozapinė
- ❖ **Which River marks the de facto frontline in the south of Ukraine?** - The Dnipro river
- ❖ **What is the expected touchdown date for the lander on the moon surface?** - August 23, 2023
- ❖ **How long is the mission life of the lander and rover?** - One lunar day (14 earth days)
- ❖ **What collaboration did India and Japan agree on in July 2023?** - Collaboration on semiconductors

### Face to Face Centres

