

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of May (1st May – 7th May 2022)

National / State News

1. Recently _____ signed a MoU with Digboi Forest Division for a project on Carbon Sequestration and Restoration of Degraded Forest Land in Upper Dihing Reserved Forest (west block).

- A. NTPC
- B. Oil India Limited**
- C. ONGC
- D. BPCL

- Oil India Limited signed a MoU with Digboi Forest Division, Assam Forest Department on 29th April 2022 for a project on Carbon Sequestration and Restoration of Degraded Forest Land in Upper Dihing Reserved Forest (west block) under Digboi Forest Division. **The initiative has been undertaken under OIL's CSR project Vasundhara.**

- Under the project, reforestation and Afforestation in 100 hectare of degraded forest area is planned to be undertaken through plantation of 2, 50,000 saplings by March 2025.

- Oil India Limited is the second largest Indian-government under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India.

- Its headquarters in Duliajan, Assam.

- Shri Sushil Chandra Mishra , Chairman and Managing Director of Oil India Limited (OIL)

OIL signs MoU for restoration of degraded forest land



Oil India Limited signed an MoU with Digboi Forest Division, Assam Forest Department on April 29 for a project on Carbon Sequestration and Restoration of Degraded Forest Land in Upper Dihing Reserved Forest (west block) under Digboi Forest Division. The initiative has been undertaken under OIL's CSR project Vasundhara. The MoU was signed by Pallab Barman, CGM-FHQ

Affairs from OIL and T C Ranjithram, DFO from Digboi Forest Division in the presence of Ravi Shankar Prasad, IAS, Addl Chief Secretary, Government of Assam and other officials from OIL and Govt of Assam. Under the project, reforestation and afforestation in 100 hectares of degraded forest area is planned to be undertaken through plantation of 2,50,000 nos. of saplings by March 2025.

2. As per the Data on Police Organizations (DOPO) 2021 released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development _____ hold the top position in the country in the number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed by the police.

- A. Delhi
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Telangana**
- D. Odisha

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Telangana continues to hold the top position in the country in the number of CCTV surveillance cameras installed by the police, revealed Data On Police Organisations (DOPO) 2021 released by the Bureau of Police Research and Development. With 2, 82,558 cameras

Telangana stands first in the country, followed only by Tamil Nadu with 1, 50,254 CCTV cameras, The State Police Department has been successful in roping in corporate and MNCs to help in the mission of installing CCTVs, using their CSR funds.

Tamil Nadu has 2272 police stations, the highest in the country, followed by Uttar Pradesh (1656) and Maharashtra (1165).

3. Consider the following statements regarding **Semi-conIndia Conference 2022**.

1. It is a flagship conclave with the **theme Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem** being held in **Bengaluru** from 29th April to 1st May 2022.
2. MOU between **AICTE and SEMI and ISM** for training and skilling tech workforce for the semiconductor sector.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

- Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Semicon India Conference 2022, the global semiconductor conclave designed to bring together key stakeholders to showcase existing capabilities, ideate innovations and discuss global best practices.
- **The flagship conclave with the theme Catalyzing India's Semiconductor Ecosystem, is being held in Bengaluru from 29th April to 1st May 2022.**
- Inaugurating the conference, Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India said, we have earmarked USD 10 billion for India Semiconductor Mission and are creating an environment that encourages growth to create a vibrant semiconductor ecosystem and steer India into the future."
- The conference aligns with the larger national narratives such as Make in India and Atmanirbhar Bharat and is pegged as the launch pad to India Semiconductor Mission (ISM).
- **IESA launched an industry report on 'Semiconductor manufacturing supply chain – India's opportunity in the global market'.**
- MOU signed between SEMI and ELCINA (Electronic Industries Association Of India)to promote semiconductor ecosystem in India
- MOU between CDAC and Qualcomm for partnership in semiconductors which will target semiconductor design start-ups, in line with the objectives of the PLI scheme.
- MOU between AICTE and SEMI and ISM for training and skilling tech workforce for the semiconductor sector.

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- SEMI is an industry association comprising companies involved in the electronics design and manufacturing supply chain. Headquarters: Milpitas, California, United States.

4. Recently **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** has launched a **gluten-free millet products for all age groups at affordable prices**. The **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** has declared which of the following years as the **International Year of Millets?**

- A. 2023
- B. 2024
- C. 2025
- D. 2026

May 01, 2022, 8:05AM

APEDA launches gluten-free millet products for all age groups at affordable prices

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has launched a variety of millet products for all age groups at affordable prices. Ready-to-Eat millet food products like Upma, Pongal, Khichadi, Noodles and Biryani launched at affordable prices ranging from five to fifteen rupees at the AAHAR food fair in New Delhi.

Commerce and Industry Ministry said, all the millet products launched by APEDA are gluten-free, 100 percent natural and patented. The 36th edition of AAHAR was jointly organized by APEDA and the India Trade Promotion Organization at Pragati Maidan this week.



@APEDADOC

The Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) launched a variety of millet products for all age groups at affordable prices ranging from Rs 5 to Rs 15 at the AAHAR food fair, which is Asia's biggest B2B international food and hospitality fair.

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) has launched a gluten-free millet products for all age groups at affordable prices.

A gluten-free diet (GFD) is a nutritional plan that strictly excludes gluten, which is a mixture of proteins found in wheat (and all of its species and hybrids, such as spelt, kamut, and triticale), as well as barley, rye, and oats.

In March, 2021, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has declared 2023 as International Year of Millets.

5. Recently the **International Semiconductor Consortium ISMC** announced to invest **three billion US dollars** in _____ to set up a chip making plant under the Central Government's Indian Semiconductor Mission.

- A. Telangana
- B. Maharashtra
- C. **Karnataka**
- D. Odisha

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The International Semiconductor Consortium ISMC will invest three billion US dollars in Karnataka to set up a chip making plant.

In rupees it will be an investment of about 22,900 crores.

This will be India's first semiconductor fabrication unit that is expected to generate over 1500 direct jobs and 10,000 indirect jobs.

A MoU was signed today in Bengaluru in this regard with the state government. The ISMC has requested 150 acres of land in Kenchanahalli Industrial area in Mysuru.

The unit will be set up under the Central Government's Indian Semiconductor Mission.

ISMC is a Joint venture company between Abu Dhabi based Next Orbit Ventures and Israel's Tower Semiconductor.

India's semiconductor market is forecast to grow to 63 billion dollars by 2026 from 15 billion dollar in 2020

ISMC to invest \$3 bn in India's first chip plant

Unit to come up in Karnataka



Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, Minister for Higher Education, IT, BT & N Ashwathnarayan, Israel's Ambassador to India Naor Gilon, Consul General Tammy Ben-Haim, Deputy Chief of Mission of India Limor Bletter, Commissioner for Industrial Development Gunjan Krishna, with other officials, during the MoU signing.

6. Consider the following statements regarding **Sagarmala programme**.
- 216 projects worth 2.12 lakh crore rupees are currently being implemented under the Sagarmala programme.
 - 802 projects worth 5.5 lakh crore envisaged for implementation under the programme by 2035 while 202 projects worth 99,281 crore rupees have been completed.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- Only 1
- Only 2
- Both 1 & 2
- None of the above

- **Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal said 216 projects worth 2.12 lakh crore rupees are currently being implemented under the Sagarmala programme.**
- **He said out of the 802 projects worth an investment of 5.5 lakh crore envisaged for implementation under the programme by 2035, 202 projects worth 99,281 crore rupees have been completed.**
- **Sarbananda Sonowal also inaugurated the work for developing a Ro-Ro jetty near the Mattancherry Wharf of the**

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
BENGALURU, MAY 1

KARNATAKA SIGNED a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Israel-based ISMC Analog Fab Private Ltd for setting up the country's first semiconductor fab plant with an investment of around Rs 22,900 crore (\$3 billion).

The company is set to fully implement the project over the next 7 years with employment potential for 1,500 people. Additional Chief Secretary in the Department of IT, BT & EV Ramana Reddy on the part of Karnataka and ISMC director Ajay Jalan signed the MoU.

In a major industrial boost to Mysuru, ISMC has requested 150 acres of land in Mysuru's Kochanahalli Industrial area. This will be India's first and largest semiconductor fabrication unit under the Centre's Indian Semiconductor Mission.

The MoU with ISMC will make Karnataka the place to look forward to in semiconductor technology, Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said in his address, after signing of the MoU.

Karnataka government understands that it is not just the concessions or incentives, it is the conducive ecosystem that is needed to draw the investors. The state has the best infrastructure and skilled human resources, Bommai said. It is a major stride in the semiconductor sector. There are challenges ahead. The MoU would drive us to turn those challenges into opportunities, Bommai said.

The MoU has provided a forum for technology and cultural exchange between Israel and India, Bommai added, requesting ISMC to not just to set up the plant here, but also bring the latest developments in the technology as it evolves with time to this plant in Karnataka.

Cochin Port and digitally unveiled the Golden Jubilee Statue to be set up at the Shipyard.

- **The Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shantanu Thakur released the new logo of the Cochin Port Authority.**

7. **Recently the Government announced to roll out its indigenously developed online e-commerce network in _____ Indian cities to provide millions of Kirana stores consumer’s alternative multinational platforms.**

- A. 100
- B. 125
- C. 75
- D. 200

- **The commerce and industry ministry is all set to launch the pilot phase of open network for digital commerce.**
- **The Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) is an initiative of the government to promote an open platform for all aspects of the exchange of goods and services through electronic networks**
- **It will be launched in five cities -- Delhi NCR, Bengaluru, Bhopal, Shillong and Coimbatore**
- **ONDC has received its certificate of incorporation as a private sector led non-profit company on December 31, 2021.**
- **A number of established companies are already integrated with ONDC.**
- **The government has set up a nine-member advisory council, including Nandan Nilekani from Infosys and National Health Authority CEO R S Sharma, to ascertain steps required to design and accelerates adoption of ONDC.**

driven by commodities such as due to a bumper output of 31.12 last year.

Early 2021 reforms to quicken pace of key Sagarmala projects

House panel finds progress slow in port modernisation; today’s ministerial meet may unveil action plan

SURYA SARATHI RAY
New Delhi, May 5

AN INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE headed by minister for shipping & waterways Sarbananda Sonowal will meet in New Delhi on Friday, to take stock of the progress of the seven-year-old, ₹5.54-trillion Sagarmala project, aimed at slashing logistics costs for both domestic and export-import cargo.

The meeting is in the backdrop of Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s just-concluded visit to north Europe, where he invited Nordic companies to invest in India’s Blue Economy sector, especially in the Sagarmala project.

While it is clear that Sagarmala, one of the flagship projects of the Narendra Modi government, has helped reduce the turnaround time at India’s ports to an average of around 27 hours now, from around 45 hours before the project’s launch, private investments in key areas like port modernisation and development of new ports have been much below expectations. Since these two critical areas haven’t witnessed adequate investor interest, port-led industrialisation has not made much headway either.

As far as the Indian economy’s competitiveness is concerned, logistical constraints have been a big drag, along with the rigid labour market.

A parliamentary panel has recently highlighted the slow progress in port projects.

The Parliament in February 2021 passed the Major Ports Authority Bill, 2020, to abolish the Tariff Authority for Major Ports (TAMP), and give the boards of every port the powers to fix reference tariffs for various port services; this could entice private investors. Thanks to this crucial reform, and since the Covid-19 pandemic has abated, private-public partnership (PPP) projects in various port services may finally get a leg up now.

According to analysts, the “major-ports sector” (govern-

Sagarmala progress

	No. of projects investment	₹ trillion
Completed	202	1
Under implementation	216	2.12
Under development	384	2.37

Source: Ministry of ports, shipping and waterways



ment-run ports) hasn’t seen the required level of fixed assets creation owing to legacy issues, including the TAMP’s archaic regulatory grip.

In January 2018, the Cabinet took a slew of steps to spur private investments via the PPP route in state-run ports. It allowed investors to share royalty with the port authorities on discounted tariffs, rather than as a percentage of gross revenue based on tariff ceiling fixed by the regulator at the time of bidding. Other steps announced then included easier exit, akin to what investors in highway projects enjoy; immunity from post-model concession agreement threat to project viability from regulatory orders, changes in environmental and labour laws, and imposition of or hikes in indirect taxes.

According to a statement issued by the ministry of shipping & ports on Wednesday, of the total 802 projects envisaged under Sagarmala, as many as 202 projects, worth ₹99,281 crore, have been completed. Another 216 projects worth ₹2.12 trillion are under implementation and 384 projects worth ₹2.37 trillion are under various stages of development.

After a hiatus caused by the pandemic, some Sagarmala projects have gathered momentum in recent months. According to sources, 21 projects have got completed in the last couple of months, taking the total number of completed projects to 202.

The potential for port-led development and easing of cargo movement at Indian ports is big, given the country’s 7,500-km long coastline and 14,500 km of navigable waterways.

The parliamentary panel that reviewed the Sagarmala project in its report released in late March found “unsatisfactory progress” under three broad heads — port modernisation &

new port development, enhancement of port connectivity and port-led industrialisation. A total of 483 projects involving investment of ₹5.17 trillion, or a little over 93% of the projected investment under the entire Sagarmala programme, has been conceived under these three heads.

“The port modernisation programme, which constitutes ₹2.6 trillion, or 47% of the programme, had a rather slow progress last fiscal. While 76 of the 242 port modernisation projects were completed till 2020-21 since the launch of the programme, just one additional project was completed last fiscal,” the panel noted.

The pace of work under the port connectivity enhancement programme, under which ₹1.36 trillion is being spent, has been even slower, it added.

“Despite the enormous importance of the connectivity of ports, the committee feels that the pace of work under this head has been even slower than that under modernisation of ports, since out of 208 projects only 56 have been completed and 69 are under implementation. Out of the ₹1.36 trillion funding under this head, only a paltry sum of ₹19,488 crore has been utilised till date in completed projects. The committee also notes that there appears to be very few connectivity projects relating to minor ports,” the committee said.

“The committee is constrained to note that despite the importance of industrialisation around the ports, not much work appears to have been done under this head. The committee, therefore, recommends to expedite implementation of port-led industrialisation projects and set globally benchmarked targets to improve logistics efficiency and cost competitiveness,” said the panel in its report.

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Govt to launch e-commerce network in 100 cities

Rajeev Jayaswal

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The government plans to roll out its indigenously developed online e-commerce network for the public in 100 Indian cities by Diwali to provide millions of kirana stores and consumers an alternative to multinational platforms such as Amazon and Flipkart.

Union commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Friday announced the test-launch of the open-source system. The beta launch will unveil the IT applications of the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) and registry covering a small number of retailers and customers initially in Bengaluru on Friday, two people directly associated with the project said.

"After UPI (Unified Payment Interface), another game changing idea to democratise com-



The e-commerce network will give consumers an alternative to Amazon and Flipkart.

merce - ONDC soft launch today to select consumers, sellers and logistics providers. Get ready for a world of choice, convenience and transparency," the minister said in a tweet on Friday.

The project is massive as it will provide a wide choice to all consumers and retailers and the

formal launch will take place after successful testing of the system, said Anil Agrawal, the additional secretary in the department for promotion of industry and internal trade (DPIIT).

"End-to-end testing is being done to create a playbook with an aim to launch it in 100 cities in six months [by October 2022]," he said.

About 15 restaurants and grocery stores have been registered in Bengaluru along with select consumers to begin the trial with actual delivery of products, ONDC chief executive officer Thampy Koshy said in Bengaluru on Friday.

"This is the field trial with real transactions. In the coming week, we will cover two big and three smaller cities. Based on the experience, we will gradually scale it up," he said.

The ONDC system is different

from the operational models of existing e-commerce companies in India and abroad where buyers and sellers are restricted to their respective platforms, Koshy said.

"Our model is platform-agnostic. This is unique, it's never been done anywhere in the world. Hence, a considered approach," he said.

"ONDC is based on interoperability where all platforms will talk to each other," Koshy said.

The system will have multiple choices for both retailers and customers in terms of cataloguing, inventories, warehousing, suppliers, logistics and payments, he said. The initial test launch, which was started in Bengaluru, will also cover cities such as Delhi, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong.

Amazon India said they are "closely engaging with the ONDC team to better understand the

proposed model". "We remain committed to the government's vision of digitizing kiranas, local stores and creating opportunities for businesses across India by simplifying technology adoption to help local stores and businesses contribute to India becoming a \$5 trillion economy. We are closely engaging with the ONDC team to better understand the proposed model and evaluate the role Amazon can play to better serve Indian customers and sellers," an Amazon India spokesperson said.

Flipkart did not respond to email queries on this matter.

Experts who wish not to be named said the ONDC model may also have some challenges such as the return policy, which is currently the responsibility of the e-commerce platforms.

The other challenge could be related to consumer grievance redressal.

8. Recently India's first ethanol plant was inaugurated in _____ district to reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.

- A. Bhagalpur
- B. Purnia
- C. Khagaria
- D. Rohtas

In Bihar country's first ethanol plant was inaugurated in Purnia district. On this occasion Chief Minister Nitish Kumar said ethanol production would help reduce the cost of petrol and generate fresh employment opportunities in the state.

The rupees 105 crore plant set up by a private investor is the first one developed since the Union government approved the Bihar government's ethanol production and promotion policy -2021.

The ethanol plant set up with the latest technology using zero waste discharge has been built in 15 acres. It would buy 130 tonnes of rice husk and 150 tonnes of maize or rice from farmers every day. It is country's first grain-based ethanol plant.

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9. Recently Ayush Ministry organized a Yoga Utsav to commemorate the 50th day of the countdown to International Day of Yoga in _____ district of Assam.
- A. Jorhat
 - B. Guwahati
 - C. Sivsagar
 - D. Imphal

Sarbananda Sonowal, the Union Minister for AYUSH, emphasised the need for a strong nation as India is celebrating its 75th anniversary of independence.

The Ministry of AYUSH organised a large yoga practice at the historic Shiva Dol premises in the Sivsagar district.

A total of 500 people practised in the Shiv Dol premises and the ancient monument's premises of Rangghar, Talatal Ghar, Joy Dol, Rudrasagar Shiv Dol, ThoraDol and Kareng Ghar among others.

The objective of the event is to give wide publicity to the various dimensions of Yoga and to promote the countdown campaign to IDY 2022 for health and wellness.

Ministry of AYUSH is the nodal ministry for the celebration of the International Day of Yoga (IDY).

The Utsav theme is 'Make Yoga a part of Your Life'.

Nitish opens India's 1st greenfield grain-based ethanol plant in Bihar

SANTOSH SINGH
PATNA, APRIL 30

BIHAR CHIEF Minister Nitish Kumar on Saturday opened the country's first greenfield grain-based ethanol plant in Purnea and said ethanol production will help reduce cost of petrol and generate employment.

The Rs 105-crore plant by Eastern India Biofuels Pvt Ltd is the first one developed since the Centre gave a go-ahead to Bihar's ethanol production and promotion policy-2021.

Nitish said on the occasion: "We have made a start. We had been trying this since 2007. We had requested the then UPA government to give us the go-ahead when we received proposals for setting up ethanol units.... Now, 20 per cent ethanol can be mixed with petrol and diesel. The country will benefit immensely from ethanol production."

