

25 August, 2023

Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar Scheme

Context: The government has announced the launch of the "Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar" Invoice Incentive Scheme starting from September 1, 2023.

- The "Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar" initiative has been introduced by the Government of India in collaboration with State Governments.
- The initiative aims to establish the practice of customers requesting invoices or bills for every purchase they make.
- An "Invoice Incentive Scheme" under the name of 'Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar' is being launched to facilitate this cultural shift.
- The primary goal of the scheme is to instil a change in the cultural and behavioural norms, encouraging the general public to assert their right and entitlement by asking for a bill during transactions.

Features/Details of the Scheme

- The Scheme will commence on 1st September 2023.
- Initially, the pilot launch of the scheme will take place in the States of Assam, Gujarat & Haryana and UTs of Puducherry, Dadra Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu.
- Eligibility for the scheme applies to all B2C invoices issued by GST registered suppliers in the mentioned regions, with a minimum invoice value of Rs. 200 for lucky draw consideration.
- Invoices can be submitted through the "Mera Bill Mera Adhikaar" mobile application available on IOS and Android, as well as the web portal "web.merabill.gst.gov.in".
- All Indian residents are eligible to participate, regardless of their State/UT. Individuals can upload a maximum of 25 invoices per month via the app/web portal for lucky draw entry.
- Upon invoice submission, an Acknowledgement Reference Number (ARN) will be generated for prize draws.
- Random draws for prizes will occur at regular intervals, both monthly and quarterly.
- Monthly draws will have 800 prizes of Rs. 10,000 each, and 10 prizes of Rs. 10,00,000 each.
- Invoices uploaded by the 5th of the following month will be eligible for the monthly draw, and the quarterly draw will encompass invoices uploaded in the last 3 months.
- During invoice upload, participants must provide GSTIN of the supplier, Invoice Number, Invoice Date, Invoice Value, and State/UT of the customer.
- Duplicate uploads and invoices with inactive or fake GSTIN will be rejected.
- Winners will need to provide additional information like PAN number, Aadhar Card, and Bank Account Details within 30 days for prize transfer.
- The pilot scheme will run for 12 months.

Invoice Discounting

Invoice discounting is a financial practice where a business sells its unpaid invoices to a third-party for a discounted immediate payment. This helps businesses access funds faster and improves cash flow. The third-party collects the full invoice amount from the customers when they pay, deducts a fee, and passes the remaining amount to the business.

Defence Acquisition Council

Context: Under the chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved capital acquisition proposals amounting to approximately ₹7,800 crore.

- Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) granted for Electronic Warfare (EW) Suite on Mi-17 V5 Helicopters to enhance survivability. Procured from Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- Ground-Based Autonomous System approved for mechanised infantry and armoured regiments. Supports unmanned surveillance, logistic delivery, and casualty evacuation.
- Approved procurement of 7.62x51 mm Light Machine Gun (LMG) and Bridge Laying Tank (BLT) for improved infantry capabilities and Mechanised Forces' mobility.
- AoN granted for Ruggedised Laptops and Tablets under Project Shakti for the Indian Army. Sourced exclusively from Indigenous vendors.
- AoN for procurement of weapons for Indian Navy's MH-60R Helicopters to enhance operational capability.

Defence Acquisition Council

- **Role of DAC:** The DAC is the highest decision-making body of the defence Ministry for procurement matters.

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- **Objective:** Its primary goal is to ensure the efficient and swift acquisition of approved armed forces' requirements.
- **Formation:** Established in 2001 following the recommendations of the Group of Ministers after the Kargil War (1999).
- **Composition:**
 - Chaired by the Defence Minister.
 - Includes members like the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and the chiefs of the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Functions:**
 - Provides preliminary approval for a 15-year Long Term Integrated Perspective Plan (LTIPP) for defence forces.
 - Grants acceptance of necessity for acquisition proposals.
 - Categorizes acquisition proposals as 'Buy,' 'Buy & Make,' and 'Make.'
 - Addresses issues related to single vendor clearance.
 - Makes decisions regarding 'offset' provisions for acquisition proposals over Rs 300 crore.
 - Handles decisions concerning Transfer of Technology under the 'Buy & Make' category.
 - Oversees field trial evaluations.

