

## Government implements Shekatkar Committee's recommendations to create border infrastructure



Government has accepted and implemented 3 important recommendations of the Committee of Experts (CoE) under the Chairmanship of Lieutenant General **D B Shekatkar** (Retd) relating to **border**

**Infrastructure** so as to speed up road construction, which leads to socio-economic development in the border areas.

**1st recommendation-** In relation to creating border infrastructure, the Government has implemented the CoE's recommendation to outsource road construction work beyond the optimal capacity of the Border Roads Organisation (BRO).

**2nd recommendation-** In relation to introduction of modern construction plants, equipment and machinery implemented by delegating enhanced procurement powers from **Rs 7.5 crores to Rs 100 crores** to BRO, for domestic and foreign procurements.

**3rd recommendation-** Completing land acquisition and obtaining **statutory clearances** such as forest and environmental clearance will be prerequisites for approval of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a new road.

### **About Shekatkar Committee:**

The Shekatkar Committee was set up by former defence minister **Manohar Parrikar** in **2016** to improve combat capability & rebalance defence expenditure of the Armed forces for better teeth-to-tail ratio. The Committee submitted its report in December 2016.

## 6 Cities rated 5 Star, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star for garbage free cities: MOHUA



Ministry Of Housing and Urban Affairs(MOHUA) announced the results of the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities, for the assessment year 2019-2020, where 6 Cities were rated 5 Star, 65 Cities rated 3 Star and 70 Cities rated 1 Star out of 141 cities & also launched the revised

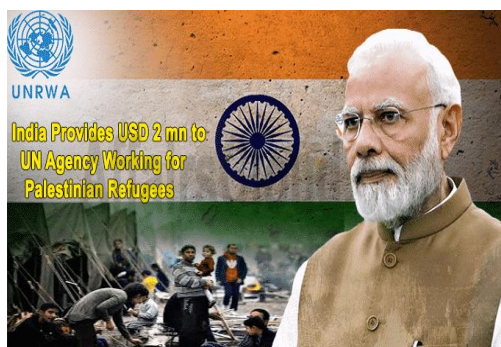
protocol for the Star Rating of Garbage Free Cities.

The protocol has been devised with components including cleanliness of drains & water bodies, plastic waste management, managing construction & demolition waste, among others, which are critical drivers for achieving garbage free cities

### About MOHUA:

The Information on urban scenario, organizations, policies, Lists of attached offices, Statutory & Autonomous Bodies, Public Sector Undertakings and Joint Ventures are also available in the website.

## India Provides 2 million USD to support UN agency working for Palestinian refugees



On 19th May 2020 India provides 2 million USD (Rs 15 crore) to support the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to support the Palestinian refugees for its programmes and services like education and healthcare in the COVID-19 situation.

1. India has increased the annual contribution to the UNRWA from 1.25 million USD(Rs.9.45 crore) to 5 million USD (Rs. 37 crore)in 2019 and promised another 5 million USD(Rs. 37 crore) for 2020 this opens an opportunity for India to become a member of the agency's advisory commission.

2. Under India-Palestine development partnership 17 agreements are signed in the fields of agriculture, health care, information technology, youth affairs, consular affairs, women empowerment and media in the past five years.

**About UNRWA:**

**Commissioner General-** Philippe Lazzarini (Under Secretary General of United Nations)

**Headquarters-** Amman and Gaza

**Created in-** December 1949

**Army proposes 3-year stint for civilians under “Three-Year Short Service” Scheme**



There are many who want to be a “personnel in uniform” and experience the military life but did not want a full career in the Army. For them, in a game changer move, our Indian army is considering a proposal to allow civilians, including young working professionals, to join the force for 3 years as officers and in

other ranks (ORs) in areas like logistics and front-line formations under the “**Tour of Duty**” or “**Three-Year Short Service**” Scheme. The cumulative approximate cost of pre-commission training, salary and other expenses is nearly between **Rs 5.12 crore and Rs 6.83 crore** on an officer if he or she is released after 10 and 14 years.

**Tax free income:** The proposal suggests several measures to incentivize this scheme like a tax-free income for 3 years and a token lumpsum at the end of three years of about Rs 5-6 lakh for officers and Rs 2-3 lakh for ORs.

**Reduction in cumulative cost:** The cumulative approximate cost of pre-commission training, salary and other expenses after three years would be just **Rs 80 lakh to Rs 85 lakh each** which results in saving of around Rs 11,000 crore, which can be used for modernisation of the armed forces.

**i.** If this proposal gets approved, it will be a voluntary engagement and will not affect the current selection criteria.

**ii.** Initially, 100 officers and 1,000 men are being considered for recruitment.

**iii.** The proposal suggests several measures to incentivize this scheme like a tax-free income for 3 years.

**About Indian Army:**

**Chief of Army Staff (COAS)–** Manoj Mukund Naravane

**Headquarters–** New Delhi

## Nepal approves new political map including India's Kalapani, Lipulekh as its territory



On May 19, 2020, Amidst the border dispute with India, Nepal's cabinet has accepted a new political map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura under its territory. i.India and Nepal are at a dispute after the Indian side released its new political map on 2 November 2019, which covers above three areas in Indian territory.