State Industry minister Syed Shah Nawaz Hussain added: "Oil Marketing Companies

EXPLAINED
E Bihar eyes more ethanol plants

With 18 of 38 Bihar's districts falling in what is known as the corn belt, the state government has proposed opening at least 17 ethanol plants over the next two years. The state expects opening more such plants to benefit farmers, and the factories to generate employment for locals, especially in the Seemanchal belt comprising Purnea, Kishanganj, Katihar and Araria districts.

(OMCs) have signed an agreement with 17 units with the approved capacity of 1080 kilolitre per day. Of these 17 units Eastern India Biofuels will begin production from April 30. Two units in Gopalganj and one in Bhojpur are also ready to begin production."

10. Recently which of the following country signed a joint declaration on agro-ecology and sustainable management of natural resources with India?
- A. Germany
 - B. Denmark
 - C. Fiji
 - D. Nepal

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Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Shri Narendra Singh Tomar and Germany's Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Ms. Svenja Schulze signed the declaration on agro-ecology and sustainable management of natural resources.

Through this, joint research, knowledge sharing and innovation will be promoted between academic institutions of both countries and practitioners including farmers.

Germany's Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development intends to provide up to 300 million euros by the year 2025 for financial and technical cooperation for projects under this initiative.

11. Recently in May _____ Government **launched Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana** to provide more than 100 government services to citizens.
- Haryana
 - Madhya Pradesh
 - Chattisgarh**
 - Uttar Pradesh

Chhattisgarh Bhupesh Baghel launched Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana.

This scheme has been launched to provide more than 100 government services to citizens.

Currently, 13 types of services are available in 14 municipal corporations but now it will be expanded to the entire state. CM has also distributed tablets to 'Mitans' deployed under the Mukhyamantri Mitan Yojana. Under this scheme, citizens will get domicile certificate, caste certificate, income certificate, birth certificate, etc. at their doorstep.

The certificates will be provided to the applicants by 'Mitan' at their homes.

12. Consider the following statements regarding **Cannes Film Market**.
- India will be the official country of honour for the Cannes Film Market, which will take place from May 17 to May 25.**
 - India has been given an opportunity to pitch 5 selected movies at the "Goes to Cannes Section".**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

India is official country of honour at Cannes

Pratidwandi, Thamp to be screened

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI**

India will be the official country of honour at the Cannes Film Market scheduled from May 17 to 25.

As the country celebrates its 75th year of Independence, coinciding with film festival's 75th anniversary, a brand new restoration of cinema legend Satyajit Ray's movie *Pratidwandi* will be presented in an exclusive screening at the movie gala.

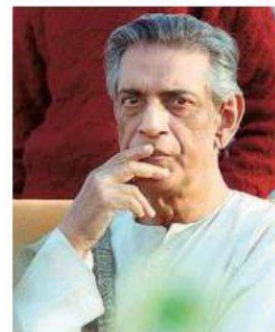
According to a press release issued by the festival, *Pratidwandi* has been restored under the National Film Heritage Mission, a project undertaken by the Union Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

The restoration was carried out by Prime Focus Technologies, Mumbai, and the grading was supervised by cinematographer Sudeep Chatterjee.

The restored version is presented by the National Film Archive of India (NFDC).

The film *Thamp* (The Circus Tent), a 1978 Aravindan directorial, will have its Restoration World Premiere at the festival.

Hollywood classic *Singin' in the Rain*, will be present-



Satyajit Ray

ed in a brand new 4K restoration. The 1952 Gene Kelly and Stanley Donen film, which details the transition from silent film to talkies, will have its screening on the Boulevard de la Croisette.

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone has already been announced as a member of the competition jury of the upcoming edition of the festival along with prestigious names such as actor-filmmaker Rebecca Hall and Iranian filmmaker Asghar Farhadi.

Ms. Padukone is part of the eight-member jury which will select one of the 21 films in competition with the coveted Palme d'Or during the closing ceremony on May 28.

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- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2**
- D. None of the above

India will be the official country of honour for the Cannes Film Market, which will take place from May 17 to May 25.

India has been given an opportunity to pitch 5 selected movies at the “Goes to Cannes Section”.

During the Cannes Film Festival's 75th anniversary, Satyajit Ray's classic - Pratidwandi will be screened at the Cannes Classic section Cinema de la plage.

India is also a “Country of Honour at the Cannes Next, under which 5 new Start-Ups would be given an opportunity to pitch to the Audio-Visual Industry.

At this edition of the Cannes Film Festival, World Premier of the Movie “Rocketry” produced by Shri. R. Madhavan will be also showcased.

A cinema hall named Olympia Screen has been dedicated to India to screen "Unreleased Movies" on 22 May 2022.

The Marché du Film (literally meaning Film Market) is the business counterpart of the Cannes Film Festival and one of the largest film markets in the world. Established in 1959, it is held annually in conjunction with the Cannes Film Festival.

13. Recently a *first-of-its-kind waste plastic recycling plant* has been established in _____ to reduce environmental pollution.

- A. Agra
- B. Raigad**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Delhi

A first-of-its-kind waste plastic recycling plant has been established in Maharashtra's Raigad district in an effort to reduce environmental pollution.

The site, which is located in the Khopoli area, spans 2000 square meters and can recycle 1600 kilograms of plastic waste every day.

The recycling plant uses innovative technology to ensure efficient sorting of waste and hot washing to eliminate contamination.

Huhtamaki, a Finnish company that operates in the consumer goods packaging market in India, invested Rs 90 million to set up this plant. It is established as part of the Huhtamaki Foundation's #CloseTheLoop initiative, which aims to tackle post-consumer waste by providing valuable secondary resource material.

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14. Consider the following statements regarding PLASTINDIA 2023.

1. PLASTINDIA 2023 is the 11th International Plastic Exhibition & Conference.
2. PLASTINDIA 2023 will showcase India as the global hub for sourcing processed items related to Plastics.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya launched PLASTINDIA 2023.

PLASTINDIA 2023 is the 11th International Plastic Exhibition & Conference.

Mansukh Mandaviya said that India's Petrochemical Industries is one of the fastest-growing industries in the Indian economy.

PLASTINDIA is a series of exhibitions under the PLASTINDIA Foundation. PLASTINDIA 2023 will showcase India as the global hub for sourcing processed items related to Plastics.

It will provide opportunities for employment generation and facilitate the growth of the Indian plastic industry.

India will contribute more than 10% to petrochemical growth in the next decades.

Exports of Indian Chemicals have registered growth of 106% in 2021-22 as compared to 2013-14.

An official name changing ceremony of 'MiyankaBada' railway station to 'Mahesh Nagar halt' was held in the Balotra area of Barmer district of Rajasthan.

In 2018, the name of the village was changed from 'MiyankaBada' to Mahesh Nagar but the name of the railway station was not changed.

15. Recently in May _____ recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.

- A. Ladakh
- B. Bihar
- C. Goa
- D. Kerala

- Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.

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- **Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969), the report released by the Registrar-General of India said.**
- **The lowest sex ratio was reported by Manipur (880), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).**
- **None of the States or UTs has recorded sex ratio at birth below 880.**
- **The report said that the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio was “not available.” They had not provided the said data in 2019 as well.**
- **Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.**
- **The sex ratio at birth of registered events is an important indicator to map the sex differential of the population at the beginning of their life. The sex ratio at birth has been calculated after deducting the delayed registration of more than one year for the year 2020.**

Highest sex ratio at birth in Ladakh

Manipur has lowest followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli, Daman and Diu in 2020

VIJAITA SINGH
NEW DELHI

Ladakh recorded the highest sex ratio at birth in the country in 2020, followed by Arunachal Pradesh, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Tripura and Kerala, according to the annual report on Vital Statistics based on 2020 Civil Registration System report.

“Highest Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) based on registered events has been reported by Ladakh (1,104) followed by Arunachal Pradesh (1,011), A&N Islands (984), Tripura (974), and Kerala (969),” the report released by the Registrar-General of India on Tuesday said. Sex ratio at birth is the number of females per thousand males.

The lowest sex ratio was reported by Manipur (880), followed by Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu

Gender ratio

A look at top five and bottom five States and UTs in terms of their sex ratio at birth, as per the 2020 Civil Registration System report



Top 5 States/UTs

Ladakh (1,104)
Arunachal Pradesh (1,011)
A&N Islands (984)
Tripura (974)
Kerala (969)

Bottom 5 States/UTs

Manipur (880)
Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (898)
Gujarat (909)
Haryana (916)
Madhya Pradesh (921)

(898), Gujarat (909), Haryana (916) and Madhya Pradesh (921).

2019 data

In 2019, the highest sex ratio at birth was reported by Arunachal Pradesh (1,024), followed by Nagaland (1,001),

Mizoram (975) and A&N Islands (965), and the lowest sex ratio was reported by Gujarat (901), Assam (903), Madhya Pradesh (905) and Jammu & Kashmir (909).

The report said that the requisite information from Maharashtra, Sikkim, Uttar

Pradesh and Delhi on sex ratio was “not available.” They had not provided the said data in 2019 as well.

“The sex ratio at birth of registered events is an important indicator to map the sex differential of the population at the beginning of their life. The sex ratio at birth has been calculated after deducting the delayed registration of more than one year for the year 2020,” the report said. None of the States or UTs have recorded sex ratio at birth below 880.

The report noted that 1,43,379 infant deaths were registered in 2020 and the share of rural areas was only 23.4%, while that of urban areas was 76.6% in total registered infant deaths. “Non-registration of infant deaths in rural areas was a cause of concern,” it stated.

16. Consider the following statements regarding **Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir**.

1. The three-member Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Justice (retd) Ranjana Desai signed the final order on redrawing the assembly constituencies.
2. The commission has proposed increasing the number of seats in the UT from 83 to 90.
3. For the first time, nine seats have been proposed for Scheduled Tribes.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 2
- D. All of the above

J&K delimitation done, Opposition unhappy

Of the total 90 constituencies, Jammu gets 43, Valley 47

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 5

The Delimitation Commission headed by Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai finalised the delimitation process in Jammu and Kashmir and released the notification on the new status of 90 Assembly constituencies in the State.

Now, 43 constituencies will be part of Jammu region and 47 will be in Kashmir region.

Quota for ST community

The Commission, which held detailed discussions with political parties and other stakeholders during the exercise, said nine Assembly constituencies have been reserved for STs, out of which six are in Jammu region and three are in the Valley.

"It is worthwhile to mention that the Constitution of erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir

State did not provide for reservation of seats for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly," the Commission said in a statement.

The State will continue to have five Parliamentary Constituencies. The panel considered Jammu and Kashmir region as one single Union Territory and one constituency has been carved out combining Anantnag region in the Valley and Rajouri, Poonch of Jammu region. "According to this reorganisation, each Parliamentary Constituency will have 18 Assembly constituencies each," the release said.

The Opposition parties, however, are not happy with the final declaration. CPI(M) leader and spokesman of People's Alliance for Gupkar Declaration, Yousuf Tarigami, said the delimitation exercise is bound to alter the electoral demography of the region in the long run.

"Though the Delimitation Commission was constituted under the Delimitation Act of 2002, it has redrawn the constituencies of Jammu and Kashmir in accordance with



The three-member Delimitation Commission for the UT of Jammu and Kashmir showing the signed final order for delimitation of the Union Territory.

the provisions of J&K Re-organisation Act 2019 which has been challenged in the Supreme Court. The said Re-organisation Act modified the law of enfranchisement of J&K. Voting rights for the State Assembly which were restricted to only permanent residents have been extended to non-State subjects also. The exercise is bound to disempower the people of Jammu and Kashmir in the long run," Tarigami said.

Name changes

The Commission said names of

some constituencies have also been changed keeping in view the demand of local representatives. Name changes included naming Tangmarg as Gulmarg, Zoonimar as Zaidibal, Sonwar as Lal Chowk, Padder as Padder-Nagseni, Kathua North as Jasrota, Kathua South as Kathua, Khour as Chhamb, Mahore as Gulabgarh and Darhal as Budhal.

The Commission recommended the Centre to provide at least two members (one of them must be a female) from the community of Kashmiri

migrants in the Assembly and such members may be given power at par with that of nominated members, of the Legislative Assembly of Union Territory of Puducherry. It has also recommended that the Centre gives displaced individuals from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir some representation in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, by way of nomination of representatives of the displaced persons from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

The three-member Delimitation Commission on Jammu and Kashmir, headed by Justice (retd) Ranjana Desai, signed the final order on redrawing the assembly constituencies of the Union Territory,

The commission has proposed increasing the number of seats in the UT from 83 to 90. For the first time, nine seats have been proposed for Scheduled Tribes.

The panel has also proposed six additional seats for Jammu and one for Kashmir. As of now, the Kashmir division has 46 seats and the Jammu division 37. Formed in March 2020, the panel was granted a one-year extension last year. The panel has Chief Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra and the state election commissioner of Jammu and Kashmir as its ex-officio members.

In February, it was again given a two-month extension to complete its task. Its term was to otherwise end on March 6.

Assembly seats in Jammu and Kashmir were last time delimited in 1995. This delimitation was based on 1981 Census. Current delimitation is based on 2011 Census.

Number of Parliamentary Constituencies in the region is five.

17. Consider the following statements regarding the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

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First Week of May (1st May – 7th May 2022)

1. India's unemployment problem up rise to 7.83% in April.
2. Haryana recorded the highest unemployment rate of 34.5%.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

India's unemployment problem shot up to 7.83% in April from 7.60% in March, according to the latest data released by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE).

While rural data showed a marginal drop in unemployment to 7.18% in April, urban joblessness saw a sharp spike to 9.22% in April

The highest unemployment rate of 34.5% was recorded in Haryana, followed by 28.8% in Rajasthan and the lowest was recorded in Himachal Pradesh at 0.2% followed by Chhattisgarh at 0.6%.

Unemployment rate rose to near 8% in April: CMIE

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, May 2

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE in the country grew to 7.83% in April from 7.60% in March, according to the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) data. The unemployment rate in urban areas was higher at 9.22% compared to 8.28% in March, the data released on Monday showed. In the rural area, the unemployment rate was at 7.18% in April compared to 7.29% in the previous month.

The unemployment rate was the highest in Haryana at 34.5% followed by Rajasthan at 28.8%, Bihar 21.1% and Jammu and Kashmir 15.6%, the data showed. CMIE managing director Mahesh Vyas

- Jobless rate in urban areas was higher at 9.22% compared to 8.28% in March
- In rural area, the rate was at 7.18% in April vs 7.29% in month
- Jobless rate highest in Haryana (34.5%) followed by Rajasthan (28.8%), Bihar 21.1% and Jammu and Kashmir 15.6%

told PTI that it is important to note that the labour force participation rate and the employment rate also increased in April. "This is a good development," Vyas said. The employment rate rose from 36.46% to 37.05% in April, he added.

18. Consider the following statements regarding World Press Freedom Index 2022.

1. The 2022 edition of the World Press Freedom Index has been published by the Reporters without Borders (RSF).
2. India on World Press Freedom Index 2022 has plummeted down to 150th rank with Pakistan at 157th.
3. The trio of Nordic countries has grabbed a top position with Norway at first place followed by Denmark and Sweden.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 1 & 3
- C. Only 2 & 3
- D. All of the above

- India has slipped 8 places on the 20th edition of World Press Freedom Index 2022. With a global score of 41, India has gone down to the 150th position from 142 last year.

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- Among India's neighbours, Bhutan is ranked at 33, Nepal at 76, Sri Lanka at 146, and Pakistan at 157.
- This year, Norway (1st) Denmark (2nd), Sweden (3rd) grabbed the top positions, while North Korea remained at the bottom of the list of the 180 countries and territories ranked by the Reporters without Borders.
- The situation is classified as "very bad" in a record number of 28 countries in this year's Index.
- The Press Freedom Index is an annual ranking of countries compiled and published by Reporters without Borders since 2002.
- The Reporters without Borders is an international non-profit and non-governmental organization with the stated aim of safeguarding the right to freedom of information.
- It is based in Paris, France.

19. Recently in May _____ initiative was nominated by the Centre for Champion Award, the highest recognition given by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.
- A. Rythu Bharosa Kendras
 - B. Amma Vodi Scheme
 - C. Padhe Bharat
 - D. BetiBachaoBetiPadhao

The Andhra Pradesh State government's initiative, Rythu Bharosa Kendras (RBKs) have won international recognition after being nominated for the United Nations Award.

RBK initiative was nominated by the Centre for Champion Award, the highest recognition given by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN.

The RBKs are the brainchild of Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy and they serve as a one-stop centre for farmers for all their needs and the concept is a game-changer in the agriculture sector

The RBK concept is one of the six initiatives that were nominated by the Centre for the UN Award.

20. Recently in May _____ government has launched 'Shaili App' aimed at diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among people.
- A. Punjab
 - B. Haryana
 - C. Kerala

India slips to 150 in press freedom index

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Press Club of India (PCI) and the Indian Women Press Corps (IWPC) on Tuesday said attacks on press freedoms had seen an exponential rise and that India did not fare too well in this regard, ranking 150 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index compiled by the Reporters Sans Frontières.

On World Press Freedom Day, the PCI said journalists had been incarcerated under draconian laws for flimsy reasons, and on some occasions, faced threat to their lives as well from "self-styled" custodians of law in the social media space.

"The freedom of the press is integral to the functioning of a vibrant democracy. The media has to come together to reclaim its role towards realisation of this objective," they said in a joint statement.

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D. Karnataka

The Kerala government is ready to launch an Android app -- 'Shaili App' -- aimed at diagnosing and controlling lifestyle diseases among people in the southern State.

The app has been set up as part of the population-based screening project launched by the Health Department under the Nava Kerala Karma plan.

The app, set up under the e-Health initiative, would help to collect and codify the information quickly.

21. Recently _____ government inked a Memorandum of Understanding with technology giant Google to facilitate easy English learning for state-run school students.

- A. Punjab
- B. Kerala
- C. Tamil Nadu**
- D. Uttar Pradesh

The Tamil Nadu government inked a Memorandum of Understanding with technology giant Google to facilitate easy English learning for state-run school students.

The pact envisages use of an app 'Google Read Along' by government school students to read, understand, speak and write English easily,

22. Consider the following statements regarding "Delhi Start-up Policy".

- 1. A provision of Rs 50 crore has been made in the 2022-23 Budget for the implementation of the Policy.**
- 2. A 20-member task force, comprising government officials and experts from business and trade to help start-ups with registration and other activities.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2**
- D. None of the above

Delhi Cabinet clears startup policy, establishes task force

Alok K N Mishra

alok.mishra@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: To aid entrepreneurs in the national capital and to encourage the youth to set up businesses of their own, the Delhi cabinet on Thursday approved the "Delhi Startup Policy" aimed at creating an enabling ecosystem for people to launch startups and avail of a host of handholding measures such as fiscal and non-fiscal incentives, collateral free loans, and free consultancy from experts, lawyers, and chartered accountants, among others.

Through the policy, the government aims to create business leaders and entrepreneurs from among the youth and make Delhi the "startup destination of the world", chief minister Arvind

What incentives will it provide?

50% or up to ₹5 lakh/year rent of startup office paid by govt

₹30,000 to be paid as monthly allowance towards operational/employee cost for one year paid by the govt

Financial support for procurement of key software up to 50% of the total cost

Will be offered loans without collateral or interest

Reimbursement grants for filing patent up to ₹1 lakh per annum (Indian) and up to ₹3 lakh per annum (international)

Official formalities kept to a minimum with 20-member task force to aid startups for free

Kejriwal said after the cabinet meeting.