Positive Indigenisation List

- The concept of the positive indigenization list means that the Indian Armed Forces (Army, Navy, and Air Force) will source specific items exclusively from domestic manufacturers.
- These manufacturers can be from the private sector or Defense Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).
- The fourth Positive Indigenisation List release in May 2023 builds upon the previous three PILs released in December 2021, March 2022, and August 2022.
- Collectively the lists contain 2500 items
- A total of 310 items have been indigenised successfully so far:
 - 262 items from the first PIL.
 - 11 items from the second PIL.
 - 37 items from the third PIL.
- This initiative aligns with India's 'Atma Nirbharta' (self-reliance) vision, aiming to strengthen the domestic defence industry, encourage investments, and reduce import dependency.

Generic Medicines

Context: The NMC has suspended its regulations that required doctors to prescribe generic drugs and prohibited them from endorsing any specific drug brand.

- Regulations named "Registered Medical Practitioner (Professional Conduct) Regulations, 2023" published on August 2.
- IMA and IPA raised concerns about making generic medicine prescriptions mandatory due to quality uncertainties.
- They suggested letting doctors attend pharma-sponsored conferences and exempting associations from NMC guidelines.
- NMC suspended the 2023 regulations immediately, adopting and enforcing "Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002."
- Misconduct now includes use of alcohol or intoxicants affecting professional practice.

Generic Medicines

- A generic medication contains the identical active ingredient as the brand-name drug, delivering the same therapeutic effects.
- It matches the brand-name drug in dosage, safety, strength, quality, administration, and usage.
- These similarities demonstrate bioequivalence, indicating that a generic medicine functions and provides the same clinical advantages as the brand-name version.
- The risks and benefits of generics are equivalent to those of their brand-name counterparts.
- Generic drugs aren't required to include the same inactive ingredients as the brand-name product.
- A generic drug can only be sold once the patent of the brand-name drug has expired.
- Generic drugs are generally far more affordable than brand-name medications.
- Generics, being cost-effective alternatives to branded drugs, dominate the market, comprising 70 to 80% of retail sales.
- India's growing population, particularly the elderly, has boosted the demand for generic medicines due to their affordability and effectiveness, equivalent to branded drugs.

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- A study indicates that the global generic drugs market was valued at USD 390.57 billion in 2020, and it's anticipated to reach around USD 574.63 billion by 2030.
- This growth is projected to achieve a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 5.59% from 2021 to 2030.

Biosimilars	Generics
Generally made from living sources	Generally made from chemicals
Require a specialized process to produce	Have a simpler process to copy
Very similar, but not identical, to original biologics	Copy of brand-name drugs
Faster development process using public information from original biologic approval	Faster development process using public information from brand-name drug approval
Usually less expensive than original biologics	Usually less expensive than brand-name drugs
SOURCE: FDA.gov	

NEWS IN BETWEEN THE LINES

LCA-MK1A



What is LCA-MK1A?

LCA-MK1A stands for Light Combat Aircraft Mark 1A. It is a type of combat aircraft designed and developed for the Indian Air Force (IAF) by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

Advanced Version:

- LCA-MK1A is an upgraded version of the original LCA-MK1.
- It offers enhanced combat capabilities and features compared to its predecessor.

Features and Capabilities:

- Equipped with modern avionics, radar systems and electronic warfare suites.
- Designed for multiple combat roles, including air superiority, ground attack, reconnaissance, and more.
- Improved radar, electronic warfare systems, and weapons integration for better operational effectiveness.

Contract and Procurement:

- In 2021, the Defence Ministry signed a contract worth ₹48,000 crore with HAL for the procurement of 83 LCA-MK1A aircraft for the IAF.
- The contract aims to strengthen the IAF's fleet with technologically advanced aircraft.

Delivery Schedule:

- The contract includes a delivery schedule of 3 LCA-MK1A aircraft by February 2024.
- Subsequent delivery of 16 aircraft per year for the following five years.

Pragyan



About:

- Pragyan is the rover from Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander, designed to explore the moon's surface and collect data.
- Pragyan is equipped with two navigation cameras, NAVCAM M-Left and NAVCAM-Right, in the front.
- These cameras help the rover navigate, avoid obstacles, and plan its path.
- NAVCAMs create a 3D view, assisting Pragyan in avoiding rocks, pits and rough terrain.
- Pragyan's effective operation hinges on the role of NAVCAMs for safe movement and data collection.
- NAVCAM technology originated in Chandrayaan-2, showcasing learning from previous missions.
- NAVCAM-aided mobility allows Pragyan to explore varied lunar terrains and conduct experiments.
- Success of NAVCAMs highlights the expertise and dedication of ISRO scientists and engineers.
- Chandrayaan-2 experiences influenced improved navigation technology for Pragyan and Chandrayaan-3.
- Pragyan underscores India's ongoing commitment to lunar exploration and technological advancement.
- Data collected with NAVCAMs could enhance our knowledge of the moon's geology and history.

