

NOTICE TO AIRMEN (NOTAM)



- Notice to Airmen, also known as **Notice to Air Mission**, is a notice containing **information concerning the establishment, condition, or change in any aeronautical facility, service, procedure, or hazard**, the timely knowledge of which is **essential to personnel concerned with flight operations**.
- In short, a NOTAM is a **notification from an official body alerting airspace users to hazards** along their route, both in the air and on the ground.
- NOTAMs **update pilots about changes in airspace, airports, and equipment** that affect aircraft operations.
- NOTAMs are **issued by national aviation authorities** for a number of reasons, such as:
 - **Hazards** such as air-shows, parachute jumps, and glider or micro-light flying;
 - Flights by important people such as heads of state;
 - **Closed runways, taxiways, etc;**
 - Unserviceable radio navigational aids;
 - **Military exercises** with resulting airspace restrictions;
 - **Unserviceable lights on tall obstructions;**
 - **Temporary erection of obstacles** near airfields (e.g. cranes).
- For reasons of conciseness and precision, NOTAMs are **encoded**, although the code is usually sufficiently **self-evident to allow the user to identify a hazard**.
- NOTAMs are **communicated** by the issuing agency **using the fastest available means** to all addressees for whom the information is assessed as being of direct operational significance, and who would not otherwise have at least seven days' prior notification.
- NOTAMs are typically **accessible through online platforms, electronic flight planning tools, and aviation weather services**, allowing pilots to conveniently access up-to-date information and make informed decisions regarding their flight activities.

PROJECT DEEPAK



Recently, the Project Deepak of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) celebrated its 66th Raising Day at Shimla, Himachal Pradesh.

- It was initiated in 1962 by the **Border Roads Organisation**.
- The project has been instrumental in executing **critical infrastructure works** in some of the most challenging **terrains of the country**.
- It's area of responsibility spanning key districts of **Himachal Pradesh** including Shimla, Kinnaur, Kullu and Lahaul-Spiti.
- **Achievements:**
 - Project Deepak- one of the oldest projects- has also been at the forefront of developing critical infrastructure such as **Hindustan-Tibet Road** and key stretches of **Manali-Leh axis**.
 - In addition to infrastructure development, this project has demonstrated exceptional commitment towards **disaster management and humanitarian assistance**.

Key Facts about Border Roads Organisation

- It is a **road construction executive force** in India that provides **support to the Indian Armed Forces**.
- BRO was entirely brought under the **Ministry of Defence in 2015**.
- **Establishment:** It was formed on 7 May 1960 to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and northeastern states of the country.
- It develops and maintains road networks in **India's border areas** and friendly neighboring countries.
- **Motto:** Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam (everything is achievable through hard work).

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK



- It is a **multilateral development bank** established on 19th December 1966.
- It is the principal international development finance institution for the **Asia-Pacific region**.
- Its membership is **open to other regional countries and non-regional developed** countries that are members of the U.N. or of any of its specialized agencies.
- **Members:** 69 (50 regional, 19 non-regional).
- **Headquarters:** Manila, Philippines.
- **Governance:**
 - **Board of Governors:** One representative from each member country; top policy-making body.
 - **Board of Directors:** Twelve directors manage operations; eight from regional members, four from non-regional members.
 - **President:** Chairs the Board of Directors and manages ADB
 - **Voting System:** Weighted voting based on **each country's capital contribution**.
 - **Key Shareholders:** Five shareholders are **Japan and the USA** (each with 15.6% of total shares), **China (6.4%)**, **India (6.3%)**, and **Australia (5.8%)**.
 - **Functions of Asian Development Bank**
 - **Provides Loans:** It provides **loans and grants to member countries** for development projects in infrastructure, social sectors, and environmental sustainability.
 - **Technical Assistance:** It offers **technical assistance** and advisory services to improve policy-making, governance, and institutional capacity.
 - **Regional Cooperation:** It promotes regional cooperation and integration by funding cross-border projects and encouraging trade and investment.