The government aims to encourage, facilitate, and support 15,000 startups by 2030 and generate new avenues of employment, he said.

Additionally, the government also decided to introduce entrepreneurship classes and the "business blasters" programme in colleges after the successful roll-out of these programmes in schools in the city. →P4

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of May (1st May – 7th May 2022)

The Delhi Government recently approved the “Delhi Start-up Policy”.

The government aims to create business leaders and entrepreneurs from among the youth and make Delhi the “start-up destination of the world”.

The policy has been prepared by the Dialogue and Development Commission (DDC).

The policy is linked to the Delhi Budget 2022-23, which focuses on generating two million jobs by 2027 through various interventions and by promoting businesses.

A provision of Rs 50 crore has been made in the 2022-23 Budget for the implementation of the Policy.

The policy will also focus on teaching entrepreneurship to students in Classes IX-XII and giving them seed capital under the government’s existing Business Blasters Programme.

A 20-member task force, comprising government officials and experts from business and trade, will help start-ups with registration and other activities. It will be headed by Delhi’s Finance Minister.

23. Recently Indian Railways has announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA) based in _____.

- A. Pune
- B. Lucknow
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Noida

Railway restructuring to lead to closure of major wings

SRESTHA closed and 32 directorates merged to form seven verticals; unions say move is demoralising employees

S. VIJAY KUMAR
CHENNAI

Going ahead with its down-sizing plan, the Indian Railways has announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow.

Established in March 2016, the SRESTHA directorate, part of the Research Designs and Standards Organisation (RDSO), was tasked with the role of taking up long-term railway research projects requiring technological advancement.

As part of the restructuring plan, the Railways also decided to merge 32 directorates of the RDSO and brought them under seven



The Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement has been closed. •PTI

verticals – administration, infrastructure, rolling stock, traction and power supply, signal and telecommunication, resource and testing and traffic and psychology.

Another notification is that the Geotech Engineering Directorate will be merged with the Track and

Bridges & Structures Directorate.

The establishment of Principal Executive Director, Defence Research, at the Defence Research and Development Organisation, New Delhi, was detached from the RDSO.

The Railways also pro-

posed to create new posts in the rank of Executive Director, Design, to be posted at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, under the Railway Board’s Rolling Stock Directorate. The creation of the top-ranking posts assumes significance against the backdrop of the decision to roll out more than 200 Vande Bharat rakes at an estimated ₹26,000 crore.

Sanyal’s proposals

The restructuring plan of the country’s largest employer and transporter which is resulting in the closure or merger of major establishments and private participa-

tion in running hospitals and schools is in line with the recommendations for rationalisation of government bodies made by Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal.

In his proposal to the Railway Minister, Mr. Sanyal called for the winding up of organisations such as the Central Organisation for Railway Electrification (CORE), the Central Organisation for Modernisation Of Workshops (COFMOW), the Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS) and the Indian Railways Organisation for Alternative Fuel (closed on September 7, 2021).

The Railways was continuing with the closure/merger of crucial establishments

despite stiff resistance from the employees’ unions, said N. Kanniah, president, All India Railwaymen Federation.

“Similarly other establishments proposed for closure have crucial modernisation, technological and research-oriented goals in the near future. Winding them up prematurely not only defeats the very purpose of their creation but demoralises the officers/employees,” he warned.

In a letter to Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, National Federation of Indian Railwaymen general secretary M. Raghavaiah said there was widespread unrest and resentment against the proposal of the Principal Economic Adviser.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of May (1st May – 7th May 2022)**

Going ahead with its downsizing plan, the Indian Railways have announced the closure of the Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology and Holistic Advancement (SRESTHA), Lucknow.

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As part of the restructuring plan, the Railways also decided to merge 32 directorates of the RDSO and brought them under seven verticals — administration, infrastructure, rolling stock, traction and power supply, signal and telecommunication, resource and testing and traffic and psychology.

Another notification is that the Geo-tech Engineering Directorate will be merged with the Track and Bridges & Structures Directorate.

The Railways also proposed to create new posts in the rank of Executive Director, Design, to be posted at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai, Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala and Modern Coach Factory, Rae Bareilly, under the Railway Board's Rolling Stock Directorate.

The restructuring plan of the Indian Railways is in line with the recommendations for rationalisation of government bodies made by Principal Economic Adviser Sanjeev Sanyal.

24. Consider the following statements regarding the *National Open Access Registry (NOAR)*.

- 1. NOAR has been designed as an integrated single window electronic platform accessible to all stakeholders.***
- 2. National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) is operated by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation and operation of NOAR.***

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

A. Only 1

B. Only 2

C. Both 1 & 2

D. None of the above

National Open Access Registry (NOAR) goes live successfully

Administration of short-term open access in inter-state transmission system automated Payment gateway provided

Posted On: 02 MAY 2022 3:48PM by PIB Delhi

National Open Access Registry (NOAR) has successfully gone live from 1st May 2022. NOAR has been designed as an integrated single window electronic platform accessible to all stakeholders including open access participants, traders, power exchanges, national/regional/state load despatch centres for electronic processing of short-term open access application thereby automating the administration of the short-term open access in inter-state transmission system.

The NOAR platform shall act as a repository of information related to short term open access in inter-state transmission including standing clearance issued by RLDCs or SLDCs and short-term open access granted to the open access customers etc. and make such information available to the stakeholders online. Payment gateway provided for making payments and integrated with NOAR shall facilitate financial accounting and tracking of short-term open access transactions.

National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) operated by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation and operation of NOAR. NOAR would be the key to facilitate faster electricity markets and enable integration of Renewable Energy (RE) resources into the grid. NOAR will enable seamless market participation by the open access consumer with easier and faster access to the short-term electricity market, comprising of about 10% of all India demand.

NOAR is part of the Ministry of Power, Government of India's initiative and the required regulatory framework has been notified by the CERC through operationalization of the 5th Amendment Regulation of Open Access in inter- State Transmission.

- National Open Access Registry (NOAR) has successfully gone live from 1st May 2022.***
- NOAR is an integrated single window electronic platform accessible to all stakeholders including open access participants, traders, power exchanges***

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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- *The NOAR platform shall act as a repository of information related to short term open access in inter-state transmission including standing clearance issued by RLDCs or SLDCs and short-term open access granted to the open access customers etc. and make such information available to the stakeholders online.*
- *National Load Despatch Centre (NLDC) operated by Power System Operation Corporation Limited (POSOCO) has been designated as the nodal agency for implementation and operation of NOAR.*
- *NOAR is part of the Ministry of Power, Government of India's initiative and the required regulatory framework has been notified by the CERC through operation of the 5th Amendment Regulation of Open Access in inter-State Transmission.*

25. Consider the following statements regarding the **NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE GRID (NATGRID)**.

1. Union Minister for Home and Co-operation Amit Shah inaugurated the **National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru.**
2. **C-DAC Pune has been roped in as Technology Partner and IIT Bhilai as Plan Management Consultant for the development of NATGRID solution.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2**
- D. None of the above

Union Minister for Home and Cooperation Amit Shah inaugurated the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) campus in Bengaluru.

The NATGRID CEO informed that the services of NATGRID solution will be available to 11 central agencies and police of all States and Union Territories

It will link user agencies with data holders, giving them access to real-time information needed for intelligence services and investigations.

C-DAC Pune has been roped in as Technology Partner and IIT Bhilai as Plan Management Consultant for the development of NATGRID solution.

NATGRID came into existence after the 2008 Mumbai attacks. Ashish Gupta is NATGRID Chairman.

26. Which of the following has **launched "Operation Satark"** with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion and smuggling?

- A. Indian Army
- B. Railway Protection Force**
- C. Ministry of Railways

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D. Ministry of Defence

RPF launches Focused effort under “Operation Satark” from 5th April to 30th April, 2022

RPF detects 26 cases of transportation of illegal tobacco products from 5th April to 30th April, 2022

- **Railway Protection Force (RPF) is a security force under the ownership of Indian Railways, Ministry of Railways, and Government of India.**

177 cases of transportation of illicit liquor intercepted with arrest of 97 persons during the same period

Unaccounted cash/gold/silver worth about Rs 2.60 Crores handed over to respective tax authorities

Posted On: 03 MAY 2022 6:19PM by PIB Delhi

Railway Protection Force is an armed force of the union entrusted with the security of railway property, passenger area and passengers. It is the lead security agency in the field of railway security having a pan India reach.

Indian Railways, being the primary transporter of the nation, is likely to be used by tax evaders, smugglers, gun runners, and forces inimical to the nation to transport illegal items to different parts of the country for acting on their nefarious designs. Railway Protection Force is alive to this and has recently started “Operation Satark” with an objective of taking action against illicit liquor/FICN/illegal tobacco products/unaccounted gold/cash/precious items/ any other items being transported through railway network for the purpose of tax evasion/smuggling/commission of crime/acts of terror.

- **It was formed in 1872 under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957.**
- **It is the lead security agency in the field of railway security having a pan India reach. It is entrusted with the security of railway property, passenger area and passengers.**

27. Recently in May India approved _____ million short-term loan facilities from the EXIM Bank of India to Sri Lanka to cope with a deepening economic crisis.

- A. USD 250 Million
- B. USD 500 Million
- C. USD 200 Million
- D. USD 3 Billion

- **Sri Lanka’s Cabinet has cleared a proposal to source more fuel from India, through a \$200 million short-term loan facility from the EXIM Bank of India, as the island nation struggles to cope with a deepening economic crisis.**
- **“The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power to award this [fuel] contract to Indian Oil Corporation,”**
- **India has extended nearly \$3 billion to cash-strapped Sri Lanka since January 2022, by way of currency swaps, credit lines for essentials, and loan deferments to help Sri**

India extends more aid to Sri Lanka

New Delhi will offer fuel worth \$200 million based on a short-term loan facility

MEERA SRINIVASAN

Sri Lanka’s Cabinet has cleared a proposal to source more fuel from India, through a \$200 million short-term loan facility from the Exim Bank of India, as the island nation struggles to cope with a deepening economic crisis.

“The Cabinet of Ministers approved the proposal presented by the Minister of Power to award this [fuel] contract to Indian Oil Corporation,” the Department of Government Information said.

India has extended nearly \$3 billion to cash-strapped Sri Lanka since January 2022, by way of currency swaps, credit lines for essentials, and loan deferments to help Sri Lanka amidst one of its worst economic crises in history.

A \$400-million currency swap with the Reserve Bank of India, extended early this year, was on April 18 extended by another three months. A billion-dollar credit line for essential imports is operational and around 16,000 MT of rice has been supplied under it so far. India has helped Sri Lan-



Sri Lankan feminist scholar Kumari Jayawardena at the Galle Face Green protest site on Tuesday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ka defer repayment of loans totalling \$1 billion under the Asian Clearing Union.

Further, 400,000 MT of fuel has been delivered to Sri Lanka through a \$500 million credit facility, the Indian High Commission in Colombo said.

“Multi-pronged assistance provided by India testifies to the importance Government of India attaches to the welfare of the people of Sri Lanka and is guided by the twin principles of ‘Neighbourhood First’ and S.A.G.A.R (Security and Growth for All in the Region),” a statement said.

Sri Lanka’s economic crash intensified from the beginning of this year, with

the country’s foreign reserves plunging to barely a couple of billion dollars, owing to an acute balance of payments crisis in recent years.

The crisis manifested in severe shortages of food, fuel and medicines, as the country experienced record inflation, that hit nearly 30% in April.

Consequently, the ruling Rajapaksa administration’s popularity has plummeted over the last few months, with citizens demanding that President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa quit.

For almost a month now, demonstrators have been gathering at Colombo’s sea-

front, protesting every day against the government’s “failed” crisis response.

Students, professionals, businesspeople, worker unions, and scores of children, among others, can be spotted at the daily rallies, chanting anti-government slogans.

Renowned Sri Lankan artists and scholars, such as Kandyan dance exponent Upeka Chitrasinga, and senior feminist scholar Kumari Jayawardena participated in the protests this week.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka’s Tourism Ministry reported that tourist arrivals have fallen nearly by half in April, compared to the 1,06,500 arrivals recorded in March.

The All Ceylon Tourist Service Providers’ Association attributed the fall to the prevailing fuel shortages, frequent power cuts and short supply of medicines in local hospitals.

“Some are suggesting that the protests could be a deterrent, but that is not the case. Tourists are very supportive of the democratic protests, and there’s even a stall for tourists at the agitation site in Colombo,” Association Secretary Suranjith Wevita told *The Hindu*.

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Lanka amidst one of its worst economic crises in history.

- *A \$400-million currency swap with the Reserve Bank of India, extended early this year, was on April 18 extended by another three months.*
- *A billion-dollar credit line for essential imports is operational and around 16,000 MT of rice has been supplied under it so far.*
- *India has helped Sri Lanka defer repayment of loans totalling \$1 billion under the Asian Clearing Union.*
- *Further, 400,000 MT of fuel has been delivered to Sri Lanka through a \$500 million credit facility.*
- *Government of India attaches to the welfare of the people of Sri Lanka and is guided by the twin principles of 'Neighbourhood First' and S.A.G.A.R (Security and Growth for All in the Region).*

28. Recently Prime Minister **Narendra Modi unveiled the Statue of Sardar Patel** in which country's Sanatan Mandir?

- A. Denmark
- B. Fiji
- C. Germany
- D. Canada**

- *PM participate in unveiling ceremony of the Statue of Sardar Patel at Canada's Sanatan Mandir cultural centre.*
- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the statue will strengthen not only the cultural values but will also become a symbol of India-Canada relations.*
- *The Prime Minister also praised the role of the Sanatan Mandir Cultural Center in Ontario in preserving Indian culture and traditions in Canada.*

Sardar Patel statue in Canada a picture of new India: PM

New Delhi: PM Narendra Modi, while elaborating on the diaspora's ethos and values, said Indians might live anywhere in the world for any number of generations but their loyalty towards their country never diminishes. "Indians work with full dedication and integrity for the country of their domicile and carry their democratic values and sense of duty with them. This is because India is not only a nation but also an idea.

"It is also a culture. India is that higher-level thought that talks of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam,'" Modi said on Sunday in his virtual address to Sanatan Mandir Cultural Centre, Markham, Ontario, Canada on the occasion of the inauguration of Sardar Patel's statue. TNN

- *The statue is a replica of the Statue of Unity. The Statue of Unity is situated in Kevadia of Gujarat.*
- *Sanatan Mandir Cultural Center provides facilities for education, religious worship, and social functions*
- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi also recently inaugurated the Shri Satya Sai Sanjeevani Children's Heart Hospital in Fiji that will enhance the health facility of the entire South Pacific region.*

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29. Consider the following statements regarding **National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5)**.

1. The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), an average number of children per women has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5.
2. There are only five States in India, which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1. They are Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) Manipur (2.17).

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya released the National Report of the fifth round of National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5). The Total Fertility Rates (TFR), an average number of children per women, has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between NFHS-4 & 5. There are only five States in India, which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1. They are Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) and Manipur (2.17). Overall Contraceptive Prevalence Rate (CPR) has increased substantially from 54% to 67% in the country. Institutional Births have increased substantially from 79 percent to 89 percent in India. The level of stunting among children under 5 years has marginally declined from 38 to 36 percent for India since the last four years.

'Fertility rate falls further, obesity rises'

Stunting among children marginally dipped, number of women with bank accounts surged: NFHS

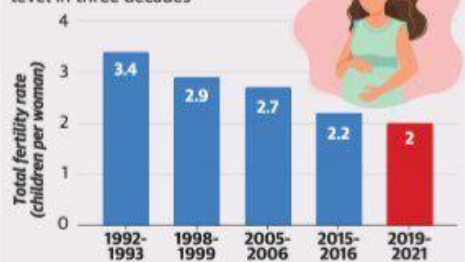
BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

The Total Fertility Rate (TFR), an average number of children per woman, has further declined from 2.2 to 2.0 at the national level between National Family Health Survey (NFHS) 4 and 5.

There are only five States – Bihar (2.98), Meghalaya (2.91), Uttar Pradesh (2.35), Jharkhand (2.26) Manipur (2.17) – in India which are above replacement level of fertility of 2.1 as per the national report of the NFHS-5, released by the Union Health Ministry.

The main objective of successive rounds of the NFHS has been to provide reliable and comparable data relating to health and family welfare and other emerging areas in India. The NFHS-5 national report lists progress from NFHS-4 (2015-16) to NFHS-5 (2019-21).

Fewer children | A look at the total fertility rate at national level in three decades



SOURCE: NATIONAL FAMILY HEALTH SURVEY

The other key highlights of the survey include institutional births increased from 79% to 89% across India and in rural areas around 87% births being delivered in institutions and the same is 94% in urban areas.

As per results of the NFHS-5, more than three-fourths (77%) children aged

between 12 and 23 months were fully immunised, compared with 62% in NFHS-4.

The level of stunting among children under five years has marginally declined from 38% to 36% in the country since the last four years. Stunting is higher among children in rural areas (37%) than urban areas

(30%) in 2019-21.

Additionally, NFHS-5 shows an overall improvement in Sustainable Development Goals indicators in all States/Union Territories (UTs). The extent to which married women usually participate in three household decisions (about health care for herself; making major household purchases; visit to her family or relatives) indicates that their participation in decision-making is high, ranging from 80% in Ladakh to 99% in Nagaland and Mizoram. Rural (77%) and urban (81%) differences are found to be marginal. The prevalence of women having a bank or savings account has increased from 53% to 79% in the last four years.

Rise in obesity

Compared with NFHS-4, the prevalence of overweight or obesity has increased in

most States/UTs in NFHS-5. At the national level, it increased from 21% to 24% among women and 19% to 23% among men. More than a third of women in Kerala, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Sikkim, Manipur, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Punjab, Chandigarh and Lakshadweep (34-46 %) are overweight or obese.

The NFHS-5 survey work has been conducted in and around 6.37 lakh sample households from 707 districts (as on March, 2017) of the country from 28 States and eight UTs, covering 7,24,115 women and 1,01,839 men to provide disaggregated estimates up to district level. The report also provides data by socio-economic and other background characteristics; useful for policy formulation and effective programme implementation.

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30. Recently Amit Shah inaugurated the **Narmada, Sutlej and Cauvery Floating Border Outposts (BOP)** built by _____ on the Indo-Bangladesh border to protect the inaccessible areas of the Sunderbans.

- A. Goa Shipyard Ltd
- B. Larsen & Turbo Ltd
- C. Kochi Shipyard Ltd**
- D. Kolkata Shipyard Ltd

May 05, 2022, 8:24PM

Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurates three floating Border Outposts on Indo-Bangladesh Border

Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated three floating Border Outposts (BOP) on the Indo-Bangladesh border on Thursday to protect the inaccessible areas of the Sunderbans. On the first day of his two day visit to West Bengal, the Union Home Minister also flagged off the floating Boat Ambulance and laid the foundation stone of 'Maitri Sangrahalaya'.



The floating Border Outposts (BOP) Sutlej, Kaveri and Narmada have been built by the Koch Shipyard. Each BOP costs Rs. 38 crore and weighs around 53 thousand metric tonnes. The floating BOPs are equipped with modern facilities and safety equipment.

