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PM Modi Unveils Ram Mandir Stamps: A Historic Moment In Indian Culture

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** recently launched a series of commemorative **postage stamps** dedicated to **Ayodhya's Ram Temple**, marking a significant cultural event in India.
- The collection comprises **six distinct stamps**, each featuring key figures and symbols associated with Lord Ram's narrative, including the Ram Temple, Lord Ganesh, Lord Hanuman, Jatayu, Kevatraj, and Ma Shabri.
- The designs incorporate essential elements related to Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Mandir, showcasing the temple, the revered Choupai 'Mangal Bhavan Amangal Hari,' the sun, the Saryu River, and the sculptures in and around the temple.
- Each stamp is adorned with gold leaf detailing for the sun rays and the Choupai, adding a majestic touch.



**TATA
CONSULTANCY
SERVICES**

TCS second most valuable IT services brand in the world

- Tata Consultancy Services (**TCS**) has been rated as the second most valuable IT services brand in the world in the **2024 Global 500 IT Services** Ranking by Brand Finance.
- TCS' brand value has surged to \$19.2 billion from \$17.2 billion in 2023, showing a strong growth of 11.5 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y). The incremental \$2-billion growth is the highest absolute growth posted among the top 25 leading IT firms in the world.
- This achievement underscores TCS's commitment to innovation, sustainability, and global expansion, positioning it as a leader in the technology industry.

LIC overtakes SBI to become most valued PSU

- After the rise in shares, LIC has become the most valuable company among the **public sector undertakings (PSUs)**.
- Due to this, the market capitalization of the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)** became more than that of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The shares of LIC has crossed Rs 5.8 lakh crore, while the market cap of SBI stood at Rs 5.62 lakh crore.
- Shares of LIC are trading at Rs 902.35 per share with a rise of 9.80 points or 1.10 percent. At the same time, SBI shares are trading at Rs 624.40 per share, down 12.50 points or 1.96 percent.
- Only LIC and SBI have achieved a market capital of **more than 5 Lakh Crore rupees** in all the Public Sector Units. After LIC and SBI, NTPC is at 3rd most valuable PSU with a market capital of 3 Lakh Crore Rupees.
- Life Insurance Corporation Of India
- **Established in:** 1st September 1956
- **Headquarters:** Mumbai
- **Chairman:** Siddhartha Mohanty



RBI imposes penalty of Rs.1 crore on Punjab & Sind Bank, Dhanlaxmi Bank

- The Reserve Bank of India has imposed a penalty of ₹1 crore on **Punjab and Sind Bank** and ₹1.2 crore on **Dhanlaxmi Bank** for non-compliance with certain directions on lending activities, KYC and deposit rates.
- Punjab and Sind Bank for FY22 revealed that the public sector lender violated norms on **‘Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions’**.
- Dhanlaxmi Bank, which has incurred a penalty of ₹1.20 crore, violated regulatory norms on **‘Loans and Advances – Statutory and Other Restrictions’**, ‘Reserve Bank of India (Know Your Customer (KYC)) Directions, 2016’ and ‘Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016’.
- In addition, the RBI also imposed a penalty of ₹29.5 lakh on **ESAF Small Finance Bank** for breach of guidelines on ‘Customer Service in Banks’





Crown Prince Frederik X becomes King of Denmark

- Denmark turned a page in its history as **Crown Prince Frederik X** became the King, succeeding his mother, **Queen Margrethe II**, who formally abdicated after 52 years as monarch.
- Tens of thousands of Danes were gathered in the capital **Copenhagen** to witness the historic succession.
- 83-year-old Margrethe is the first Danish monarch to voluntarily relinquish the throne in nearly 900 years.
- Australian-born Mary, the wife of Frederik X, is the first commoner to become Queen of Denmark.