KEY FACTS ABOUT NARMADA RIVER



- It is the **largest west-flowing river in peninsular India**.
- Of the major rivers of peninsular India, only the Narmada, the Tapi, and the Mahirun flow from east to west.
- It has long been an important **route between the Arabian Sea and the Ganges (Ganga) River valley**.
- **Course:**
 - The **origin** of the river is a **tiny reservoir named Narmada Kund**, which is situated on the **Amarkantak Hill in East Madhya Pradesh** at an elevation of 1,057 m on the **border with Chhattisgarh**.
 - The river **flows through Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat** between **Vindhya and Satpura hill ranges** before **falling into the Gulf of Cambay** in the **Arabian Sea** about 10 km north of **Bharuch, Gujarat**.
- **Length:** It is the **fifth longest river of India**.
- Narmada flows through the **Hoshangabad plains**, the **Dhar upland**, the **Mahishmati plains**, and the **gorges at Mandhata and Murakta**.
- The **basin is bounded** on the north by the **Vindhyas**, on the east by the **Maikala range**, on the south by the **Satpuras**, and on the west by the **Arabian Sea**.
- The **Tropic of Cancer** **crosses the Narmada basin** in the upper plains area, and a major part of the basin lies just below this line.
- It is one of the rivers that **flow in a rift valley** and acts as a **divider between north India and south India**.
- These **rift valleys** are the **result of the faulting** that took place when the **northern flank of the Peninsula** suffered subsidence.
- The river has **numerous waterfalls**, notably the **Dhuandhar Falls**, southwest of **Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh**.

- **Tributaries:**
 - The main tributaries of Narmada River are, namely, **Hallon River, Banjar River, Barna River, and Tawa River.**
 - The **Tawa River** is the **longest** tributary of the Narmada River.
- There are also **numerous pilgrimage spots** on the banks of the river, the most important among them are **Mahewswar and Omkareshwar temples.**
- There are several dams along the course of the river, including major hydroelectric projects, such as the **Sardar Sarovar Dam, the Indira Sagar Dam, the Omkareshwar Dam, the Bargi Dam, and the Maheshwar Dam.**

ELECTRONIC GOLD RECEIPTS



- EGRs are **dematerialised securities** that represent ownership of physical gold.
- The underlying **gold is stored in SEBI-regulated vaults**, and investors hold the receipts in their demat accounts — similar to shares or ETFs.
- Vault Manager is a **new entity registered by SEBI** for providing vaulting services for gold deposited for the purpose of creation of EGR.
- Each EGR is **backed by actual gold**, ensuring authenticity and standardisation.
- It is operated **under SEBI guidelines.**
- **Working of Electronic Gold Receipts:**
 - The process starts with depositing **physical gold** at accredited vaults, which is then **converted into EGR units.**
 - These units are **credited to a demat account** and can be traded on the exchange.
 - Investors can also **convert EGRs back into physical gold**, offering flexibility between digital and physical ownership.
 - **Participated By:** The EGR ecosystem is designed for a wide set of participants, including **jewellers, refiners, traders, and retail and institutional investors.**

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS



- It is the national standard body of India established **under the Bureau of Indian Standards Act 2016**.
- **Objective:** It was established for the **harmonious development of the activities of standardization**, marking, and quality certification of goods and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
 - It is the **successor of the Indian Standards Institution (ISI)**, which was created in 1947.
- BIS represents **India in International Organization for Standardization (ISO)** and **International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC)**.
- **Nodal Ministry:** It functions under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution**.

Headquarter: It is **headquartered in New Delhi** and maintains regional and branch offices throughout the country.

Functions of Bureau of Indian Standards

- BIS has been **providing traceability and tangibility** benefits to the national economy in a number of ways by
 - Providing safe, reliable quality goods;
 - Minimizing health hazards to consumers;
 - Promoting exports and imports substitute; control over proliferation of varieties etc. through standardization, certification, and testing.
- It operates **product certification schemes** through which it grants licenses to manufacturers covering practically every industrial discipline, from agriculture and textiles to electronics.