The front section of the BOP is bullet proof for the safety of the jawans. The BOPs can remain afloat with a DG set without refuelling for a month. A BOP is accompanied by 6 small boats and it has adequate arrangements to prevent both infiltration and smuggling.

Laying down the foundation stone of the 'Friendship Museum', Home Minister Amit Shah said that during the 1970s horrific human rights violations were committed in the neighbouring country.

At that time BSF and the Army defended human rights in that area with great valour. On the occasion of the golden jubilee year, the Friendship Museum will make it an everlasting memory.

- **The Union Home and Cooperation Minister on his visit to West Bengal inaugurated the Narmada, Sutlej and Cauvery Floating Border Outposts (BOP) on the Indo-Bangladesh border to protect the inaccessible areas of the Sunderbans.**

- **Kochi Shipyard has built them. The cost of one BOP is Rs. 38 crore and it weighs around 53,000 metric tonnes.**
- **These floating BOPs are equipped with modern facilities and safety equipment, the front section of these BOPs are bullet proof, as well as arrangements have been made for plenty of food supplies and these BOPs can float with a DG set without refuelling for a month.**

31. Recently Anurag Thakur has announced the **World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM)** with a budget of _____.

- A. Rs. 363 crores**
- B. Rs. 580 crores
- C. Rs. 480 crores
- D. Rs. 618 crores

India embarks on the World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission: I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur

Rs. 363 Crore shall be utilized exclusively for restoration purpose: I&B Minister Anurag Singh Thakur

NFAI undertakes restoration of 10 Satyajit Ray films; to be showcased at International Film Festivals

Posted On: 05 MAY 2022 6:32PM by PIB Mumbai

Mumbai, 5 May 2022

Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting Shri. Anurag Singh Thakur has announced today that the World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) with a budget of Rs. 363 crores is awarded on 4th May 2022 by the Ministry. The restoration project now awarded is set to commence in full swing at National Film Archive of India (NFAI). The Minister was in Pune to attend the review meeting of the organization.

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Union Minister of Information & Broadcasting announced that the World's largest film restoration project under National Film Heritage Mission (NFHM) with a budget of Rs. 363 crores is awarded on 4th May 2022 by the Ministry.

The restoration project now awarded is set to commence in full swing at National Film Archive of India (NFAI). The Minister was in Pune to attend the review meeting of the organization.

Under National Film Heritage Mission, approximately 2,200 films will undergo restoration.

32. Recently India's first 'Flow Chemistry Technology Hub' opened in _____.

- A. Pune
- B. Agra
- C. Hyderabad**
- D. Mumbai

Telangana government in association with multi-stakeholders has opened a Flow Chemistry Technology Hub (FCT Hub) in Hyderabad.

The Hub is equipped with state-of-the-art flow chemistry equipment and it will promote scientific capability in pharma research and development. Flow Chemistry Technology Hub is the first of its kind in India. It is located at Dr. Reddy's Institute of Life Sciences (DRILS), Hyderabad.

It was formally inaugurated by Jayesh Ranjan, Principal Secretary in the Telangana government.

33. Recently _____ government is set to come up with India's "only" observatory that will establish a repository on the health of the tribal population in the state.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Odisha**
- C. Kerala
- D. Andhra Pradesh

Odisha is set to come up with India's "only" observatory that will establish a repository on the health of the tribal population in the state.

A memorandum of understanding was inked in this regard between the ST and SC Development Department and the RMRC, a regional centre of the Indian Council of Medical Research.

The Tribal Health Observatory (TriHob) is the "first in the country", and designed to be an effective, evidence-based and a policy-oriented centre.

34. Recently _____ government launched Smart Garbage App to streamline garbage management activities in local self-governments.

- A. Odisha
- B. Kerala**
- C. Maharashtra
- D. Uttar Pradesh

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Kerala launched The Smart Garbage App to streamline garbage management activities in local self-governments. The app would help people lodge complaints regarding waste management. If the complaint is not addressed in time, it would be automatically forwarded to higher authorities.

As part of the Smart Garbage Monitoring System, GPS would be installed in garbage trucks.

35. Recently in May _____ has signed a MoU with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for a trafficking free nation.

- A. NHAI
- B. RPF**
- C. NTPC
- D. IRCTC

Railway Protection Force (RPF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Association for Voluntary Action (AVA) for a trafficking free nation.

The deliberations were taken forward with signing of MoU today wherein both RPF and AVA (also known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan) pledged to work together to share information, build capacity of RPF personnel and railway employees to work against Human Trafficking.

Joint action by both stakeholders under the framework of MoU will definitely enhance the scale, reach and effectiveness of “Operation AAHT” (Action against Human Trafficking) launched by RPF across the nation.

Association of Voluntary Action also known as Bachpan Bachao Andolan, associated with Kailash Satyarthi Children’s Foundation was founded in 1979 under the leadership of Nobel laureate Mr. Kailash Satyarthi with the mission to eliminate all forms of violence against children.

36. What is the name of the cow dung machine recently launched by Union Minister Parshottam Rupala used to manufacture cow dung-based fuel-wood in long log-like shape?

- A. Go Kasht**
- B. Go Raksha
- C. Go Amrit
- D. Go Sweep

May 06, 2022, 2:24PM

Union Minister Parshottam Rupala hands over cow dung log machine to Project Arth and ENACTUS IIT, Delhi students

Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala today handed over cow dung log machine, Go Kasht machine, to Project Arth and ENACTUS IIT, Delhi students in New Delhi.

The Cow dung log machine is used to manufacture cow dung-based fuelwood in long log-like shape.

A mixture of cow dung and cattle waste like dried waste paddy is fed in the inlet hopper of this machine. The machine then breaks it down, mixes it and compresses the mixture in the shape of a log. This log is then sun-dried and can be later used as a fuel wood in various situations.

This machine can process 3,000 kilograms of cow dung every day to produce 1,500 kg of cow dung-based logs that can be used as firewood for the cremation of five to seven bodies, saving roughly two trees in each cremation.

It can also help the Gaushala to clear roughly one lakh 50 thousand to one lakh 70 thousand kilograms of cow dung every month.

Using cow dung-based log machine can help Gaushala to cater to their waste management problems, provide an additional source of employment to its employees or nearby villagers and contribute in reducing deforestation. It also helps to engage the non-milking cows in a economical activity, generating funds to support all the cows in a Gaushala.



Tweeted by @AIR

- **Union Minister for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Parshottam Rupala today handed over cow dung log machine, Go Kasht machine, to Project Arth and ENACTUS IIT, Delhi students in New Delhi.**

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- *The Cow dung log machine is used to manufacture cow dung-based fuel-wood in long log-like shape.*
- *This machine can process 3,000 kilograms of cow dung every day to produce 1,500 kg of cow dung-based logs that can be used as firewood for the cremation of five to seven bodies, saving roughly two trees in each cremation.*
- *Using cow dung-based log machine can help Gaushala to cater to their waste management problems, provide an additional source of employment to its employees or nearby villagers and contribute in reducing deforestation.*

37. Recently in May _____ government launched 'Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojna' to provide 25,000 households of state with 100 percent sewer connectivity for free.
- A. Maharashtra
 - B. **Delhi**
 - C. Uttar Pradesh
 - D. Madhya Pradesh

The city government has chalked out a mega plan to maximise the potential of the Delhi Jal Board (DJB) through the development of free sewer connections, new sewer lines and reverse osmosis (RO) plants in the state.

Under this plan, the government will provide 25,000 households of east Delhi with 100 percent sewer connectivity for free.

These free sewer connections will be provided under 'Mukhyamantri Muft Sewer Connection Yojna' and the regions of Karawal Nagar and Mustafabad will benefit the most from it.

38. Recently _____ government launched loan scheme named 'Jivhala' for the inmates who are serving sentences in various jails across Maharashtra.
- A. Uttar Pradesh
 - B. Madhya Pradesh
 - C. **Maharashtra**
 - D. Jharkhand

The Maharashtra Department of Prisons has launched a loan scheme for inmates serving sentences in jails across the state. The credit scheme titled Jivhala is being offered by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank.

The pilot was introduced for prisoners at Yerawada Central Jail in Pune, and will gradually be extended to nearly 60 prisons across the state.

This is likely the first kind of credit scheme for prisoners in India. Existing loans initiatives for inmates are for rehabilitation after completion of their prison terms.

The credit scheme, called Jivhala meaning 'affection' in Marathi, has been launched primarily for convicted inmates who are undergoing a prison sentence of more than three years.

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Delhi University turns 100

Established in 1922 as a unitary teaching and residential university by an Act of the then Central Legislative Assembly, Delhi University started with two faculties – Arts and Science – three residential colleges and 750 students



GROWTH OVER THE CENTURY

DU has now grown to have **16 faculties**, **86 departments**, **91 colleges** and over **7 lakh students**



PROGRAMMES PLANNED IN THE CENTENARY YEAR

- Opportunity for those who have not finished their courses to complete their degree
- Release of ₹100 commemorative coin with Delhi University logo
- New building for Faculty of Technology
- Administrative blocks in the Institute of Eminence building
- Felicitating of unsung heroes of Delhi University
- Construction of two new hostels
- Showcasing of DU's history through sound and light show
- Release of coffee-table book
- Literature festivals
- Exhibition of rare manuscripts
- Youth festival

THE FIRST THREE COLLEGES



St. Stephen's College, founded in 1881



Hindu College, founded in 1899



Ramjas College, founded in 1917

CAMPUS

• Though the university had come into existence, it did not possess permanent land. It operated from the Ritz Cinema building at Kashmere Gate and then moved to Alipur Road from October 1, 1924

• The Viceregal Lodge Estate was handed over to DU in 1933, thereby creating a campus with affiliated colleges in the vicinity

• The South Campus was established in 1973 to facilitate access to the

residents of south Delhi. It moved to its present location on Benito Juarez Road, near Dhaula Kuan, in 1984

• The university is planning to build an East Campus at Surajmal Vihar and a West Campus in Roshanpura

LOOKING FORWARD



The celebration year will create a road map for the university to break into the club of the world's top 200 universities.

YOGESH SINGH, VICE-CHANCELLOR



'Delhi airport second busiest in the world'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport in Delhi emerged as the second busiest airport in the world in March 2022, toppling the Dubai International Airport, according to travel data provider OAG.

IGI saw a total of 36.11 lakh seats deployed by various airlines. The top 10 busiest airport rankings by the OAG are based on the total domestic and international seat capacity and the frequency of flights. The airport replaced Dubai International Airport which witnessed 35.54 lakh seats. Atlanta Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport (ATL) retained the top position

with 44.22 lakh seats.

IGI also climbed 21 spots compared with March 2019. While the number of seats deployed in March 2019 for Delhi airport was not immediately available, government data from the Airports Authority of India show that total domestic and international passengers at the airport in March 2022 was 92% (50.7 lakh) of the numbers seen in the corresponding month in 2019.

"India last month opened its borders and allowed the entry of fully-vaccinated international travellers. It has largely helped the travel and tourism industry and given a much-needed boost to air travel," Vidh Kumar Jaipurriar, CEO, DIAL, said.

Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport has been ranked the world's second busiest airport in March 2022 in terms of domestic and international flights handled, as per a study by Official Airline Guide (OAG), a global travel data provider. The GMR-run airport was ranked at the third spot as per OAG in February 2022 and trumped the Dubai International Airport (DXB) to gain a spot in the ranking.

United States' Atlanta airport was ranked as the busiest airport in the world and retained its top spot. "Whilst Atlanta retains its position as largest, Dubai is knocked out of second place this month (March) by Delhi which moves up

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International / Report News

39. Consider the following statements regarding FAO's flagship publication "The State of the World's Forests" (SOFO).

1. According to this report in the last 30 years the world has lost 420 million hectares, which is approximately 10.34 percent of the total forest area.
2. Forest cover 31 per cent of the Earth's land surface (4.06 billion ha).
3. 10 million hectares of forests had lost every year between 2015 and 2020.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 1 & 2
- C. Only 2 & 3
- D. All of the above

According to this report, in the last 30 years, the world has lost 420 million hectares, which is approximately 10.34 per cent of the total forest area.

This report has been released on the first day of the World Forestry Congress.

Forest cover 31 percent of the Earth's land surface (4.06 billion ha).

The report says that the rate of deforestation is declining and around 10 million hectares of forests had lost every year between 2015 and 2020.

As per this report, more than 700 mha of forest (18 per cent of total forest area) is in legally established protected areas.

According to this report, around 1 billion people in sub-Saharan Africa will use polluting fuels like charcoal and fuel-wood till 2025.

The annual global consumption of all-natural resources will get doubled from 92 billion tonnes in 2017 to 190 billion tonnes in 2060.

The report highlighted three pathways for achieving green recovery and tackling environmental issues.

140 countries' leaders had signed the Declaration on Forests and Land Use to eliminate forest loss by 2030.

40. Consider the following statements regarding "UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025" and "Energy Compact Action Network".

1. The 'Plan of Action' was launched by 30 leading organisations comprising UN-Energy.
2. An Energy Compact Action Network was also launched to match those governments seeking support for their clean energy that have pledged over \$600 billion to support these commitments.

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Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

Against the backdrop of a global energy crisis and worsening climate emergency, the United Nations on Wednesday took a major step to catalyse the large-scale action and support needed for the transition to clean, affordable energy for all and net-zero emissions with the launch of a UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025.

The 'Plan of Action' was launched by some 30 leading organisations comprising UN-Energy.

An Energy Compact Action Network was also launched to match those governments seeking support for their clean energy goals with those governments and businesses that have pledged over \$600 billion to support these commitments,

Coalitions were announced to support energy access and transition in Nigeria and the city of Santiago, Chile,

The 'UN-Energy Plan of Action Towards 2025' sets out a framework for collective action by nearly 30 UN and international organisations -- in order to achieve the massive pledge they made at the time of the High-level Dialogue.

In line with the milestones set out in the Global Roadmap, by 2025, UN-Energy committed to support, facilitate and catalyse, inter alia, 500 million more people to gain access to electricity, and 1 billion more people to gain access to clean cooking solutions, as well as a 100 percent increase in renewable capacity globally, no new coal power plants in the pipeline after 2021, 30 million jobs in renewable energy and energy efficiency, and doubling annual clean energy investment globally.

41. Consider the following statements regarding *agreements announced between India and Denmark.*

- 1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with *Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen of Denmark.***
- 2. Declaration of Intent (DoI) on *Migration and Mobility.***
- 3. Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Cooperation *in the fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying.***

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 1 & 2
- C. Only 2 & 3
- D. All of the above

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi held delegation-level talks with *Denmark's Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen in Copenhagen of Denmark.***

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- **Both leaders reviewed the progress of the *Green Strategic Partnership* which was the first of its kind arrangement between India and Denmark. During the *India-Denmark Virtual Summit in October 2020*, the two sides gave their relationship the status of a *Green Strategic Partnership*.**
- **Earlier nine agreements were inked between the two countries in various sectors.**
- **Declaration of Intent (DoI) on Migration and Mobility.**

India, Denmark to focus on green H₂, renewables & wastewater management

Sachin.Parashar
@timesgroup.com

India and Denmark on Tuesday agreed to further strengthen the green strategic partnership with a focus on green hydrogen, renewable energy and wastewater management.

"The two sides confirmed the aspirations – through the Green Strategic Partnership – to take global leadership in pushing for ambitious green energy transition and demonstrate the pathways to achieving it, focusing both on energy efficiency and renewable energy," said the joint statement after PM Narendra Modi held talks with his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen.

Modi also hoped that negotiations on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement will be concluded as soon as possible.

PMS woos investors, cites FOMO

PM Modi and his Danish counterpart Mette Frederiksen jointly addressed a business forum where Modi emphasised the complementary skill sets of the two economies and invited Danish companies to take advantage of "enormous opportunities" in India in green technologies, cold chains, waste to wealth and shipping and ports among others. Modi exhorted business communities of both sides to explore collaboration opportunities. "These days the term FOMO or 'fear of missing out' is gaining traction on social media. Looking at India's reforms and investment opportunities, I can say that those who don't invest in our nation will certainly miss out," a tweet from the PMO quoted him as saying. TNN

"We stressed on ensuring a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific region," he said. The two leaders also recalled the India-EU Connectivity Partnership and agreed to support efforts towards its early implementation, according to the joint statement. One of the pacts signed will facilitate establishment of a Centre of Excellence on Green Shipping.

On the climate issue, the leaders welcomed the international agreement at COP-26 on the need for accelerated climate action for "holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degree above pre-industrial levels".

Frederiksen said in her re-

marks that she and Modi condemned the killings in Bucha and supported an independent probe into it. Both in Berlin and Copenhagen, Modi has maintained that dialogue was the only way to resolve the Ukraine issue even as German chancellor Olaf Scholz and Frederiksen used their meet with Modi to attack Russia.

"The two PMs expressed their serious concern about the ongoing humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. They unequivocally condemned civilian deaths in Ukraine. They reiterated the need for an immediate cessation of hostilities," said a joint statement.

Modi along with Frederiksen interacted with more than 1,000 members of the Indian community, including students, in Copenhagen. Modi invited more India-Denmark collaborations.

- **Letter of Intent (LoI) between Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GOI and Ministry of Business, Industry and Financial Affairs of Denmark on Centre of Excellence in Green Shipping.**
- **MoU on Cooperation in the field of Skill Development, Vocational Education and Entrepreneurship.**
- **Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Cooperation in the fields of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**
- **Launch of Energy Policy Dialogue at Ministerial level.**
- **India to join as mission partner to ICARS (International Centre for Anti-Microbial Resistance Solution).**

42. Recently, Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in **the 2nd India-Nordic Summit**. Which of the following countries is not part of Nordic countries?

- A. Denmark
- B. Iceland
- C. Sweden
- D. Germany

Modi holds bilateral talks with Nordic leaders

Blue economy, clean energy, IT and innovation discussed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday held a series of bilateral meetings with his counterparts from Norway, Sweden, Iceland and Finland.

Mr. Modi, who arrived at Copenhagen on Tuesday from Berlin on the second leg of his visit to three European nations, met the four Nordic leaders on the sidelines of the second India-Nordic Summit in the Danish capital.

He began his day by meeting Norwegian counterpart Jonas Gahr Store. "Our talks included furthering cooperation in sectors such as the blue economy, clean energy, space, healthcare and more. Norway is a key pillar of India's recently announced Arctic Policy," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Mr. Modi also had a meeting with Swedish counter-



Narendra Modi with, from left, Sanna Marin, Magdalena Andersson, Mette Frederiksen, Jonas Gahr Store and Katrin Jakobsdottir in Copenhagen. **PTI**

part Magdalena Andersson during which they discussed ways to deepen bilateral ties and the progress in the Joint Action Plan. "We discussed ways to deepen bilateral cooperation in key sectors like security, IT, research and innovation. Strong ties between our nations will benefit our people," Mr. Modi tweeted.

In a separate meeting, Mr. Modi held talks with Iceland Prime Minister Katrin Ja-

kobsdottir.

Mr. Modi lauded Ms. Jakobsdottir's personal efforts at promoting gender equality and briefed her on India's advances on the issue, the External Affairs Ministry said.

Mr. Modi also met his Finnish counterpart Sanna Marin and discussed ways to further cement bilateral ties in trade, investment, technology, culture and other sectors.