India's first National Highway steel slag road section on NH-66 Mumbai-Goa National Highway inaugurated

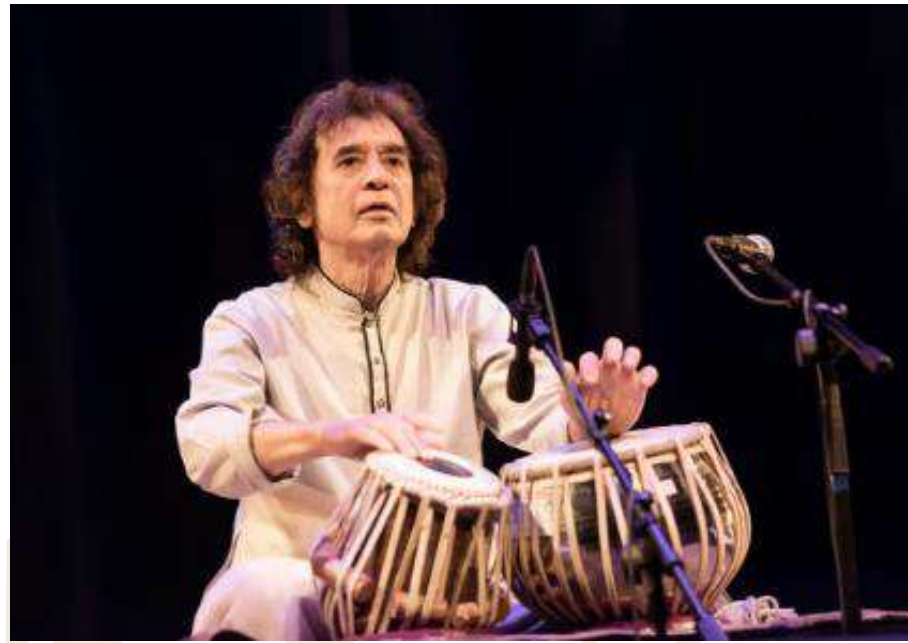
- Dr. V.K. Saraswat, Member (S&T) at NITI Aayog, inaugurated **India's first National Highway Steel Slag Road** section on **NH-66 Mumbai-Goa** National Highway.
- Developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CSIR-CRRI), the Steel Slag Road Technology is turning steel industry waste into a valuable resource, contributing to the construction of robust and eco-friendly national highways in India.
- JSW Steel, guided by CSIR-CRRI's technological expertise, has successfully constructed a 1 km long four-lane steel slag road section on the Indapur-Panvel Section of NH-66 Mumbai-Goa.
- This achievement involved converting around 80,000 tons of CONARC Steel slag into processed steel slag aggregates at JSW Steel's Dolvi, Raigad plant.
- These processed steel slag aggregates exhibit superior mechanical properties compared to natural aggregates, making them a preferred choice for all layers of the road instead of natural aggregates.
- The Ministry of Steel, is developing national guidelines for the utilization of processed steel slag in steel slag road construction.



Tamil Nadu will set up a wildlife rescue and rehabilitation center

- The Tamil Nadu government issued an order to set up a state-of-the-art wildlife rescue treatment and rehabilitation centre under the Sirumugai forest range in Coimbatore Forest Division at a cost of 19.50 crore.
- The centre will be set up in an area covering 53 hectares, at the Modur-Pethikuttai Reserve.
- The centre will be involved in the rescue of injured, orphaned and sick wild animals and provide expert assistance in scientific quarantine, rehabilitation and release of wild animals in identified habitats.
- It is expected to function as a leading institution for consultation and guidance in addressing human-animal conflicts and developing standardised protocols for the rescue and rehabilitation of wild animals in their traditional habitats.
- It will follow the framework provided by the **Wildlife Protection Act of 1972**, for conservation, protection and management of wildlife.





Ustad Zakir Hussain to receive Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan award

- **Ustad Zakir Hussain** was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan **Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** Award on January 17th, at an event called Haazri in Mumbai.
- The day marks the late music legend Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan's third death anniversary. He is one of the great unsung heroes of Indian classical music and a torchbearer of the **Rampur Sahaswan Gharana**.
- The honour will be presented to the Padma Vibhushan recipient in Mumbai by Ustad Khan's wife, Amina Ghulam Mustafa Khan.
- This award is bestowed upon legends who have dedicated their lives to music and have also championed the cause of Indian classical music on a global scale.

Vice Admiral AN Pramod assumed charge as the Director General of Naval Operations

- **Vice Admiral AN Pramod** assumed charge as the Director General Naval Operations (DGNO) on 15 Jan 2024. An alumnus of the 38th Integrated Cadet Course, Naval Academy, Goa, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 July 1990.
- The Flag Officer is a CAT 'A' Sea King Air Operations Officer and a Communication & Electronics Warfare Specialist. He did the Staff Course at DSSC Wellington (Nilgiris) and the Naval Higher Command Course at NWC, Goa.
- He commanded the Naval Air Station, Utkrosh at Port Blair and was also the Directing Staff at DSSC, Wellington. He has also held important staff appointments that include Joint Director, Naval Air Staff & Joint Director, Director and the Principal Director Aircraft Acquisition.
- He has also been the member of Indian Strategic & Operational Council (INSOC) and Tactical Audit Group (TAG) from 2016-19 and 2006-09 respectively.