### Since when and why is there a dispute?

The Sugauli Treaty of 1816 was signed between Nepal and the British East India Company in 1816 after the Anglo-Nepal War. It depicts the Kali (Mahakali) river as the western border of India and Nepal. On the basis of this, Nepal claims to be under the jurisdiction of Lipulekh and other three regions.

#### About Nepal:

**Capital**– Kathmandu

**Currency**– Nepalese rupee

**President**– Bidhya Devi Bhandari

## NABARD extends Rs 20,500 crores special liquidity facility to co-op banks & RRBs



The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development(NABARD) has informed that it has extended **Rs 20,500 crores special liquidity facility** to co-operative banks(**co-op**– Rs 15,200 crores) and Regional Rural Banks(**RRB's**– Rs 5,300 crores) in various States. This is against

the Rs 5,000 crores lent during the 1st quarter of 2019. This amount is part of the **Rs 25,000 crores of special refinance facility** provided by the Reserve

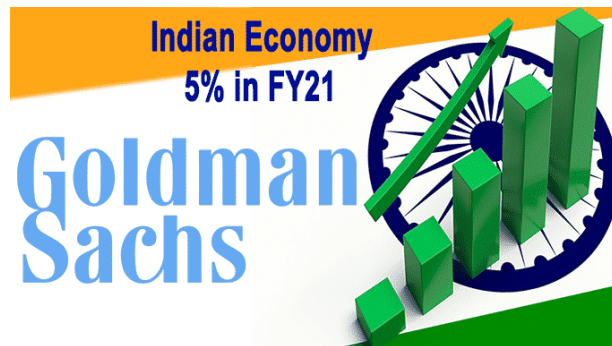
Bank of India(RBI) to NABARD for refinancing RRBs, cooperative banks and MicroFinance Institutions (MFIs).

**About NABARD:**

**Headquarters**– Mumbai, Maharashtra

**Chairman**– Harsh Kumar Bhanwala

**Indian economy to contract 5% in FY21: Goldman Sachs**



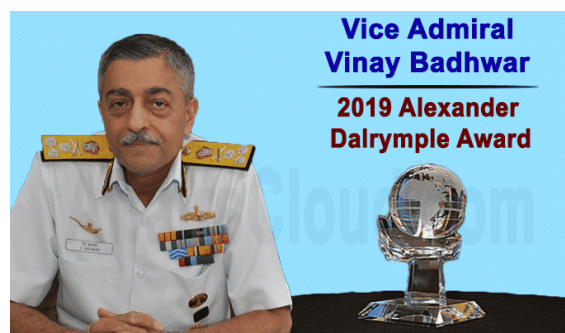
American brokerage **Goldman Sachs** expects the Indian economy to contract by **5% in FY21**, which will be the deepest compared to all recessions India has ever experienced since 1979. It is against its earlier forecast of 0.4% contraction before revising it down to a level it shares with Japanese brokerage Nomura.

**About Goldman Sachs:**

**Headquarters**– New York, United States

**Chairman & Chief Executive Officer(CEO)**– David M. Solomon

**Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar wins 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award from UK**



On 18th May 2020, The National Hydrographer to the Government of India, Vice Admiral Vinay Badhwar is honored with the 2019 Alexander Dalrymple Award. The award was first presented in 2006 by the UK Ministry of Defence sponsored UK Hydrographic Office (**UKHO**) named after the first

Hydrographer of the Admiralty, Alexander Dalrymple.

**About IHO:**

**Secretary-General-** Dr. Mathias Jonas (Germany)

**Director-** Abri Kampfer (South Africa) & Mustafa Iptes (Turkey)

**Established-** 1921

**Secretariat-** Monaco

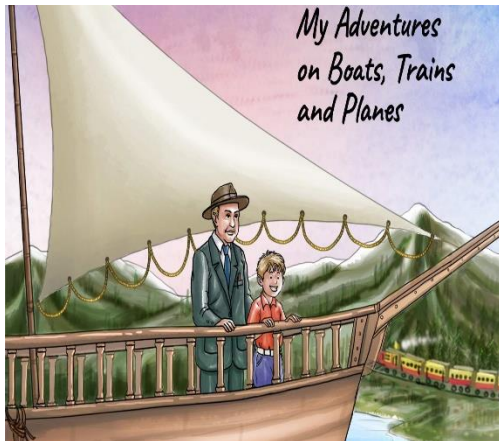
**About UKHO:**

**Non-Executive Chair-** Adam Singer

**Chief Executive-** Tim Lowe CBE

Deputy Chief Executive- RAdm Peter Sparkes (National Hydrographer)  
Headquarters- Taunton, Somerset, United Kingdom

### Ruskin Bond's new book 'Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes' Released on his 86th Birthday



Popular author Ruskin Bond's new book titled "**Hop On: My Adventures on Boats, Trains and Planes**", was released on 19 May 2020 in an e-book format, to celebrate the occasion of **his 86th birthday**.

The book narrates some of his memorable travel adventures on boats, trains and planes from his childhood.

It contains illustrations by Samrat Halder and is published by Speaking Tiger's children's imprint Talking Cub

### World Bee Day : May 20



The World Bee Day is celebrated every year on May 20 to acknowledge the role of bees and other pollinators for the ecosystem.

The theme of World Bee Day 2020 is "**Save the Bees**".

The day also marks the **birth anniversary of Anton Janša**, the pioneer of beekeeping, who was born on 20 May 1734. The day was proposed by Slovenia and proclaimed by UN

Member States in December 2017.