WEST ASIA CONFLICT SPURS INDIA TO BOOST LNG STORAGE CAPACITY

- India is reconsidering its energy security strategy after disruptions in liquefied natural gas (LNG) supplies caused by the closure of the Strait of Hormuz during the West Asia conflict.
- The crisis has highlighted India's limited LNG storage capacity, prompting both the government and industry stakeholders to plan expansions.
- Petronet LNG stated that the company aims to increase its storage capacity by about 70% by adding new cryogenic tanks at terminals like Dahej, Kochi, and the upcoming Gopalpur facility.
 - Petronet LNG is India's largest LNG importer, established in 1998 as a joint venture by major public sector oil companies such as GAIL, BPCL, IOCL, and ONGC.
 - It handles about 74–75% of the country's LNG imports and operates key import and regasification terminals at Dahej (Gujarat) and Kochi (Kerala).
- Currently, unlike crude oil, India has minimal LNG reserves, leading to discussions on building adequate stockpiles to better withstand future geopolitical and supply shocks.

Lessons from the Hormuz Crisis: India's LNG Vulnerability

- **Heavy Dependence on Hormuz Route** - India relies on LNG imports for nearly half of its natural gas needs, with around 60% of supplies routed through the Strait of Hormuz.
- **Supply Disruptions and Immediate Impact** - The West Asia conflict led to a near halt in vessel movement through the Strait, resulting in no LNG cargo reaching India from the Persian Gulf for over two months. This severely disrupted supply chains despite efforts to source LNG from alternative markets.
- **Rationing and Sectoral Prioritisation** - With limited supplies, the government prioritised natural gas for essential sectors like transportation and household use, while curtailing supply to certain industries, highlighting the strain on domestic energy management.

- **Inadequate Storage Capacity** - India currently has 23 LNG storage tanks, including those operated by Petronet LNG, but these are primarily designed for operational continuity rather than emergency reserves. Each tank holds roughly one shipload, while daily consumption exceeds one tank.

Expanding LNG Infrastructure: Challenges and Way Forward

- **High Cost and Long Gestation Period**
 - Building LNG storage tanks is a complex and expensive process because they must be **cryogenic**, capable of maintaining extremely low temperatures to keep gas in liquid form.
 - Each tank can take at least three years to construct after approvals, making expansion a long-term effort.
- **How LNG Storage and Supply Works?**
 - Natural gas is cooled into LNG and transported via specialised cryogenic vessels.
 - It is then stored in cryogenic tanks at terminals, where it is regasified and supplied to consumers through pipelines.
- **Pipeline Connectivity as a Key Constraint**
 - Beyond storage, inadequate pipeline infrastructure limits the efficient use of LNG terminals.
 - Some terminals operate below capacity due to poor connectivity, restricting the evacuation of gas to end users.

Way Forward: Integrated Infrastructure Development

- Improving pipeline networks alongside increasing storage capacity will enhance utilisation of LNG terminals, strengthen supply chains, and help India build a more resilient energy system against future disruptions.



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EXERCISE CINBAX-II



Recently, the Indian Army contingent has departed to Cambodia for the second edition of India-Cambodia Bilateral Military Exercise CINBAX-II.

- It is the **bilateral military exercise** conducted between the **Indian Army and the Cambodian Army**.
- It is conducted in Kampong Speu Province, **Cambodia**.

Participating Contingent: The Indian Army contingent comprises of 120 personnel, majorly from a **Battalion of the Maratha Light Infantry Regiment**.

- The exercise will be conducted under the **framework of Chapter VII of UN Mandate**, showcasing Company level joint training for conduct of operations in sub-conventional environment.
- CINBAX-II aims to **boost interoperability, coordination, and operational synergy** between the two forces.
- It will also serve as a platform to exchange best practices and share operational experiences, particularly in **semi-urban combat environments**.
- It will centre on **counter-terrorism operations** aligned with real-world UN peacekeeping scenarios.

Significance: The exercise underscores the growing defence ties between India and Cambodia and is expected to deepen bilateral relations.