We can contribute to global prosperity: PM

Traditional gifts given to dignitaries

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
COPENHAGEN

Items reflecting India's rich and diverse heritage and showcasing distinctive traditions of its various regions were chosen by Prime Minister Narendra Modi as his gifts to various dignitaries from Nordic nations whom he met during his three-day tour.

"The India-Nordic Summit will go a long way in boosting India's ties with the region. Together, there is much that our nations can achieve and contribute to global prosperity and sustainable development," Mr. Modi tweeted.

Handicraft souvenirs

Official sources said Mr. Modi gifted a *rogan* painting, an art of cloth printing practised in Gujarat's Kutch, to Danish queen Margrethe; a silver *meenakari* bird figure

from Banaras to Crown Princess Mary; and a brass tree of life from Rajasthan to his Finnish counterpart.

He presented a *dhaal* with *koftgiri* art from Rajasthan, and a wall-hanging with Kutch embroidery to the Prime Ministers of Norway and Denmark, respectively, while giving a *pashmina* stole in a papier mache box from Jammu & Kashmir to his Swedish counterpart.

Mr. Modi PM gifted a *dhokra* boat from Chhattisgarh to Crown Prince Frederik of Denmark, sources said, noting these products are in great demand in domestic and foreign markets because of their simplicity and enchanting folk motifs. *Dhokra* is a non-ferrous metal casting craft using the lost-wax casting technique, something in use in India for over 4,000 years.

Modi, Macron meet amid Ukraine crisis

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
PARIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met French President Emmanuel Macron here on Wednesday and discussed issues of bilateral and mutual interest as well as regional and global developments, amid Russia's aggression against Ukraine.

"This meeting will add momentum to the India-France friendship," the Prime Minister's Office tweeted.

Mr. Macron held a tete-a-tete with Mr. Modi before the delegation-level talks at the Elysee Palace.

"A meeting between two friends. An opportunity to translate the renewed mandate of President @EmmanuelMacron into a renewed momentum for the India-France Strategic partnership," Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi tweeted.

- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi participated in the 2nd India-Nordic Summit along with Prime Ministers of Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and Finland.**
- **The Summit provided an opportunity to review the progress of the India-Nordic relations since the 1st India-Nordic Summit, which was held in 2018 in Stockholm.**
- **Prime Minister Modi invited Nordic companies for investing in the Blue Economy sector, especially in India's Sagarmala project.**
- **India's partnership with the Nordic region in the Arctic Region was discussed. Prime Minister noted that India's Arctic Policy provides a good framework for expansion of India-Nordic cooperation in the Arctic region.**
- **Prime Minister invited the sovereign wealth funds of the Nordic countries to invest in India.**
- **The Nordic Countries reiterated their support for India's Permanent Membership of a reformed and expanded Security Council.**
- **India and the Nordic countries were committed to follow up on the historic decision at UNEA 5.2 for negotiating an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution with an ambition to completing the work by 2024.**
- **Nordic Countries**

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- **Iceland – Katrin Jakobsdottir (PM), CC - Reykjavik ,Krona**
- **Sweden - - Magdalena Anderson (PM), CC - Stockholm ,Krona**
- **Norway - Jonas Gahr (PM), CC - Oslo , Krone**
- **Finland - Sana Marin , CC - Helsinki , Euro**
- **Denmark – Mette Frederiksen (PM), CC - Copenhagen , Krone**

43. Consider the following statements regarding **Global Report on Food Crisis**.

1. **Global Report on Food Crisis is produced jointly by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Food Programme and the European Union.**
2. **Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute food insecurity in 2021.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

United Nations has said that the number of people without enough to eat on a daily basis reached an all-time high last year

Almost 193 million people in 53 countries suffered acute food insecurity in 2021.

The UN said the total number of people without adequate food every day increased by 40 million last year.

The figures appeared in the Global Report on Food Crisis, which is produced jointly by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, the World Food Programme and the European Union

The report forecasts that Somalia will face one of the world's worst food crises in 2022 due to prolonged drought, increasing food prices and persistent violence.

UN food agency projects that an additional 47 million people will become food insecure "in crisis or worse situation" because of the war in Ukraine as a result of higher food and fuel prices and inflation.

40 mn more pushed into acute hunger last year: UN

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

4 May

The number of people facing hunger rose to 193 million last year as conflict, climate change and economic crises ravaged people's livelihoods, the UN's Food and Agriculture Organization said Wednesday.

While experts have warned that Russia's war in Ukraine could cause famine, the FAO said in an annual report that nearly 40 million more people were pushed into "acute food insecurity" in 2021.

Among 53 countries facing the problem, the most affected include the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Yemen and Afghanistan where millions face hunger after the country plunged into financial crisis following the Taliban takeover in 2021.

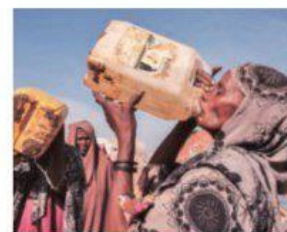
The United Nations defines "acute food insecurity" as when a person's inability to consume adequate food puts their lives or livelihoods in immediate danger.

"This is hunger that threatens to slide into famine and cause widespread death," the FAO said.

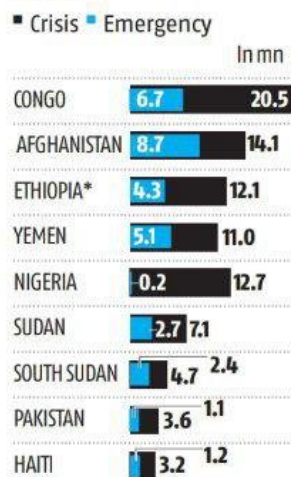
The number has risen constantly since the first report was published by the FAO, the World Food Programme and the European Union in 2016.

The increase in 2021 has been "driven by a toxic triple combination of conflict, weather extremes and economic shocks", with people affected in 53 countries, the FAO said.

Although the report does



DUBIOUS DISTINCTION
 Ten countries/territories with the highest number of people in crisis or worse in 2021



** These consolidated estimates combine two IPC analyses – the October 2020 analysis of Belg and Meher-dependent areas (covering January–June 2021) and the May 2021 update of conflict-affected areas of Tigray, Afar and Amhara (covering May–June 2021). The Government of Ethiopia has not endorsed the May 2021 analysis. Source: FSIN, using IPC, CH and WFP data; GRFC 2022

not take into account the conflict in Ukraine, the FAO said the war "stands to have the most devastating impacts on food crisis countries and on those on the brink of famine".

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44. Consider the following statements regarding **World Health Organization (WHO) report on COVID-19**.
1. According to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report, COVID-19 is expected to **cause 4.7 million fatalities in India between 2020 and 2021**.
 2. The total death toll related directly or indirectly with the Covid-19 pandemic, **referred to as excess mortality, was roughly 14.9 million**.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

WHO estimates 4.7 million COVID-linked deaths in India

The figure is nearly 10 times the government's official count for 2020 and 2021

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

There were likely 47 lakh deaths, directly or indirectly attributable to COVID-19, in India in 2020 and 2021, a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Thursday. These are the highest, by far, for any country and make up nearly a third of the 15 million such deaths estimated by the agency globally.

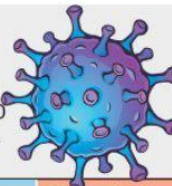
India officially estimated only 4.8 lakh cumulative deaths linked to COVID-19 as of December 2021, which implies that the WHO estimate is nearly 10 times the government count. As of May, India's official COVID-19 death toll is 5.2 lakh.

Minutes after the WHO released its estimate, India reiterated its "objection to the methodology" used.

"These sobering data not only point to the impact of the pandemic but also to the need for all countries to invest in more resilient health systems that can sustain essential health services during crises, including stronger

Scary count

According to WHO's calculations, 4.74 million excess deaths associated with COVID-19 occurred in India between 2020 and 2021, nearly 10 times the official toll. A look at top 10 countries



Country	Cumulative excess deaths associated with COVID-19 in million	Officially reported COVID-19 deaths in million	Excess deaths as a multiple of official COVID-19 deaths
India	4.74	0.48	9.8
Russia	1.07	0.30	3.5
Indonesia	1.03	0.14	7.1
U.S.	0.93	0.82	1.1
Brazil	0.68	0.62	1.1
Mexico	0.63	0.30	2.1
Peru	0.29	0.20	1.4
Turkey	0.26	0.08	3.2
Egypt	0.25	0.02	11.5
S. Africa	0.24	0.09	2.6

health information systems," WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said. "WHO is committed to working with all countries to strengthen their health information systems..."

Excess deaths are calculated as the difference between the number of deaths that have occurred and the

number that would be expected in the absence of the pandemic based on data from earlier years. Excess mortality includes deaths associated with COVID-19 directly or indirectly (due to the pandemic's impact on health systems).

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

India will contest report say officials

BINDU SHAJAN PERAPPADAN
NEW DELHI

India will take up the "glaring anomalies" in the WHO report on excess mortality estimates associated with the COVID pandemic at the highest and appropriate forum, said sources in the Health Ministry on Thursday. "The numbers are nowhere close to reality," the Ministry said.

"This reflects a statistically unsound and scientifically questionable methodology of data collection for making excess mortality projections in the case of India," it said. The WHO should appreciate the fact that mortality is a sensitive topic and any speculative report on this can have multiple and needless adverse effects, it added.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10

- According to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report, COVID-19 is expected to cause 4.7 million fatalities in India between 2020 and 2021, either directly or indirectly.
- Between January 1, 2020 and December 31, 2021, the total death toll related directly or indirectly with the Covid-19 pandemic, referred to as excess mortality, and was roughly 14.9 million.
- India maintained its opposition to the WHO methodology, which estimated that India saw one-third of the 15 million such deaths worldwide, the highest figure for any country.

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- **India officially estimated only 4.8 lakh cumulative deaths linked to COVID-19 as of December 2021, which implies that the WHO estimate is nearly 10 times the government count. As of May, India's official COVID-19 death toll is 5.2 lakh.**

45. Consider the following statements regarding the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations-IGC in Berlin.

1. Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on Green and Sustainable Development Partnership was signed recently.
2. Germany has agreed to make an advance commitment of 10 billion Euros of new and additional development assistance until 2030.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

Germany to extend €10-b green aid to India

Modi, Scholz discuss expansion of trade, energy, cultural linkages; nine pacts signed

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 2

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz have decided to launch an Indo-German Partnership for Green and Sustainable Development under which Germany has decided to provide additional development assistance of €10 billion till 2030 to support India's green growth plans.

"In Glasgow, India increased its climate ambition and showed the world that for us green and sustainable growth is an article of faith...I thank Germany and Chancellor Scholz (for the development assistance). We have decided to form a green hydrogen task force that will help increase green hydrogen infrastructure in both countries," Modi said at the sixth round of Biennial Inter Governmental Consultations (IGC) in Berlin on Monday.

The IGC is a unique mechanism which brings together several ministers and officials from

both sides, including the two leaders, to engage in bilateral discussions on co-operation and partnership across a range of areas. The focus areas for the IGC included global security policy issues and common efforts to tackle the climate crisis.

The two sides signed nine agreements during the IGC that include renewable energy partnership, migration and mobility partnership, joint initiative on the implementation of triangular development co-operation projects in third countries and joint initiative on forest landscape restoration.

On Ukraine crisis

The PM said that India was worried about the humanitarian impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. He added that right from the beginning of the conflict India had called for a stop to violence and stressed on the importance of dialogue to sort the crisis. "There will be no winners. All will suffer. That is why we fa-



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz signing an agreement during Indo-German governmental consultations at the Chancellery in Berlin, on Monday *AP*

your peace," he said. Modi pointed out that because of the disruption caused by the crisis, oil prices were sky high and there was a shortage of food and fertiliser in the world and developing countries and poor nations were suffering the most.

"We have from our side given humanitarian aid to Ukraine," the PM said, adding that India was also aiding other nations by exporting good grain and extending economic aid. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, Foreign Affairs Minister S

Jaishankar and Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office, also attended the IGC.

Expanding bilateral ties

Modi and Scholz discussed issues related to expansion of India-Germany cooperation, including trade and cultural linkages, as well as overall strategic partnership and global developments, in a one-on-one meeting and delegation level talks, also held on Monday.

Modi is on a three-day tour of

Europe and will also visit Denmark and France.

Modi expressed hope that the India-EU FTA talks will progress fast on the lines of the FTA deals signed recently with the UAE and Australia, that were completed in record time. He said that India's skilled workers and professionals had benefited the economies of several countries and the Indo-German Comprehensive Mobility and Migration Partnership being worked out will enable smooth movement of work force.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
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Prime Minister Narendra Modi and German Chancellor Olaf Scholz today co-chaired the sixth edition of the India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations-IGC in Berlin.

This was the Prime Minister's first IGC with Chancellor Scholz and also the first such Government-to-Government consultations of the new German Government, which assumed office in December last year.

He informed that Germany has committed to support Green Goal Plans of India. German Chancellor Olaf Scholz invited Prime Minister Modi for G-7 summit to be held in Germany.

Prime Minister Modi and Chancellor Scholz signed the Joint Declaration of Intent establishing the Green and Sustainable Development Partnership.

This Partnership envisages a whole-of-government approach to India-Germany cooperation on SDGs and climate action, under which Germany has agreed to make an advance commitment of 10 billion Euros of new and additional development assistance until 2030.

This JDI will also create a Ministerial mechanism within the framework of the IGC to provide high-level coordination and political direction to the Partnership. A number of agreements were concluded during the Ministerial bilateral meetings.

Banking / Economy News

46. Recently **Indian Army signed Tripartite MoU** with _____ to establish Centre for Excellence and wellness for coaching and making underprivileged students of Manipur eligible for admission to the best colleges and universities in India.

- A. Punjab National Bank
- B. **State Bank of India**
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. Axis Bank

Indian Army signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish Centre for Excellence and wellness for coaching and making underprivileged students of Manipur eligible for admission to the best colleges and universities in India.

Indian Army, Red Shield Division under the aegis of Spear Corps has signed a Tripartite MoU with corporate partner State Bank of India Foundation (SBIF) and training partner National Integrity and Educational Development Organization (NIEDO).

47. Recently **India's exported merchandise** estimated at _____ **billion in April 2022**, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier.

- A. **\$40.19 billion**

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- B. **\$38.19 billion**
- C. **\$42.19 billion**
- D. **\$35.19 billion**

- India exported merchandise estimated at **\$38.19 billion in April 2022**, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier but 9.5% lower than the record \$42.2 billion shipped out in March.
- The trade deficit, however, expanded to \$20.07 billion from \$18.5 billion in March, as imports grew at a faster 26.6% pace to \$58.26 billion.
- India's goods exports hit a record \$420 billion in 2021-22, while imports also hit an all-time high of about \$612 billion, leading to a \$192 billion deficit in the last financial year.

48. Recently _____ announced to launch multi-exchange trade execution platform to provide its users a chance to carry out transaction in any of world's top 20 crypto exchanges.

- A. **Crypto wire**
- B. **Torus King**
- C. **Coin DCX**
- D. **Meta**

Crypto-Wire will launch multi-exchange trade execution platform. With this initiative, Crypto-Wire Super App will provide its users a chance to carry out transaction in any of world's top 20 crypto exchanges.

Since its launch in December 2021, Crypto-Wire Super App has recorded one million downloads in five months.

Crypto-Wire is a Strategic Business Unit of Ticker plant. It had previously announced the setting up of India's first index of crypto-currencies (IC15).

IC15 tracks performance of the top 15 widely traded liquid crypto-currencies listed on world's leading crypto exchanges. It is a rule-based broad market index by

April exports cross \$38 bn, deficit widens

Outbound shipments slip 9.5% from March 2022 levels

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

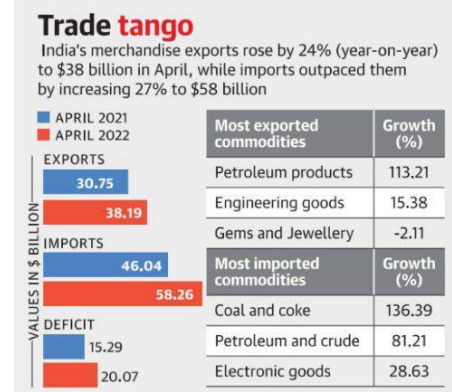
India exported merchandise estimated at \$38.19 billion in April 2022, a 24.2% increase from a year earlier but 9.5% lower than the record \$42.2 billion shipped out in March, official estimates released on Tuesday show.

The trade deficit, however, expanded to \$20.07 billion from \$18.5 billion in March, as imports grew at a faster 26.6% pace to \$58.26 billion. Sequentially, goods imports declined 4.1% last month from March's level.

Gold imports fell by a sharp 73% year-on-year to just \$1.7 billion, even as coal imports more than doubled to over \$4.7 billion from \$2 billion a year earlier. Petroleum imports comprising crude and products surged 81.2% to exceed \$19.5 billion, and made up a third of the total imports in the month.

"India's goods trade deficit has crossed \$200 billion for a 12-month period for the first time in April 2022," said Richard Rossow, Wadhvani chair in U.S.-India Policy Studies at the Washington-based security think tank, CSIS. Petroleum imports alone had accounted for \$172 billion during this period, he pointed out.

ICRA chief economist Adi-



ti Nayar also noted that higher oil imports were entirely responsible for the trade deficit's rise from \$15.3 billion in April 2021.

"Unless commodity prices recede appreciably, we expect the merchandise trade deficit to print above \$20 billion in a majority of the months of 2022-23," she warned.

Ukraine war fallout

India's goods exports hit a record \$420 billion in 2021-22, while imports also hit an all-time high of about \$612 billion, leading to a \$192 billion deficit in the last financial year.

"Although the non-oil trade deficit remained stable in April, there was a shift in its composition, with a plunge in gold imports being offset by a rise in non-oil, non-gold imports such as coal and chemicals, an unsavoury yet expected fallout of the higher commodity prices engendered by the Russia-Ukraine conflict," Ms. Nayar observed.

Among India's top 10 export commodities, gems and jewellery exports dipped by a marginal 2.1% in April, while rice exports fell 14.24%.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

49. Recently _____ has launched M15 petrol on a pilot basis from Tinsukia district of Assam to blend fuel with methanol for achieving fuel independence and reduce the import burden.

- A. Oil India Limited
- B. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C. Bharat Petroleum Limited
- D. Hindustan Petroleum Limited

updating the income.

PII

IOC launches methanol-blended petrol on pilot basis in Assam

Indian Oil Corp (IOC) rolled out M15 petrol – 15 per cent blend of methanol with petrol – on a pilot basis in Assam's Tinsukia district. Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli launched the M15 petrol in the presence of Niti Aayog member VK Saraswat and IOC chairman SM Vaidya on Saturday. Teli said that blending fuel with methanol will provide respite from the rising prices. "Pilot rollout of M15 is a stepping stone towards achieving fuel independence and reducing the import burden," he said.

PTI

Union Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas Rameswar Teli launched M15 petrol.

The launch has been done from Tinsukia because of availability of methanol.

Methanol is being manufactured by Assam Petrochemical Ltd in the surroundings of Digboi refinery.

M15 petrol is a 15% blend of methanol with petrol. In other words, M15 is a 15% Methanol blended petrol.