IndusInd bank ties up with EazyDiner to launch credit card

- IndusInd Bank has launched the **'EazyDiner IndusInd Bank Platinum Credit Card'** in association with EazyDiner.
- The credit card offers an additional discount of ₹500 while paying through the EazyDiner App via PayEazy for both dining and take-away at select restaurants.
- Cardholders get an EazyDiner Prime membership for three months, with guaranteed discounts of 25 per cent to 50 per cent, at over 2,000 premium restaurants, without any joining or annual fees.
- Users can renew their membership upon payment of ₹30,000 every 90 days.
- The card offers up to 2 reward points on every ₹100 spent; in addition to the discounts, the reward points earned can be redeemed instantly against dining bills on the EazyDiner app.



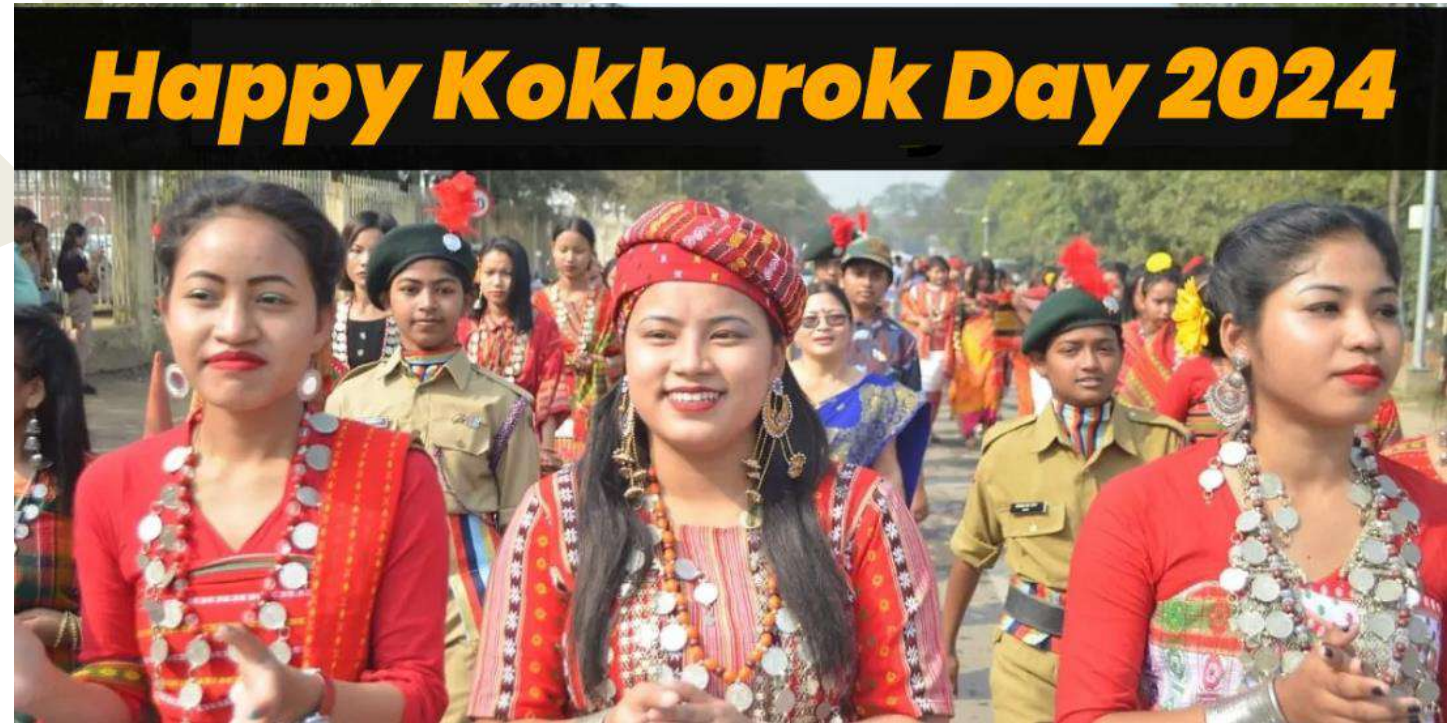
NICMAR Hyderabad gets platinum certification under IGBC green campus rating

- The National Institute of Construction Management and Research (NICMAR), located in Hyderabad, has recently been awarded the prestigious **Platinum certification** by the Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) under its Green Campus Rating program.
- This accomplishment highlights NICMAR Hyderabad's commitment to sustainability and eco-friendly practices in its campus operations and infrastructure.

