

The Achievers IAS Academy

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7th Soil Health Card Day Observed on 19 February 2022



Every year India observes the **Soil Health Card Day on 19 February** to commemorate the launch of the **Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme**, and create awareness about the benefits of the scheme. 2022 marks the seventh year of the launch of the SHC Scheme. The scheme aims at issuing soil health cards to all farmers every two years. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme on **19th February 2015** at **Suratgarh in Rajasthan**.

About the Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme:

The card would provide details about the nutritional deficiencies in the soil so that the farmers can supplement the soil with suitable fertilizers and increase the yields. The scheme has been introduced to assist State Governments to issue Soil Health Cards to all farmers in the country. It provides information to farmers on the nutrient status of their soil along with

recommendations on the appropriate dosage of nutrients to be applied for improving soil health and its fertility.

Institute of Economic Growth named Chetan Ghate as its news Director



INSTITUTE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH

The **Institute of Economic Growth** has appointed **Chetan Ghate** as the new **director** succeeding **Ajit Mishra**. He was a member of the Reserve Bank of India's first monetary policy committee between 2016-2020, is the winner of the 2014 Mahalanobis Memorial gold medal for the best research economist in the country under the age of 45. He is currently an external affiliate of the Centre for Research in Macroeconomics and Macro-Finance at Swansea University (Wales, UK).

Achievements of Chetan Ghate:

- Ghate has a Ph.D in economics from Claremont Graduate University, California in 1999. His research areas include macroeconomics, monetary economics, economic growth and the Indian macro-economy.
- Ghate has been a professor of economics at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi for over 18 years. He is also a member of the advisory committee of the national accounts system (ACNAS) in the ministry of statistics and programme implementation.

About the Institute of Economic Growth:

The **Institute of Economic Growth** conducts advanced research on economic and social development in areas as diverse as macroeconomics, labour, international trade, public health, environment, agriculture, demography, sociology and industrial organization. IEG is one of the leading research and training centres in India with a global reputation for research on the Indian economy. The Institute also provides induction training for the Indian Economic Service Officers.

World Day of Social Justice observed on 20 February 2022



World Day of Social Justice is celebrated annually all over the world on **20 February**. The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on **10 June 2008**. Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. World Day of Social Justice 2022 Theme: **Achieving Social Justice through Formal Employment**.

History of the Days:

The International Labour Organization unanimously adopted the ILO Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization on **10 June 2008**. This is the third major statement of principles and policies adopted by the International Labour Conference since the ILO's Constitution of 1919. It builds on the **Philadelphia Declaration of 1944** and the Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work of 1998. The 2008 Declaration expresses the contemporary vision of the ILO's mandate in the era of globalization.

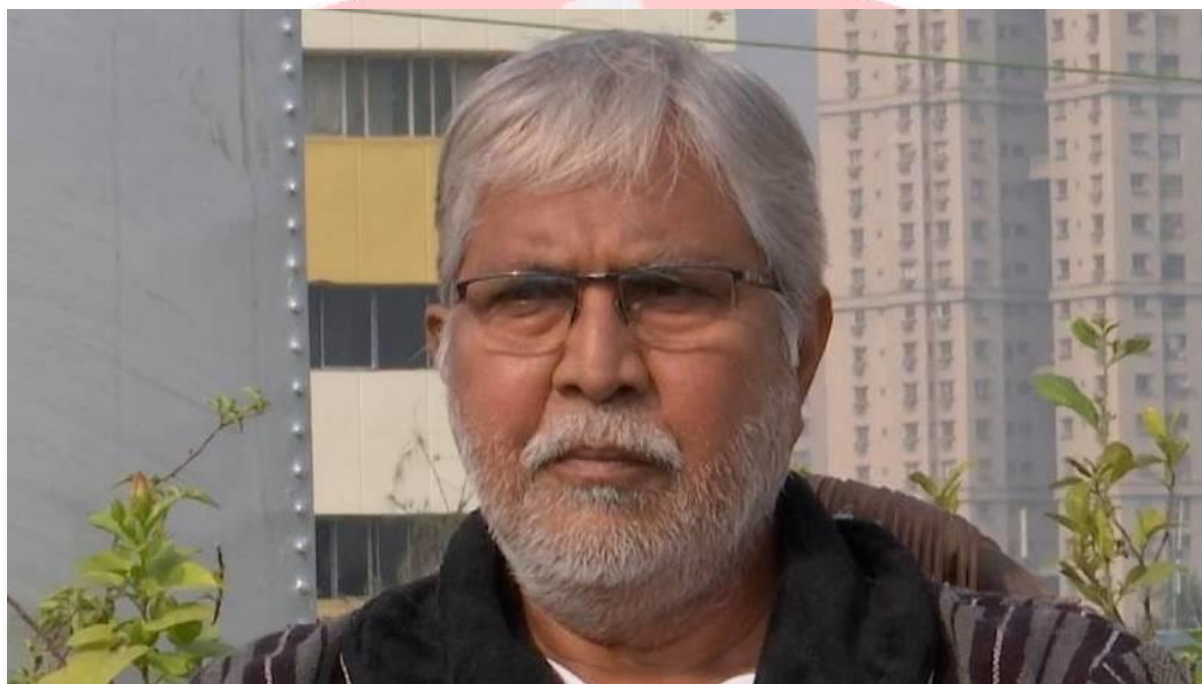
Nepal will become 1st country to deploy India's UPI platform



Nepal will be the first country to adopt **India's UPI system**, which will play a pivotal role in transforming the digital economy of the neighbouring country, the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. NPCI International Payments Ltd (NIPL), the international arm of NPCI, has joined hands with Gateway Payments Service (GPS) & Manam Infotech to provide the services. **GPS is the authorized payment system operator in Nepal. Manam Infotech** will deploy Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in **Nepal**.