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC): It is a Maharatna PSU that was formed in 1959. It is the largest commercial oil company in India. Headquarters of IOC: New Delhi Chairperson of IOC: Shrikant Madhav Vaidya.

CryptoWire to be an aggregator, launch multi-exchange trade execution platform

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, May 1

After clocking a million user-downloads for its global crypto Super App, CryptoWire has now set its sight on launching a multi-exchange trade execution platform for its user base out of this app.

Through this initiative, CryptoWire Super App will become an aggregator providing its users a choice to transact in any of the top 20 crypto exchanges globally, Joseph Massey, Managing Director & CEO, CryptoWire told *BusinessLine*.

"We now have one million people who have installed the CryptoWire App. Some of them would love to trade and so we thought we will take them to the next segment which is to ensure that anyone who wants to trade can use our app to route orders to the exchange that he desires. We are preparing ourselves for the top 20 exchanges. Some will be very large global ex-



Joseph Massey, MD & CEO, CryptoWire

changes and most of the domestic exchanges. It is up to the end-user to decide," Massey said.

Exchange features

CryptoWire is neither a crypto exchange nor a cryptocurrency, the CEO said.

"We will not be an exchange but will try and see that the best exchanges of the world are brought into our app. The user has to do compliance with the exchanges and can start trading in them using our infrastructure. We will help them to route orders to different markets. We will give

them intelligence and execution capability," he added.

"That is where the role of an aggregator helps. The natural progression we are making is those people who have come to us... if they have trading interests, then they can satisfy themselves with everything and they can also go and execute a trade at the exchange they want to use," he said.

Massey said that CryptoWire will go live with its multi-exchange trade execution platform at a "strategically right time", which he said was not too far.

A one-stop solution

It may be recalled that CryptoWire, which is a Strategic Business Unit of Tickerplant, had early this year announced the launch of India's first index of cryptocurrencies – IC15. This was aimed at empowering knowledge on the crypto and blockchain ecosystem.

MANDATORY HALLMARKING OF GOLD JEWELLERY

Second phase to come into effect from June 1

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, April 30

The Centre on Saturday said that the second phase of mandatory hallmarking of good jewellery and artefacts will come into effect from June 1. The Commerce Ministry said that the Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022 has been notified.

Thirty-two new districts will come under the mandatory hallmarking regime from June 1 where Assaying and Hallmarking Centres have been set up, post the implementation of the first mandatory hallmarking order. In addition, in the second phase, additional caratage of gold jewellery and artefacts of 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats will also be covered under, the Ministry added.

Purity test

Effectiv, June 23, 2021, BIS implemented mandatory hallmarking regime in 256 districts. More than 3 lakh gold articles are being hallmarked



Nearly 32 new districts will come under the mandatory hallmarking regime from June 1

with HUID (Hallmark Unique Identification Number) every day, the official statement added.

In addition, consumers can also get the purity of their unhallmarked gold jewellery tested at any BIS-recognised Assaying and Hallmarking Centre (AHC).

"The AHC shall undertake the testing of gold jewellery from common consumers on priority and provide a test report to the consumer. The test report issued to the consumer will assure the consumer about the purity of their jewellery and will also be useful if the consumer wishes to sell the jewellery with him," the statement added.

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50. Consider the following statements regarding Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order 2022.

1. The second phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts will be effective from June 1, 2022.
2. The number of districts that will come under mandatory hallmarking regime from June 1 is 32.
3. Gold Jewellery and artefacts of 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats will also be covered under second phase.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 2
- D. All of the above

Government has notified Hallmarking of Gold Jewellery and Gold Artefacts (Amendment) Order, 2022.

Second phase of mandatory hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts will be effective from June 1, 2022.

The number of districts that will come under mandatory hallmarking regime from June 1 is 32.

Gold jewellery and artefacts of 20 carats, 23 carats and 24 carats will also be covered under second phase.

The mandatory hallmarking regime was implemented in 256 districts with effect from June 23, 2021.

51. A Cross Border Insolvency Rules/Regulations Committee (CBIRC) was formed by the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2020 headed by _____.

- A. Subhash Chandra Garg
- B. Harsh Bhanwalla
- C. KP Krishnan
- D. Rajeev Srinivas

Government is planning to bring cross-border insolvency under Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).

Union Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, Rao Inderjit Singh talked about this recently during International Research Conference on Insolvency and Bankruptcy at IIM-Ahmadabad.

A Cross Border Insolvency Rules/Regulations Committee (CBIRC) was formed by Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2020. KP Krishnan was the chairman of CBIRC.

IBC has so far been amended six times since its enforcement in 2016.

52. Recently the Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT) signed MoU with _____ to boost indigenous technological design and development.

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. AICTE
- C. C-DAC
- D. IESMA

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam

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***** Mahotsav

C-DOT and C-DAC sign MoU for cooperation in diverse areas of Telecom and ICT

It will lead to development of affordable indigenous telecom and ICT solutions under Atmanirbhar initiative of Government of India

Posted On: 02 MAY 2022 4:08PM by PIB Delhi

Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT), the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC), an autonomous Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the SemiconIndia 2022 event at Bangalore on 30th April, 2022 with the objective of working together in the diverse areas of Telecom and ICT to boost indigenous technological design and development.

The MOU signing ceremony was attended by Shri Daniel Jebaraj, Director, C-DOT and Shri E. Magesh, Director General, C-DAC in the august presence of Shri Rajeev Chandrashekar, Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Union Minister of State for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and senior officers from both the organizations.

Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT), the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, Ministry of Communications, Government of India and Centre for Development of Advanced Computing(C-DAC), an autonomous Scientific Society of the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the Semicon India 2022 event at Bangalore on 30th April, 2022 with the objective of working together in the diverse areas of Telecom and ICT to boost indigenous technological design and development.

Both C-DOT and C-DAC have agreed to collaborate and work jointly, in identification and development of activities in the areas of 4G/5G, Broadband, IOT/M2M, packet core

53. Recently _____ has partnered with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to set up a telecom Centre of Excellence.

- A. Reliance Jio
- B. Airtel
- C. BSNL
- D. Vodafone Idea

- Vodafone Idea has partnered with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to set up a telecom Centre of Excellence.
- The centre has been named InViCT (ICRIER and Vodafone Idea Centre for Telecom), which will drive research advisory and policy support efforts
- The CoE (Centre of Excellence) will bring together stakeholders from the government, academia and industry on a common platform to facilitate the development of a coordinated policy
- Going forward, InViCT may also tie up with the government recognised incubators to promote research.

Vi, ICRIER Sign Pact for Policy Research Centre

Our Bureau

New Delhi: Vodafone Idea (Vi) has signed a pact with Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) to set up a telecom centre of excellence— InViCT (ICRIER and Vodafone Idea Centre for Telecom).

The centre is being set up to facilitate research advisory and policy support for the telecom sector, and contribute to Digital India mission, according to press release issued Monday.

InViCT will function as an autonomous research centre involving the private sector, academia, and the government. Its core research focus will be on



The centre will facilitate research advisory and policy support for the telecom sector, and contribute to Digital India mission

the broader areas of policies, regulation and practices related to telecom and other related sectors including ICT, said a press release.

The centre will host regular workshops and round table meetings and facilitate a forum for the stakeholders to discuss ideas. The research centre may also tie-up with recognised incubators to promote research in the future.

“Through the formation of InViCT, in partnership with ICRIER, we will foster research and facilitate dialogue amongst all stakeholders on telecom policy, governance and regulation, with a view to establish sustainable growth of the sector contributing to the achievement of the government’s Digital India mission,” P Balaji, chief regulatory and corporate affairs officer at Vodafone Idea, said.

InViCT will be based out of New Delhi and will be governed and led by a board under the co-chairmanship of nominees from Vi and ICRIER. The board will also include senior representatives from telecom department, TRAI and industry body COAI.

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- *The New Delhi-based centre will be governed and managed by the board under the co-chairmanship of the leadership nominees from ICRIER and VIL.*

54. Recently _____ joined the elite club as it became India 100th unicorn.

- A. Meesho
- B. Open**
- C. Zerodha
- D. Zero

India now has 100 unicorns. The country welcomed its 100th unicorn -- Bengaluru-based neobanking platform Open

The neo-banking fintech is now valued at \$1 billion. It is also the 16th unicorn in 2022.

The new products include Open Flo, an innovative revenue-based financing product for ecommerce businesses, Open Settle, an early settlement credit offering, and Open Capital, a working capital lending offering for SMEs.

Anish Achuthan, Co-founder and CEO, Open, Founded in 2017

Neobank 'Open' becomes India's 100th unicorn

VENKATESHA BABU

Bengaluru, May 2

Neobanking fintech Open Financial Technologies has announced a series D funding round of \$50 million from IIFL along with existing investors Temasek, Tiger Global and 3one4 Capital. With this new round, the company says it is now valued at \$1 billion making it the 100th entrant to India's unicorn club. The fintech has cumulatively raised \$190 million till now.

Open has built one of Asia's digital banking platforms for SMEs, start-ups and freelancers, and has increased its customer base to 2.3 million customers in the last 12 months. The strategic investment from IIFL will help Open accelerate its new product offering on SME lending, as the platform is gearing up for the launch of

three new products aimed at enhancing the capital needs of SMEs apart from its existing SME credit card offerings.

The new products include Open Flo, an innovative revenue-based financing product for e-commerce businesses, Open Settle – an early settlement credit offering, and Open Capital – a working capital lending offering for SMEs.

BusinessLine

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BM-BME

55. Recently In May the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the repo rate from 4.0 percent to _____ per cent for the first time since _____.

- A. 4.40 % , October 2020
- B. 4.40 % , September 2018
- C. 4.40 % , August 2018**
- D. 4.50 % , September 2019

- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised the repo rate from 4.0 per cent to 4.40 per cent.*
- *The repo rate has been increased for the first time since August 2018.*
- *The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has also increased the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points to 4.50 percent*
- *This step is expected to withdraw Rs 87,000 crore liquidity from the system. The cash reserve ratio (CRR) now stood at 4.5 per cent.*
- *Now, the standing deposit facility (SDF) rate stand at 4.15 per cent and the marginal.*

Standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate stands at 4.65 percent.

- Repo is the rate at which the central bank lends short-term funds to banks.

56. Recently In May the Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) announced withdraw of 225 more RBI circulars. Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) is being headed by _____.

- A. Arvind Krishna
- B. M Rajeshwar Rao
- C. Swaminathan J
- D. N Ramakrishnan

- Withdrawal of 225 more RBI circulars has been recommended by Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0).
- The authority has till now recommended the withdrawal of 475 circulars issued by RBI.
- In February 2022, RRA recommended the creation of 'Regulatory reporting' link on the RBI website.
- In April 2021, M Rajeshwar Rao (Deputy Governor, RBI) was appointed as the Regulations Review Authority.
- In May 2021, RRA set up a six-member Advisory Group to help it in reviewing the regulations and compliance procedures of RBI.
- Swaminathan J, Managing Director, State Bank of India headed this group.

57. Recently in May _____ has signed United Nations – Supported Principles for Responsible Investment.

- A. Federal Bank of India
- B. HDFC Life

RBI turns hawkish, ups repo rate by 40 bps 'to tackle inflation'

If inflation remains elevated, it can be detrimental to growth, financial stability: RBI Governor

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 4

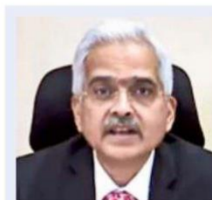
In a stunning mid-cycle move, the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on Wednesday unanimously voted to raise the policy repo rate by 40 basis points from 4 per cent to 4.40 per cent with immediate effect, in a clear indication that inflation may be spiralling to higher levels than anticipated.

The move, preceding the US Fed announcement on a rate hike, also puts the RBI back on the curve after criticism for being behind.

As synchronised shocks of rising commodity prices and supply disruptions unleashed by the Russia-Ukraine war moved the trajectory of inflation upwards, the six-member rate-setting committee decided to raise the repo rate after keeping it rock steady for two years since May 22, 2020.

"As several storms hit together, our actions today are important steps to steady the ship," explained RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das.

The MPC also decided unanimously to remain accommodative while focussing on withdrawal of accommodation to ensure that inflation



As several storms hit together, our actions today are important steps to steady the ship.

SHAKTIKANTA DAS
RBI Governor

The rate-hike cycle begins



remains within the target (4 per cent, with a +/-2 per cent tolerance band) going forward, while supporting growth.

Increase in CRR

This off-cycle rate hike, along with the increase in the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by 50 basis points (bps) from 4 per cent to 4.50 per cent, is expected to gradually push up lending and deposit rates. The higher CRR, which was last increased from 3.50 per cent to 4 per cent on May 22, 2021, will suck ₹87,000 crore out of the system.

Analysts say the repo rate hike may also be to stem capital outflows as well as depreciation of the rupee at a time when monetary policy authorities in major advanced economies have embarked on rate increases and quantitative tightening.

Referring to the spike in the headline CPI (consumer price index) based inflation in March (propelled mainly by pricier food items) to 6.95 per cent from 6.1 per cent in February, Das said the print for April will also be high.

"There is the collateral risk that if inflation remains elevated at these levels for too long, it can de-anchor inflation expectations which, in turn, can become self-fulfilling and detrimental to growth and financial stability. Hence, we must remain in readiness to use all policy levers to preserve macroeconomic and financial stability while enhancing the economy's resilience," he said.

More rate hikes expected

Dharmakirti Joshi, Chief Economist, and Pankhuri Tandon, Economist, Crisil, said the RBI's policy of gradual normalisation has come to an end. "A sharp rise in inflation outlook for this fiscal, along with increasing pace of monetary policy tightening by major global central banks have significantly reduced the policy space the MPC had. We expect the RBI to hike the repo rate by another 75-100 bps this fiscal," Joshi said.

Rajkiran Rai G, MD & CEO of Union Bank of India, said: "This (rate hike) was expected, but the timing is a bit surprising. We have a lot of repo rate (external benchmark rate linked loans). So, all those loans will be repriced now. The deposit cost for a bank goes up when the liquidity in the system goes down. Now, with the liquidity going out of the system, banks will start increasing deposit rates."

Also read p2
Edit p4

Do away with 225 more circulars, says RBI panel

Regulations Review Authority has so far recommended withdrawal of 475 circulars



OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 2

The Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has recommended the withdrawal of an additional 225 circulars issued by the Reserve Bank of India.

With the third tranche of recommendations, the Authority has so far recommended the withdrawal of 475 RBI circulars.

In February 2022, the RRA had recommended the discontinuation/ merger/ conversion to online submission of 65 returns along with the creation of a new 'Regulatory Reporting' link on the RBI website to consolidate information relating to regulatory reporting.

Advisory group
M Rajeshwar Rao, Deputy Governor, RBI, was appointed as

the Regulations Review Authority in April 2021. On May 7, 2021, RRA constituted a six-member Advisory Group headed by Swaminathan J, Managing Director, State Bank of India, to streamline the central bank's regulations and compliance procedures.

The terms of reference of RRA 2.0 include making regulatory and supervisory instructions more effective by removing redundancies and duplications, if any; and obtaining feedback from regulated entities on simplification of procedure... enhancing ease of compliance.

9/12

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- C. Axis Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

HDFC Life has signed United Nations – Supported Principles for Responsible Investment.

Vibha Padalkar, MD & CEO of HDFC Life expressed pleasure while announcing HDFC Life's association with PRI.

HDFC Life has won 'Best Governed Company in the listed segment: Large category' award at the 21st Institute of Company Secretaries (ICSI) National Awards for Excellence in Corporate Governance.

PRI or Principles for Responsible Investment were created in 2005. It world's leading proponent of responsible investment.

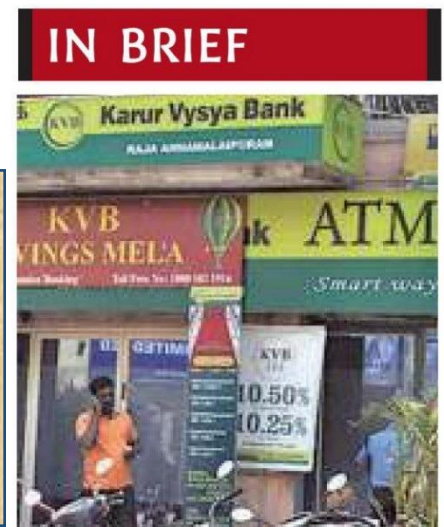
HDFC Life Insurance Company Limited (HDFC Life) is a joint venture between HDFC Ltd. and abrdn (Mauritius Holdings) 2006 Limited.

58. Recently in May _____ has been conferred with two prestigious awards for its performance in the area of MSME lending at the Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Punjab National Bank
- C. Karur Vysya Bank
- D. Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank

Karur Vysya Bank has been conferred with two prestigious awards for its performance in the area of MSME lending. The Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi recognized Karur Vysya Bank as the Best MSME Friendly Bank (Private Sector) - Runner up and Best Innovative Bank (Private Sector) - Runner up for the year 2022

Karur Vysya Bank is a Scheduled Commercial Bank in India. Headquartered in Karur in Tamil Nadu.



KVB bags two awards for MSME lending

CHENNAI

Karur Vysya Bank has bagged two awards. The Chamber of Indian Micro Small and Medium Enterprises has recognised KVB as the best MSME Friendly Bank (private sector) - runner up and Best Innovative Bank (private sector) - runner up for 2021.

59. Recently in May LIC has garnered a _____ crore from anchor investors led primarily by domestic institutions ahead of its mega IPO.

- A. Rs 5836 Cr
- B. Rs 5627 Cr
- C. Rs 5500 Cr
- D. Rs 5000 Cr

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LIC RAISES ₹5,627 CR FROM ANCHOR INVESTORS

Domestic investors corner 71% of LIC anchor book

RUCHIT PUROHIT & PRASANTA SAHU
 Mumbai/New Delhi, May 3

LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION of India (LIC) closed the anchor book of its initial public offer (IPO) on Tuesday after raising ₹5,627 crore from mostly domestic investors, setting the stage for the issue that will run for the public from today to next Monday. More than 71% of the anchor book was allotted to 15 domestic mutual funds through 99 schemes, as demand from foreign investors remained subdued.

The anchor investor interest seemed on a par with or at best marginally higher than the issue size. But government sources said investor interest was encouraging and insisted that the anchor issue was over-



LIC closed its anchor book after successfully raising

₹5,627 crore from anchor investors



The anchor investors' portion, comprising 59 million equity shares, was subscribed at ₹949 per share



Norway pension fund, Singapore gov't funds, BNP Paribas LLC, Societe Generale among top foreign investors

subscribed. They said institutional investors indicated demand worth over ₹9,400 crore "verbally" and added that this was "equal to the overall QIB portion or 50% of the total public offer net of

reserved categories". A senior government official said, of the total institutional demand gauged till the closure of the anchor portion of the issue, investors who were comfortable with the 30-day

lock-in period were selected for share allotment, adding that, the remaining investors may subscribe to the main QIB book when it is opened.