- **NICMAR Hyderabad**, situated in the serene locality of Shamirpet, offers a unique blend of cultural heritage and modern educational approaches.
- The IGBC Platinum Certification is a testament to NICMAR Hyderabad's significant efforts in promoting sustainability. The campus stands out with over 25 trees per acre, amounting to a 47% green cover, and features water-efficient irrigation systems.
- The campus has also implemented a sewage treatment plant (STP) for treating 100% on-site wastewater, which is subsequently used for landscaping.
- Additionally, NICMAR Hyderabad has established dedicated networks for bicycles and pedestrians, promoting sustainable transportation.

Tripura celebrated 46th Kokborok Day

- On January 19th, Tripura, an Indian state, celebrates Kokborok Day, also referred to as **Tripuri Language Day**, with the aim of promoting the Kokborok language.
- This special day commemorates 1979, the year when **Kokborok** received official recognition for the first time.
- Kokborok is a classical language in North East India, referred to as Kok by the people. Previously known as Tiprakok/Tripurikok, it is a Tibeto-Burman language.
- The primary speakers are the Tripuri clans, including Debbarma, Kalai, Reang, Jamatia, Tripura, Noatia, Rupini, Murasing, and Uchoi. The community collectively identifies as “**Tripuris**,” and the language is an integral part of their cultural identity.
- The 46th anniversary of Kokborok Day this year highlights the ongoing efforts to preserve and revive this ancient language, spoken by the Tripuri community in Tripura for thousands of years.
- This occasion involves various events and activities organized by the Tripura government each year to pay tribute to Kokborok.



Chhattisgarh Launches Mahtari Vandana Yojana

- The state of **Chhattisgarh**, has recently launched a new scheme known as **Mahtari Vandana Yojana 2024**.
- Under this initiative, the government aims to provide economic assistance of **1000** rupees to women every month, amounting to a total annual financial aid of **12,000** rupees.
- The scheme not only aims to provide financial assistance to women but also emphasizes fostering self-reliance and skill development through the utilization of these funds.
- Women applying for the scheme should be between 23 to 60 years old.



Assam's highest civilian award for ex-CJI Ranjan Gogoi

- Former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, **Ranjan Gogoi**, has been awarded Assam's highest civilian award, **Assam Baibhav** ahead of the Ram Temple consecration.
- He served as the **46th CJI** and played a significant role in concluding the Ayodhya dispute.
- The award recognizes his efforts in expanding justice delivery and enriching jurisprudence.
- The state civilian award will be presented on Feb 10, by **Assam Governor Gulab Chand Kataria**.





Indian Army started ‘Operation Sarvshakti’ in Jammu and Kashmir to drive out terrorists

- In a major step towards thwarting Pakistan's attempts to increase terrorist activities in **Jammu and Kashmir**, the Indian Army is launching **Operation Sarvashakti**, where the security forces will be targeting the terrorists operating on both sides of the **Pir Panjal mountain** ranges in the Union Territory.
- In recent times, **Pakistan proxy** terrorist groups have tried to revive terrorism in the South of Pir Panjal ranges especially in the Rajouri Poonch sector, where around 20 troops have been killed in attacks by terrorists.

- Operation Sarvashakti would be to carry out combined counter-terrorist operations from both sides of the Pir Panjal ranges where the formations of the **Srinagar-based Chinar Corps** along with the Nagrota-headquartered **White Knight Corps** would be carrying out simultaneous operations.
- The operations are expected to be on the lines of Operation Sarpvinash, which was launched in 2003 to eliminate terrorists from the same areas in the South of Pir Panjal range.