The collaboration will serve the larger digital public good in Nepal and bolster interoperable real-time **person-to-person (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions** in the neighbouring country. Nepal shall be the first country outside of India to adopt UPI as the payments platform driving the digitalization of cash transactions and furthering the vision and objectives of the Nepal Government and Nepal Rastra Bank as the Central bank.

Football legend Surajit Sengupta passes away



The former India footballer **Surajit Sengupta**, who played as a midfielder, has passed away due to COVID-19 complications. He was 71. At the club level, Sengupta had been associated with Kolkata's three big clubs, **Mohun Bagan (1972-1973, 1981-1983), East Bengal (1974-1979) and Mohammedan Sporting (1980)**. He was part of the Indian national team that won a bronze medal in the **1970 Asian Games, held in Bangkok, Thailand**.

Amit Shah launches 'Shastra App' and 'Smart Card Arms License' of Delhi Police



Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** has launched the '**Smart Card Arms License**' and '**Shastra App**' of the **Delhi Police**, on the occasion of the **75th anniversary of the Delhi Police**. In order to provide techno-friendly digital services to the citizens of the national capital. According to Delhi Police, the smart card, with inherent security features, is easy to carry and handle. The card will be printed in-house after verification of data of the arms license holders.

About the Smart Card Arms License:

- The Delhi Police Licensing Unit has introduced 'Smart Card Arms License', to replace the existing bulky arms license booklet. With this Delhi Police has become the first police force in the country to introduce such a smart card service.
- The Smart Card Arms License is easy to carry with inherent security features. It will be printed in the house after verification of data of arms license holders.

About the Shastra mobile app:

- The card is also integrated with the 'e-Beat book' of Delhi Police through the 'Shastra mobile app' for effective policing.
- The Shastra app will help beat officers in identifying the credentials of arms license holders anytime during day-to-day random checking.

Career Counselling Workshop 'Pramarsh 2022' launched in Bikaner



Minister of State for Culture & Parliamentary Affairs, **Arjun Ram Meghwal** has launched '**Pramarsh 2022**', a mega career counselling workshop, for the students of the **Bikaner District region in Rajasthan**. More than one lakh students from thousands of private & government schools of Bikaner district and mainly from rural areas participated in this workshop. It is the first such incidence in India that more than 1 lakh students participated in Career Counselling in one Workshop.

About the **Pramarsh 2022** workshop:

- The “Pramarsh 2022” workshop is an extension of the effort to bridge the industry-academia gap and impart the knowledge about various choices available to the student, to help them make a more informed decision.
- The Workshop was organised jointly by The National Institute of Career Services (NICS), under the Ministry of Labour & Employment and Bengaluru-based educational start-up Edumilestones, with support from the Directorate of Education, Rajasthan.

17th IBA's Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021 announced



Indian Banks' Association

Indian Banks' Association (IBA) has announced the IBA's **17th Annual Banking Technology Awards 2021**. In total South Indian Bank has won 6 awards in the event. This year's IBA Awards celebrating "Next Gen Banking" has recognized technologies and practices in the banking industry that have demonstrated a high degree of innovation over the past year.

The list of winners in different categories is given below:

Best Technology Bank of the Year

- In Large Banks segment: Bank of Baroda
- In Small Banks segment: The South Indian Bank
- In Foreign Banks segment: Citibank N.A.
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Digital Financial Inclusion Initiatives

- Large Banks: State Bank of India
- Small Banks: The Jammu & Kashmir Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Payments Initiatives

- Public Banks: State Bank of India
- Private Banks: ICICI Bank

Best Fintech Adoption

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Medium Banks: Federal Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

Best Use of AI/ ML T & Data

- Large Banks: ICICI Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Regional Rural Banks: Telangana Grameena Bank

Best IT Risk & Cyber Security Initiatives

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India

- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: The South Indian Bank
- Foreign Banks: The Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
- Regional Rural Banks: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin
- Co-operative Banks: The Saraswat Coop bank
- Small Finance/Payments Banks: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank

Cloud Adoption

- Large Banks: Union Bank of India
- Medium Banks: Yes Bank
- Small Banks: Karur Vysya Bank
- Foreign Banks: Citi bank N.A
- Regional Rural Bank: Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin

SBI Ecowrap report: India's GDP projected at 8.8% in FY22



State Bank of India (SBI) Research Report, **Ecowrap**, has revised downwards the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate of India for FY22 (2021-22) to **8.8 percent**. Earlier this was estimated at **9.3 per cent**. The report projects the GDP to grow at **5.8 per cent** in the third quarter (Q3) of FY2021-2022 (October-December).

The country's economy expanded by 8.4 per cent in the second quarter of 2021-22, to cross pre-pandemic levels. However, the GDP growth in the July-September period was slower than the 20.1 per cent expansion in the previous quarter.

World Pangolin Day 2022 observed on 19th February



World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the “**Third Saturday of February**” every year. In 2022, the annual World Pangolin Day is being celebrated on **19 February 2022**. It marks the **11th** edition of the event. The day aims to raise awareness about these unique mammals and speed up conservation efforts. Pangolin numbers are rapidly declining in Asia and Africa.

Some facts about Pangolin:

- Pangolins are the only mammal to be covered in scales.
- To protect themselves, they curl into balls like hedgehogs.
- Their name comes from the Malay word ‘pengguling’ meaning ‘something that rolls up’.
- They are the most smuggled mammal in the world because people want their meat and scales.
- A pangolin’s tongue can be longer than its body when fully extended is can be 40 cm long!