Continued on Page 2

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THE ANCHOR BOOK

■ 59.3mn shares allotted to 123 anchor investors at ₹949 apiece

■ 42.1mn shares (71% of total) allotted to 15 domestic MFs through 99 schemes

■ ₹15,000 cr worth of bids LIC offering still has to generate

THOSE WHO BET BIG

■ ₹1,000 cr by SBI MF

■ ₹700 cr by ICICI Prudential MF

■ ₹650 cr by HDFC MF

■ ₹1,624 cr by overseas funds, led by BNP Investments (₹450 cr) and Singapore government's GIC (₹400 cr)

- Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) raised Rs 5,627.27 crore from anchor investors ahead of its mega initial public offering (IPO).
- The state-owned insurer allotted about 5.93 crore shares to 123 investors at Rs 949 per share.
- The Singapore government's sovereign wealth fund (GIC) subscribed to shares worth over Rs 414 crore through three funds. BNP Investments subscribed to shares worth about Rs 450 crore.
- The Government of India currently holds 100% stake in LIC. It is offering 22.13 crore shares, or 3.5% stake,
- The firm has reserved around 15.81 lakh shares for eligible employees while 2.21 crore shares are reserved for policyholders. About 6.91 crore shares are reserved for retail investors category.

60. Recently Ayana Renewable has partnered with Greenstat's Hydrogen of _____ for setting up green hydrogen projects in Karnataka.

- A. Norway
- B. Finland
- C. Spain
- D. Germany

Ayana, Greenstat to set up green hydrogen projects

AYANA RENEWABLE POWER and Greenstat Hydrogen India have collaborated to develop green hydrogen projects powered by renewable energy. The first pilot project will come up in Karnataka.



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Anyana Renewable Power, a Bengaluru-based renewable energy firm, and Norway-based Greenstat's arm, Greenstat Hydrogen India have entered into a Joint Development Agreement for setting up green hydrogen projects in India.

The companies will develop large-scale green hydrogen solutions to provide long-term supply of green hydrogen to industrial and commercial customers in India.

The release added that the firms will launch an initial pilot project in Karnataka.

61. Recently in May _____ announced a joint venture (JV) with Open Financial Technologies to launch India's first Neo bank to cater banking and credit requirements of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

A. Open

B. IIFL Finance Limite

C. Neo Pay

D. Neourax

IIFL Finance, Open Financial Tech in JV to float neo-bank

Will cater to banking, credit needs of MSMEs

OUR BUREAU
Mumbai, May 3

IIFL Finance and Open Financial Technologies have announced a joint venture (JV) to launch a neo-bank that will cater to banking and credit requirements of micro and small enterprises (MSMEs).

Initial capital for the JV company will be ₹120 crore, with IIFL Finance and Open taking 51 per cent and 49 per cent stake, respectively, according to a statement. The joint venture

will be named IIFL Open Fintech Private Ltd.

The venture is expected to be a profitable in the first year itself, with 10 lakh customer mark likely to be reached within a year's time, and \$2 billion lending book likely to be created in two years, IIFL Finance said.

IIFL Finance is a retail focused non-banking financial company (NBFC) engaged in the business of loans and mortgages along with its subsidiaries- IIFL Home Finance and IIFL Samasta Finance.

Open, which is backed by global investors such as Temasek, Google, Visa, and Tiger

Global, is an SME focused neo-banking platform, with over 2.3 million small and medium business merchants on boarded on its Open Money platform, according to the statement.

IIFL Finance will leverage Open's consumer neo-banking platform to offer additional services to its clients, it added.

SAAS fee

"Through this JV, Open will get a recurring annual SAAS fees per customer for offering technology services to the JV. Additionally, they would also be able to leverage the lending book and infrastructure of IIFL



Finance to offer innovative lending solutions to the merchants on their platform," IIFL Finance said.

Nirmal Jain, Founder, IIFL Group and Managing Director, IIFL Finance, said, "Currently, the long tail of 6.33 crore MSMEs is deprived of credit

and therefore growth. The unfulfilled credit need for such customers is estimated to be ₹37 lakh crore.

"What these MSMEs need is simplified banking and what banks need is verified transaction and business data. The neo-banking that this JV proposes to offer, will meet requirements of both sides and drive financial inclusion and economic growth at bottom of the pyramid."

Jain said the JV will enable customers to open an account in less than two minutes without visiting any physical branch and access all banking features on the app itself.

Non Banking financial company IIFL Finance Ltd and Open Financial Technologies, Asia's largest SME focused neo-banking platform today announced a joint venture (JV) to launch India's first Neo bank that would cater to banking and credit requirements of Micro and Small Enterprises (MSMEs).

Initial capital of the joint venture company will be Rs 120 crore. The JV composition between IIFL Finance and Open is 51:49. The name of the joint venture would be IIFL Open Fintech Private Limited.

Open became the 100th unicorn as IIFL led a \$50 million series D funding along with existing investors Temasek, Tiger Global and 3one4 Capital.

For the JV entity (IIFL Open Fintech Private Limited) created there would be no technology capital expenditure as the same is being Offered by Open on a per customer basis.

Nirmal Jain, Founder, IIFL Group and Managing Director,

Open has over 2.3 million small and medium business merchants on boarded on its Open Money platform. It was founded in 2017 by Anish Achuthan,

62. Consider the following statements regarding Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) 'Health Start Rating' (HSR).
1. The FSSAI is bringing in the regulation based on a report from Indian Institute of Management – Ahmadabad.
 2. FoPL (Front of Package Labelling) on packaged foods was recommended in 2014 by an expert committee constituted by the FSSAI headed by Ms.Sreya Damani.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

On 15th February 2022 the FSSAI decided to adopt the "health-star rating system" in its draft regulations for Front of Package Labelling (FOPL).

Health-star rating system gives a product 1/2 a star to 5 stars.

The HSR format ranks a packaged food item based on salt, sugar, and fat content and the rating will be printed on the front of the package.

The rating will be the first such in India, a country burdened with lifestyle diseases, and is aimed at guiding consumers to opt for healthy food.

Food Safety and Standards Authority of India

It is a nodal statutory agency responsible for protecting and promoting public health in India through regulation and supervision of food safety.

It was established under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

63. Recently _____ has launched a pre-approved personal loan (PAPL) product under Project World of Advanced Virtual Experience (WAVE).

- A. State Bank of India
- B. Indian Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

'Star rating for food may mislead buyers'

Experts call for warning label system

Special Correspondent
NEW DELHI

The nutrition labelling system for food packets recommended by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) will not only fail to enable consumers to make healthy choices but also mislead them about their nutritional value, warn experts who have called for the need to "insulate" policy-making from the influence of the food industry.

At a meeting in February, the FSSAI decided that when preparing the draft regulations for a Front of Package Labelling (FoPL) system, it will propose the health star rating system, which rates the overall nutritional profile of packaged food and assigns it a rating from half a star to five stars. The decision was based on an Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad study commissioned by the FSSAI. The move has upset public health experts who favour the warning label system such as a black-and-white stop symbol used in Chile or the red warning symbol in Israel for each of the three ingredients – salt, sugar and fat.

Warning system

"Warning signs educate consumers about harmful ingredients present in a food product and help them make healthy choices. They also give a repetitive educational message so that even for domestic cooking or buying street food that warning bell goes off. This educational component of a properly constructed warning system is missing in the health star [rating] system, which are like a movie rating system and are of no use," K. Srinath Reddy, president, Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI), said at a press conference.

He said that the system being proposed by the food



➤ Educational component of a properly constructed warning system is missing in the health star system

K. SRINATH REDDY
PHFI president

regulator was "devious" as it misled consumers about a product's nutrition profile.

Under the health star rating system, an algorithm assigns a product a certain number of stars based on "positive" components (fibre, protein, and fruit, vegetable, nut and legume content) balanced against other components (energy, sugars, sodium, and saturated fat). He was launching a position statement endorsed by 21 organisations, including the Centre for Science and Environment, Consumer Voice, Cuts International, Indian Academy of Paediatrics, and the PHFI.

In the statement, the 21 organisations have demanded that warning labels should be made mandatory when the draft regulation is made public for stakeholder consultations; that "decisions on public health issues should be made without any conflicts of interest even at a consultative level"; and that while interactions with the food industry may happen on different platforms, they should not be part of meetings on policy decisions.

In the February meeting, of the 26 external participants, 17 were from the industry, including Dabur, Nestle, Hindustan Unilever and PepsiCo.

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Indian Bank has launched a pre-approved personal loan (PAPL) product under Project World of Advanced Virtual Experience (WAVE), which will be serviced only through digital channels.

The PAPL loan can be availed via 'IndoASIS' mobile app, bank's website and internet banking facility. The loan carries an interest rate of 10% pa at present with no foreclosure charges.

Started in January 2022, the digital transformation initiative of Indian Bank under Project 'WAVE' has led to launch of its first digital product PAPL that aims at providing its customers with instant loan disbursement via a three-step process.

S L Jain, MD&CEO, Indian Bank.

64. Recently in May **FidyPay, a fintech API platform** has partnered with _____ to push financial inclusion.

- A. **Yes Bank**
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. HDFC Bank



- **FidyPay, a fintech API platform, partnered with Yes Bank to push financial inclusion.**
- **The partnership will facilitate a seamless linked banking experience to the Yes Bank customers.**
- **Yes Bank is an Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai, India and was founded by Rana Kapoor and Ashok Kapoor in 2004. Headquarters: Mumbai.**

65. Recently which of the following **Small finance banks** has appointed **Anshul Swami as Managing Director and CEO?**

- A. **Shivalik Small Finance Bank**
- B. Ujjivan Small Finance Bank
- C. Equitas Small Finance Bank
- D. Utkarsh Small Finance Bank

Shivalik Small Finance Bank (SSFB) today announced the appointment of Mr. Anshul Swami as Managing Director & CEO.

Shivalik Small Finance Bank is the first SFB in India to have transitioned from an Urban Co-operative Bank.

Shivalik Bank Tagline: "A Bank for Your Welfare"

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66. Recently in May **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** in partnership with _____ proposed to support additional **Solar Park** implementation in ISA member countries.

- A. Tata Power
- B. Azure Power
- C. **NTPC**
- D. Adani Green

International Solar Alliance (ISA) in partnership with **NTPC** proposes to support additional **Solar Park** implementation in ISA member countries to support additional solar park implementation to ISA member countries, adding onto the existing 3845 MW of ongoing Solar Parks projects that will generate around 9228 MU of power. ISA has outlined overviews of all its Programs that are to be extended to member countries, with a special focus on Progam-6, with NTPC acting as the on-ground implementer. The International Solar Alliance is an alliance of 105 signatory countries, most being sunshine countries, which lie either completely or partly between the Tropic of Cancer and the Tropic of Capricorn.

Headquarters: Gurugram, Director General: Ajay Mathur, Founded: 30 November 2015

67. Recently In May **Cotton Association of India (CAI)** and **International Cotton Association (ICA)** have signed a MoU to increase co-operation and address quality issues. Where is the **HQ of International Cotton Association (ICA)**?

- A. Brussels
- B. Paris
- C. **Liverpool**
- D. Manchester

Cotton body in pact with ICA to address quality issues

OUR BUREAU
Bengaluru, May 4
Cotton Association of India (CAI), apex trade body for the fibre crop in the country, and International Cotton Association (ICA) have signed an MoU to in-

crease co-operation and address quality issues. The world-over-majority for cotton trading is done as per the ICA by-laws. The delegation – consisting of President Alex Hsu and Managing Director Bill Kingdon – is cur-

rently in India meeting various stakeholders.

As per a statement issued by CAI President Atul Ganatra, the MoU included organising yearly meetings to discuss issues of mutual interest; liaison with

the government and addressing quality-related issues faced by each others members.

Training programmes

The ICA delegation will meet members of the Confederation

of Indian Textiles Industry (CITI), members of the North India Textile Mills Association and multinational cotton companies, and visit the Central Institute for Research on Cotton Technology.

Cotton Association of India (CAI), apex trade body for the fibre crop in the country, and **International Cotton Association (ICA)** have signed a MoU to increase co-operation and address quality issues.

ICA, headquartered in **Liverpool**, is the world's leading arbitral body for cotton. The world-over-majority for cotton trading is done as per the ICA by-laws. The ICA delegation consisting of President Alex Hsu and Managing Director **Bill Kingdon** is currently in India meeting various stakeholders.

Cotton Association of India (CAI) Arun Sekhsaria – Chairman

68. Recently _____ became the **first Public Sector Bank** to join the **Account Aggregator Ecosystem**.

- A. State Bank of India
- B. **Union Bank of India**
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. ICICI Bank

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The Account Aggregator Ecosystem framework went live in Sept 2021.

The ecosystem helps lenders to leverage on digital data acquired by taking consent from the customers, providing them a seamless journey, and eliminating the need of physical documentation.

Union Bank of India became the First Public Sector Bank to go live on the Account Aggregator Framework.

Union Bank will be both FIP (Financial Information Provider) and FIU (Financial Information User) enabling its customers to share data digitally on real time basis.

Union Bank of India has partnered with Perfios Software Solutions Pvt Ltd, a Sahamati empanelled TSP, to implement a full-stack solution for Financial Information Providers (FIP) and Financial Information Users (FIU) as per the ReBIT guidelines on the bank's premises.

69. Recently the **World Bank Board** approved a _____ project to **support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi**, a national program to build civil service capacity.
- A. \$17 million
 - B. \$69 million
 - C. \$47 million**
 - D. \$50 million

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors approved a \$47 million project to support the Government of India's Mission Karmayogi, a national program to build civil service capacity

There are nearly 18 million civil servants employed across India, with approximately two-thirds at the state government and local authority level.

Through the implementation of Mission Karmayogi the Government aims to make the country's civil service force more future-ready and capable of meeting twenty-first century challenges.

The \$47 million loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) has a final maturity of 11 years, including a grace period of 4.5 years

70. Recently _____ **bagged India's largest single solar EPC order of 1GW for approx. Rs 5,500 crore from SJVN.**
- A. Tata Power**
 - B. Adani Green
 - C. NTPC
 - D. SECI

- **Tata Power Solar Systems, wholly-owned subsidiary of Tata Power, bagged India's largest single solar EPC order of 1GW for approx. Rs 5,500 crore from SJVN.**

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- The project will be **developed under the CPSU scheme of MNRE and will be completed within a period of 24 months.**
- **Covering around 5000+ acres of land in Rajasthan, this project aims at reducing around 22, 87,128 kg of carbon emission and is expected to generate around 2500 million units annually.**

71. Recently in May _____ has inked an agreement with the Lake Region Economic Bloc to explore business opportunities in the renewable sector in Africa.

- A. **NTPC GE Power Services**
- B. Adani Green Power
- C. Reliance Power Limited
- D. Greenko Hydro Limited

NTPC GE Power Services has inked an agreement with the Lake Region Economic Bloc to explore business opportunities in the renewable sector in Africa

NTPC GE Power Services Limited (NGSL), a 50:50 JV between NTPC and GE Power India Ltd, has signed a Memorandum of Engagement (MoE) with The Lake Region Economic Bloc (LREB), Kenya & Procorp Ener-tech Private Ltd (PEPL) to work towards the development of ground-mounted and floating solar PV projects in the Lake region of Kenya,

The MoE was signed during the visit of a 20-member high-level delegation from LREB, Kenya. During the visit, a tripartite MoE was signed between NGSL, LREB and Procorp Ener-tech Private Limited (PEPL).

The high-level delegation from Kenya also visited the 100 MW floating solar plant at NTPC Ramagundam, India's largest floating solar plant and the 250 MW NTPC Ananthapuram ground-mounted Solar PV plant in Andhra Pradesh.

72. Consider the following statements regarding **Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Ranking 2022.**

1. As per the rankings provided one **Indian University AMRITA Ranked 41 in the World and only to be placed in the Top 50 while two India Universities are placed in Top 100.**
2. **The top spot was grabbed by Sydney University of Australia followed by Arizona State University from the United state of America and Western University from Canada.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. **Both 1 & 2**
- D. None of the above

- **Times Higher Education (THE)**

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Impact Ranking 2022 has been released. As per the rankings provided one Indian University has been placed in the Top 50 while two India Universities are placed in Top 100.



- **According to the list of top universities provided, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeeth was ranked at 41 while Lovely Professional University was placed at 74.**

- **THE Impact Rankings assess the impact of the university on society through its contributions towards United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**
- **Approximately 64 Indian Universities have been featured on the Impact Rankings 2022 making India the fourth best represented.**
- **As per the list 8 universities from India made it to the top 300. The list includes 1406 universities from 106 countries and regions.**
- **The top spot was grabbed by Sydney University of Australia followed by Arizona State University from the United States of America and Western University from Canada.**

73. Recently in May _____ has launched the country's first 'pay as you drive' programme, insurance that offers distance-based insurance under the own damage section to help reduce upfront insurance costs.

- A. HDFC ERGO**
- B. Bharti AXA Life Insurance**
- C. Tata AIA Life Insurance**
- D. ICICI Prudential Life Insurance**

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HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company announced the launch of its 'Pay as you Drive' program; an insurance solution that offers distance-based insurance to reduce upfront costs of premium.

The program will be available for owners of new Maruti Suzuki cars in select cities

This program, under the regulatory sandbox, is applicable for 10,000 policies or ₹50 lakhs of premium whichever happens earlier and is being offered exclusively through Maruti Suzuki Insurance Broking Private Limited."

74. Recently in may _____ has launched 'skill loans' in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP), Kerala.

- A. Yes Bank
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Canara Bank**
- D. HDFC Bank

Canara Bank has launched 'skill loans' in association with the Additional Skill Acquisition Programme (ASAP).

Loans ranging from ₹5,000 to ₹1.5 lakh can be availed of by students pursuing skill training programmes offered by ASAP Kerala or any other Central or State government-recognised agencies that conduct National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF) or National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) courses.

The loan was formally launched by Higher Education Minister R. Bindu in the presence of Canara Bank general manager and State Level Bankers' Committee convener S. Prem kumar it is headquartered in Bangalore.

Established in 1906

75. Recently the Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) have joined forces to prioritise health care projects in which of the following states?

- A. Maharashtra**
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana

- The Medical Education and Drugs Department (MEDD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) have joined forces to prioritise health care projects with emphasis on Medical Education under the public-private partnership (PPP) model in Maharashtra.**
- Marking the collaboration, and deliberating on the roadmap, MEDD and IFC organised an investor conference themed around strengthening medical education and tertiary healthcare in Mumbai.**
- IFC will be the transaction advisor for the PPPs to develop super-specialty hospitals and medical education facilities across the state.**
- IFC has already assisted MEDD in terms of providing inputs to the health PPP policy framework. It will also assist the department with structuring and bidding the PPP transactions.**

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- *The aim is to attract private sector investment in the area of tertiary health care services and medical education in cities including Nagpur, Latur and Aurangabad.*
- *The International Finance Corporation is an international financial institution that offers investment, advisory, and asset-management services to encourage private-sector development in less developed countries.*
- *The IFC is a member of the World Bank Group and is headquartered in Washington, D.C. in the United States*

Services exports set a new record

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

India's services exports set a new record of \$254.4 billion (about ₹19 lakh crore) in 2021-2022, the Commerce Ministry said on Wednesday.

The exports also hit an all-time monthly high of \$26.9 billion in March, the Ministry added.

Telecommunications, computer and information services, other business services and transport were the top contributors to the exports, it added.

"The new record achieved in 2021-22 beats the previous high of \$213.2 billion in 2019-20," it said.