Rohit Sharma becomes the batsman with most centuries in T20 cricket

- Indian cricket team captain **Rohit Sharma** has created history by becoming the first batsman to score **five centuries** in T20 Internationals (T20Is).
- This milestone was achieved during the third T20I match against Afghanistan in Bengaluru on January 17, 2024.
- He scored an unbeaten 121 runs off 69 balls, which included 11 fours and eight sixes, showcasing his exceptional batting skills.
- With this century, Rohit Sharma surpassed fellow cricketers like Suryakumar Yadav and Australia's Glenn Maxwell, who each have four T20I hundreds.
- As captain, Rohit Sharma also surpassed Virat Kohli's record of scoring the most T20I runs for India. Rohit has now scored 1573 runs as captain, overtaking Kohli's 1570 runs.
- Rohit equalled MS Dhoni's record of the most T20I wins as India's captain, achieving the feat in fewer matches.

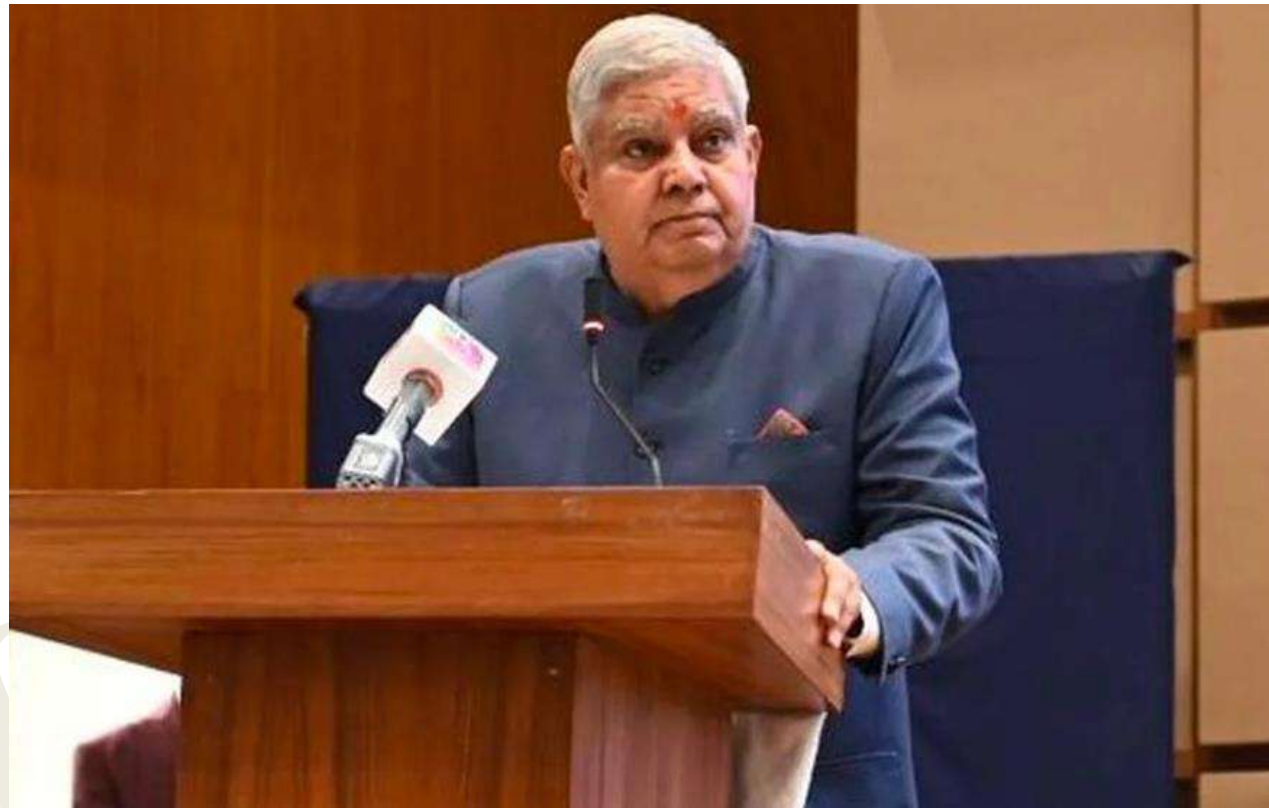


Rohit Sharma tops list of batters with most hundreds in T20

RBI Approves Appointment of Praveen Achuthan Kutty as MD & CEO of DCB Bank

- The Reserve Bank approved the appointment of **Praveen Achuthan Kutty** as the Managing Director and CEO of New Delhi, Private sector **DCB (Development Credit Bank)**.
- The appointment for a period of three years is effective from April 29, 2024. He will replace present **MD & CEO Murali M. Natrajan** on April 29.
- A meeting of the Board of Directors will be convened in due course to approve the appointment of Kutty as the MD and CEO, and subsequently approval of the shareholders shall be obtained.
- Kutty has been part of the DCB Bank leadership team for the past 16 years. He, alongside the current MD and CEO and management team, played a key role to turnaround the bank.
- **DCB (Development Credit Bank):**
- **Head quarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra
- **Tagline:** we value you





Jagdeep Dhankar unveils new Book 'Fertilising the Future' by Mansukh Mandaviya

- Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar released the book '**Fertilising the Future: Bharat's March Towards Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency**' written by Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister **Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya**.
- Sharing about the book release in a social media post, Dr. Mandaviya expressed his gratitude to the Vice President.
- The book delineates the journey of making India self-reliant in the fertilizer sector under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the revolutionary changes that have taken place till date.



Assam launched 'Mukhya Mantri Udyamita Abhiyan' Scheme to assist women of SGH

- The Assam government launched **Mukhyamantri Mahila Udyamita Abhiyan (MMUA)**, a financial support scheme aimed at empowering **rural women entrepreneurs**.
- This initiative carries unique conditions, particularly focusing on the number of children women can have to qualify for the benefits. Limited to three children to qualify for the scheme.

- The MMUA scheme is designed to foster the development of rural **women who are part of self-help groups**, transforming them into "rural micro-entrepreneurs" with a target annual income of Rs 1 lakh per member.