Malcha Mahal



About Malcha Mahal:

- Historical hunting lodge built in the 14th century during the Tughlaq era.
- Located in Chanakyapuri area of New Delhi.
- Known as Wilayat Mahal after Begum Wilayat Mahal of Awadh, who lived there with her family.

Feroz Shah Tughlaq:

- Third ruler of Tughlaq dynasty, ruled Delhi from 1351 to 1388 AD.
- Focused on infrastructure development and city building.
- Repaired Qutub Minar, established cities like Jaunpur and Firozpur.
- Benevolent ruler, abolished harsh punishments, lowered taxes and sought advice from Ulemas.
- Introduced various taxes, including Kharaj, Zakat, Kham, Jaziya, and irrigation tax.
- Introduced inheritance principle for armed forces.
- Established Diwan-i-Khairat (charity) and Diwan-i-Bundagan (slaves department).
- Set up Sarais (rest houses) for travelers.
- Adopted Iqtadari framework for governance.

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Pench Tiger Reserve



Recently, the Pench Tiger Reserve has introduced cycle safaris, offering a unique way for visitors to explore the natural beauty of the reserve.

Location:

- Situated in the southern reaches of the Satpura hills.
- Spans Seoni and Chhindwara districts in Madhya Pradesh and extends into Nagpur district in Maharashtra.
- Named after the Pench River, flowing from north to south through the Reserve.

Components of the Reserve:

- Comprises the Indira Priyadarshini Pench National Park, Pench Mowgli Sanctuary and a buffer zone.
- The area played a role in Rudyard Kipling's "The Jungle Book."

Diverse Flora: Flourishing flora including teak, saag, mahua, grasses, and shrubs.

Rich Fauna:

- Home to Chital, Sambar, Nilgai, Gaur and wild boar.
- Predators like tigers, leopards, wild dogs and wolves.
- Over 325 bird species, including Malabar Pied Hornbill, Indian Pitta and Osprey.

Place in News

Taiwan

Recently, Taiwan has revealed its plan to allocate an additional T\$94.3 billion (\$2.97 billion) for weapon procurement in the upcoming year, including fighter jets.

Taiwan (Capital: Taipei)

Geographical Location:

Taiwan is located in East Asia. Bounded by the East China Sea to the north, the Philippine Sea to the east and the South China Sea to the south.

Major cities: Kaohsiung, Taichung, Tainan, New Taipei.

Neighboring Countries:

- China to the northwest.
- Philippines to the south.
- Japan to the northeast.

Taiwan's Status:

- Taiwan is officially known as the Republic of China (ROC).
- Political and diplomatic complexities regarding its sovereignty.

Security Concerns:

- Concerns about China's claims and military posturing.
- Focus on defense enhancement and strategic partnerships.



Personality in News

Yevgeny Prigozhin

Yevgeny Prigozhin, chief of Wagner Group and friend-turned-foe to Russian President Vladimir Putin, was killed after a private jet.

Yevgeny Prigozhin (1st June 1961-23rd August 2023)

Background and Imprisonment:

- Yevgeny Viktorovich Prigozhin was a Russian oligarch and leader of the Wagner private military company.
- Yevgeny Prigozhin faced imprisonment due to his involvement in multiple robberies.
- Emerged in the early 1990s as the Soviet Union was dissolving.

Business Ventures:

- Started as a small-scale hot dog seller and eventually entered the catering business.
- Gained prominence through his catering services and established connections with the ruling class.

Formation of Wagner Group:

- Founded Wagner Group in 2014.
- Initiated to support Putin's involvement in Crimea, which marked the group's establishment as a private military entity.



POINTS TO PONDER

- ❖ Which payloads are aboard the Lander Module? -ILSA, RAMBHA and ChaSTE
- ❖ Which company developed the Sodium-ion Batteries? -Sodion Energy
- ❖ How long has India been engaged with the Arctic? -Since the signing of the Svalbard Treaty in 1920
- ❖ Which cargoes can be imported through Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor (CVMC) from Russia to India? -Coking coal, crude oil, LNG and fertilizers
- ❖ What policy approach has Prime Minister Hasina highlighted in her foreign policy? -"Friendship with all and malice for none"

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