- If beneficiaries have girl children, they must be enrolled in school.
- For non-school-going age girls, a signed undertaking for future enrollment is required.
- Beneficiaries must ensure that trees planted under the government's tree plantation drive, **Amrit Brikshya Andolan**, are surviving.
- The scheme is a part of the state's annual budget, with ₹3,900 crores earmarked, making it one of the largest such schemes in Assam.
- In first phase each applicant will receive a grant of ₹10,000 in the first year to start a business from a list of 145 government-prepared business plans.



9th Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival Commenced in Arunachal Pradesh

- The 9th edition of the **Pakke Paga Hornbill Festival (PPHF)** is set to take place in Arunachal Pradesh, highlighting the region's commitment to wildlife conservation, with a special focus on hornbills.
- This festival, scheduled from January 18-20, 2024, at **Seijosa in the Pakke Kessang** district, brings together diverse communities to unite in their efforts to protect these iconic birds and promote environmental awareness.
- Festival's Theme: "Domutoh Domutoh, Paga hum Domutoh" Meaning of this theme is **"Let Our Hornbills Remain"** in the Nyishi language, this year's theme underscores the critical importance of preserving these magnificent birds.
- The **Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR)** in Arunachal Pradesh is home to four hornbill species: Wreathed, Great Indian, Oriental Pied, and the endangered Rufous-necked hornbill. The festival recognizes the **Nyishi**, Arunachal Pradesh's largest tribal group, for their pivotal role in hornbill conservation.

State's Startup Ranking 2022

Gujarat



Karnataka



Kerala



EmergEd Best



State's Startup Ranking 2022- Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala Emerged best

- The State's Startup Ranking Framework 2022 report was released by the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**. According to this report, **Gujarat, Karnataka**, and **Kerala** are the best-performing states in terms of startup ecosystem development.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal gave these awards to the states on January 16, 2024.
- The report ranked states and union territories in five categories. Mainly among these:
 - **Best performing states:** Gujarat, Karnataka and Kerala
 - **Top performing states:** Punjab, Rajasthan, Telangana, Orissa and Maharashtra
 - **Leading states:** Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh, Assam and Andhra Pradesh
 - **States with Ambitious Leadership:** Bihar and Haryana
- States developing emerging startup ecosystems: Chhattisgarh, Delhi, and Jammu and Kashmir
- Currently, there are a **total of 112 unicorn startups** in the country. Their total value is Rs 30 lakh crore.
- The States' Startup Ranking aims to empower states and union territories to develop their startup ecosystem and also to help learn from each other's best practices.
- The ranking framework evaluates states and union territories based on seven reform areas spread across **25 action points**.