Rs 1.68 lakh crore in Apr, GST collection soars to all-time high

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU
NEW DELHI, MAY 1

REGISTERING THE highest level of collections since its rollout in July 2017, gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections rose to Rs 1.68 lakh crore in April, for sales in March, according to data released by the Union Finance Ministry on Sunday.

This marks a 20 per cent increase from the April 2021 level on the back of improved compliance, enforcement action against tax evaders and pick-up in economic activity.

During April 2022, 1.06 crore of the monthly summary GSTR-3B (self-declared) returns were filed, of which 97 lakh pertained to March, as against 92 lakh filed during April 2021. Also, 1.05 crore statements of invoices issued in GSTR-1 (outward supplies returns) were filed, the Ministry said.

"This shows clear improvement in the compliance behaviour, which has been a result of various measures taken by the tax administration to nudge tax-

payers to file returns timely, to make compliance easier and smoother and strict enforcement action taken against errant taxpayers identified based on data analytics and artificial intelligence," the Ministry said.

Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman highlighted the role of states in the highest-ever GST collections. "Sincerely recognise and appreciate the efforts made by each and every state in improving #GST revenue collection. India's economic recovery is sure to be on a sustained path due to all our efforts," she posted on Twitter.

Gross GST collection in April, which includes revenue of Centre and states, is at an all-time high and Rs 25,000 crore more than the previous high of Rs 1.42 lakh crore collected in March. In April last year, GST collections stood at Rs 1.40 lakh crore.

Experts said the rise could also be attributed to year-end activity, higher inflation rate, input tax credit being allowed only on timely compliance by vendors and high value of imports.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Appointment News

76. Recently the *ministry of housing and urban affairs* has formed an *eight-member expert committee* headed by _____ to prepare a strategy for training the planners in emerging and innovative concept to train 5,000 urban planners over the next five years.

- A. PSN Rao
- B. Sanjay Gupta
- C. Subrata Chattopadhyay
- D. N Sridharan

The Centre plans to train 5,000 urban planners over the next five years as part of urban reforms it unveiled in Budget 2022.

The ministry of housing and urban affairs has formed an eight-member expert committee to prepare a strategy for training the planners in emerging and innovative concepts, working with state governments and local bodies.

The committee, constituted last month, is headed by PSN Rao, director of the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA),

The role of the expert committee will also be to identify subject-specific capacity-building institutions such as CEPT University, Schools of Planning and Architecture,

The Budget earmarked Rs 250 crore each for creation of five centres of excellence across India which would provide certified training in urban planning. The idea was to assist in fostering real estate development across Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

77. Recently _____ has been given the additional charge of CBDT chairperson after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30.

- A. Tarun Bajaj
- B. Sangeeta Singh
- C. Anuradha Biswa
- D. Debashish Mitra

IRS officer Sangeeta Singh given additional charge of CBDT chair

IRS officer Sangeeta Singh has been given the additional charge of CBDT chairperson after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30. An order issued by the Union Finance Ministry on Sunday said Singh, a 1986-batch officer of the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) of the Income Tax cadre, "shall discharge the duties and responsibilities of the post of chairman, CBDT in addition to her own duties for a period of three months or till a regular chairman is appointed, whichever is earlier."

PTI

CENTRE SETS UP EXPERT PANEL TO TRAIN URBAN TOWN PLANNERS

Risha Chitlangia

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre has constituted an eight-member expert committee to prepare a strategy for training urban planners working with state governments and local bodies.

As part of the urban planning reforms announced by the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman in this year's budget, the ministry aims to train 5,000 urban planners in the next five years, said the official.

The committee, which was constituted last month by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), is headed by PSN Rao, director of School of Planning and Architecture.

The first meeting was held April 28.

According to a senior official, the ministry has decided to plan two programmes, a five-day course and a month-long session, to train urban planners in "emerging innovative concepts of urban planning".

The committee members include Sanjay Gupta (professor of transport planning at SPA Delhi), N Sridharan (director of SPA Bhopal), Saswat Bandhyopadhyay (professor at CEPT, Ahmedabad), OP Agarwal (CEO WRI India), Subrata Chattopadhyay (IIT Kharagpur), Shreya Gadepalli (transport expert at Urban Works Institute) and R Srinivas (town and country planner at Town and Country Planning Organisation).

"The aim is to bridge the gaps in capacity building and make town planners, especially in small cities, aware of the new planning schemes and tools..." said Srinivas.

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Senior IRS-IT officer Sangeeta Singh has been given the additional charge of CBDT chairperson after incumbent JB Mohapatra retired as the head of the direct taxes administration body on April 30.

She is currently serving as the Member (Income Tax and Revenue) and is also holding the additional charge of Member (Tax Payer Services) in the CBDT.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is headed by a chairman and can have six members who are in the rank of special secretary.

It is the administrative body for the Income Tax department.

Mohapatra, a 1985-batch IRS officer, superannuated from service on 30th April.

He was appointed as the full-time chairman in September last year and was holding the additional charge of the post since May 31, 2021 after the extended tenure of his predecessor P C Mody ended.

78. Recently In May _____ has been appointed as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- A. Tarun Kapoor**
- B. Atish Chandra**
- C. Hari Ranjan Rao**
- D. Raghu Ram**

May 02, 2022, 2:14PM

Former Petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor appointed as advisor to PM

Former Petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor has been appointed as advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. Mr Kapoor is a 1987 batch Himachal Pradesh cadre officer.

Mr Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra both have been appointed as Additional Secretaries in the Prime Minister's office. Mr Rao is a 94-batch IAS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre while Mr Chandra is 94 batch of Bihar cadre.



Tweeted by @AIR

- Former petroleum secretary Tarun Kapoor was appointed as an advisor to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved appointment of Kapoor, as advisor to the Prime Minister, in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), in the rank and scale of Secretary to Government of India, initially for a period of two years from the date of joining,"**
- Senior bureaucrats Hari Ranjan Rao and Atish Chandra have been appointed as additional secretaries in the PMO.**

FCI chief Atish Chandra transferred to PMO

Centre yet to announce successor

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
New Delhi, May 2

The government has transferred Atish Chandra, currently Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Food Corporation of India (FCI), to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) as Additional Secretary. The decision has come in the middle of rabi procurement season when concerns about sluggish procurement of wheat have been flagged.

According to the notification issued by Department of Personnel and Training on Monday, Chandra will serve in the PMO until "the balance tenure of his Central deputation or until further orders,

whichever is earlier." There is no replacement announced for his position as CMD. Before joining FCI, Chandra was a joint secretary in the Union Agriculture Ministry where he had handled plant protection division.

Sources said it was Chandra who had shared his feedback to PMO as early as the second week of April, stating the procurement of wheat maybe about 25 million tonnes (mt) against initial target of 44 mt.

Meanwhile, wheat procurement until May 1 has reached 16.2 mt, which is 43.85 per cent lower than year-ago period.

Though the procurement has dropped in almost all States, Punjab has been able to procure 8.91 mt against 11.21 mt in the corresponding period a year ago.

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79. Recently in May **Google** appointed _____ former **joint secretary at NITI Aayog as head of public policy in India.**

- A. Arvind Krishna
- B. **Archana Gulati**
- C. Madhumika Mitra
- D. Sameer Kocchar

Internet major Google has appointed former joint secretary at NITI Aayog Archana Gulati as head of public policy in India.

She was an officer on special duty in the telecom secretary office from May 2017 to August 2019.

Gulati also headed the combinations division at Competition Commission of India and advised the commission on competition issues arising from mergers and acquisitions.

Gulati was joint administrator in the finance division at telecom ministry's Universal Services Obligation Fund of India between May 2007 to February 2012 where she looked after financial aspects of design and implementation of USOF schemes as well as subsidy disbursement.

Google picks former official of Niti Aayog as India policy head

REUTERS

New Delhi, May 4

Alphabet Inc's Google has hired a new public policy head in India, Archana Gulati, who previously worked at Prime Minister Narendra Modi's federal think-tank and the country's anti-trust watchdog, said a source with direct knowledge of the matter.

Privacy regulation

A number of Indian government officials have been hired by Big Tech companies, which are battling tighter data and privacy regulation, as well as competition law scrutiny, under Modi's federal government.

Gulati is a long-term Indian government employee, having worked until March 2021 as a joint secretary for digital communications at Modi's federal think tank, Niti Aayog, a body that is critical to government's

policy-making across sectors.

Before that, between 2014 and 2016, she worked as a senior official at India's anti-trust body, the Competition Commission of India, according to her LinkedIn profile.

A Google India spokesperson confirmed the development to Reuters, but did not elaborate. Gulati did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The source declined to be named as the hiring decision was not public.

India's antitrust watchdog is currently looking into Google's business conduct in the market of smart TVs, its Android operating system, as well as its in-app payments system.

Last year, Meta Platforms hired Rajiv Aggarwal, who spent years working in India's federal and State governments, as its head of policy.

80. Recently In May **Supreme Court (SC)** has approved the constitution of a high-powered committee headed by _____ for recovery of monies from the defaulters where NSEL has secured money decrees.

- A. Pradeep Sangwan
- B. **Pradeep Nandrajog**
- C. Indu Malhotra
- D. Amar Mitra

- **The National Spot Exchange Limited (NSEL)** said that the Supreme Court (SC) has approved the constitution of a high-powered committee headed by retired judge of the Bombay High Court, Pradeep Nandrajog, for recovery of monies from the defaulters where NSEL has secured money decrees.
- **The apex court exercised its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution to constitute the committee to execute awards**

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and decrees against the defaulters in the Rs5, 600 crore NSEL payment crisis.

- **Article 142 states that any decree or order passed by the SC to do complete justice is enforceable throughout the territory of India.**
- **The recovery from the NSEL defaulters, after giving credit for the monies paid by them, stands at Rs5, 454.52 crore.**

81. Recently India's largest domestic carrier IndiGo's parent Inter Globe Aviation named _____ as next chairman as Meleveetil Damodaran has stepped down from the board.

- A. Rahul Bhatia
- B. RK Singh
- C. Venkataramani Sumantran**
- D. Arvind Krishna

India's largest domestic carrier IndiGo's parent Inter Globe Aviation named Venkataramani Sumantran as next chairman in a filing to exchanges on May 4 as Meleveetil Damodaran has stepped down from the board after turning 75.

Sumantran has been an independent non-executive director since May 28, 2020 and succeeded Damodaran on May 3.

IndiGo is amongst the fastest growing low-cost carriers in the world. Its fleet of 275 plus aircraft operates more than 500 daily flights connecting 73 domestic and 24 international destinations.

Rahul Bhatia, managing director of IndiGo.

SC appoints committee to execute decrees against NSEL defaulters

Recovery from defaulters stands at ₹5,454.52 crore

OUR BUREAU

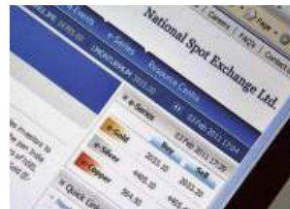
New Delhi, May 4

The crisis-ridden National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) on Wednesday said the Supreme Court, which exercised its powers under Article 142 of the Constitution, has approved the constitution of a committee, headed by Bombay High Court retired judge Pradeep Nandrajog, for recovery from defaulters against whom NSEL had secured money decrees

in the ₹ 5,600-crore NSEL payment crisis of July 2013.

Execution of decrees

NSEL said the committee will oversee and execute the decrees against defaulters by the sale of assets that have been attached



by the State of Maharashtra under the Maharashtra Protection of Interest of Depositors (MPID) Act and Enforcement Directorate (ED) across India.

NSEL had single-handedly secured decrees/arbitration awards worth ₹3,534.46 crore against NSEL defaulters. Further, an amount of ₹760.31 crore worth of defaulters' liabilities has already been crystallised by the committee appointed by the Bombay HC.

Proceedings for a decree against N.K. Protein worth ₹964 crore is pending before the Bombay HC. The Forensic Aud-

itor appointed by the Economic Offence Wing, Mumbai Police, and the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) have confirmed the liability of N.K. Protein to ₹964 crore. Two of the defaulters have already paid their liabilities amounting to ₹195.75 crore.

The recovery from the NSEL defaulters, after giving credit for the monies paid by them, stands at ₹5,454.52 crore and their attachment of assets are sufficient to cover the claims made by the trading clients if all claims are considered genuine.

Verification of claims

NSEL stated that the claims will, however, be verified by the committee appointed by the SC. The SFIO has said they have received claims worth ₹2,239.61 crore, out of which ₹935.09 crore appears to be doubtful, thereby, confirming the genuine claims to be of ₹ 1,304.61 crore only.

V Sumantran is new IndiGo Chairman

ABHISHEK LAW

New Delhi, May 4

IndiGo, the country's largest domestic carrier, has named Venkataramani Sumantran as its next Chairman. He succeeds M Damodaran, who stepped down from the board after turning 75. Sumantran has been an independent non-



executive director since May 28, 2020. In a statement, Rahul Bhatia, Managing Director, IndiGo, said, "As we get ready for the next phase of our ambitious overseas expansion, Sumantran's understanding of international markets and world-class global practices will serve us well. His (Sumantran) repertoire of knowledge of how best to leverage technology will be extremely valuable in our future growth."

82. Recently _____ has been appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) of the United States.

- A. Vijay Shekhar
- B. Nand Mulchandani
- C. Harsha Garud
- D. Unnati Sharma

Nand Mulchandani is the first Indian-origin person to be appointed as the first-ever Chief Technology Officer of the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)

The CIA Director William J. Burns announced Nand Mulchandani's appointment to the post on April 29, 2022. The Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the federal government of the United States.

It is officially tasked with gathering, processing, and analyzing national security information from around the world, using human intelligence and performing covert actions.

The CIA was formed by the implementation of the National Security Act of 1947.

Nand Mulchandani named CIA's first-ever chief technology officer

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, MAY 1



Nand Mulchandani

NAND MULCHANDANI, an Indian-American Silicon Valley IT expert who has studied at a Delhi school, was appointed the CIA's first-ever chief technology officer.

The announcement was made by CIA director William J Burns. According to the CIA, Mulchandani has more than 25 years of expertise working in Silicon Valley.

"CIA director William J Burns appoints Nand Mulchandani as CIA's first chief technology officer (CTO). With more than 25 years of experience, Mr Mulchandani will ensure the

agency is leveraging cutting-edge innovations to further CIA's mission," the CIA said in a tweet.

Mulchandani said: "I am honoured to join the CIA in this role and look forward to working with the agency's incredible team of technologists and domain experts..." he said.

Prior to joining the CIA, Mulchandani has served as the CTO and acting director of the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center of the US Department of Defence.

83. Recently In May _____ has been elected to Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Board of Directors.

- A. Ashwin Yardi
- B. Aditi Singh
- C. Arvind Krishna
- D. Anubhava Ghosh

Arvind Krishna has been elected to Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Board of Directors.

He is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of IBM. He has been elected as a Class B director.

He will be the director for the remaining part of three-year term that is ending on December 31, 2023.

Federal Reserve Bank of New York is a part of Federal Reserve System (commonly called Fed).

IBM CEO Krishna joins NY Fed board

New York: IBM chairman and CEO Arvind Krishna has been elected to the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.



The NY Fed announced recently that the Krishna has been elected as a class-B director, "representing the public with due but not exclusive consideration to the interests of agriculture, commerce, industry, services, labour, and consumers". The NY Fed said Krishna will fill the vacancy in the office for the remaining portion of a three-year term ending December 31, 2023.

Google picks former Niti exec as public policy head in India

New Delhi: Google has hired a new public policy head in India, Archana Gulati, who previously worked at government think-tank Niti Aayog and the country's antitrust watchdog, a source with direct knowledge of the matter told Reuters. REUTERS

The NY Fed is one of 12 regional Reserve Banks which, together with the Board of Governors in Washington, DC, make up the Federal Reserve System. PTI

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84. Recently in May _____ has been named as the next president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC) as current President Clare Connor term ends on October 1.
- A. Mahela Jayewardene
 - B. Kumar Sangakara
 - C. Ian Botham
 - D. Stephen Fry

British actor and writer Stephen Fry has been named the next president of Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC).

He was nominated for the role by the current President Clare Connor and will take over when her term ends on October 1.

Fry is an English actor, screenwriter, author, playwright, journalist, poet, comedian, television presenter and film director.

An MCC member since 2011, he is widely known to be a lover of cricket and delivered the 20th MCC Cowdrey Lecture in November 2021.

As only the second non-cricketing personality to give the Lecture, his impassioned speech was both powerful and memorable.

Stephen Fry named next MCC president

London: British actor Stephen Fry will become the next president of the Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC), a year after he advocated for change following a racism scandal that shook English cricket. A lifelong cricket fan, Fry was only the second non-cricketing personality after the late archbishop Desmond Tutu to give the prestigious Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture in which he denounced the “shameful scandals that regularly seem to engulf the game we love”. Fry will replace former England captain Clare Connor, who nominated the 64-year-old comedian and author to the role that is a 12-month term. “It is a club that is known throughout the world for what it represents in the game and to be gifted the opportunity to perform this role is truly humbling,” Fry said.

85. Recently SEBI has restructured its committee on secondary market to provide suggestions on improving market safety, efficiency and transparency will now be chaired by _____.
- A. Naryan Mishra
 - B. G Mahalingam
 - C. Nitin Kamath
 - D. Jagdeep Hansraj

Sebi has restructured its committee on secondary market, which provides suggestions to the capital markets regulator on improving market safety, efficiency and transparency.

The 18-member advisory committee will now be chaired by G Mahalingam, former whole-time member of Sebi

Earlier, the panel had 17 members and was headed by Sebi chairperson Madhabi Puri Buch.

Apart from Mahalingam, the panel has CEOs of stock exchanges and depositories, representatives of various stakeholders and senior officials of Sebi as members.

The panel advises the regulator on matters related to the secondary market, including suggesting steps to improve market safety, efficiency and transparency.

86. Recently, TVS Motor Company has appointed _____ as the Managing Director of the Company.
- A. Arvind Krishna

TVS Motor elevates Sudarshan as MD

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of May (1st May – 7th May 2022)

- B. Nitin Kamath
- C. Sudarshan Venu
- D. Rahul Bhatia

- Home grown auto-major TVS Motor Company has elevated Sudarshan Venu as Managing Director of the Company
- He was donning the role of the Joint Managing Director of the company earlier.

87. Recently the **Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has approved nomination of _____ as **ex-officio member of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)**.

- A. Atish Chandra
- B. Rajiv Ranjan
- C. Tarun Kapoor
- D. Kris Gopal krishna

The Central Board of Directors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved nomination of Rajiv Ranjan as ex-officio member of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 was amended by Finance Act (India), 2016 to constitute MPC.

Under Section 45ZB of the amended RBI Act, 1934, the central government is empowered to constitute a six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) to determine the policy interest rate required to achieve the inflation target.

The first such MPC was constituted on September 29, 2016.

RBI board gives nod to appoint Rajiv Ranjan as MPC ex-officio member

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, May 2

THE CENTRAL BOARD of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday approved the appointment of executive director Rajiv Ranjan as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Ranjan will be succeeding Mridul Sagar, who is understood to have retired.

The 595th meeting of the central board was held through video conferencing under the chairmanship of RBI governor Shaktikanta Das. The other attendees were deputy governors Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Patra and M Rajeshwar Rao, apart from directors Satish Marathe, S Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi. Ajay Seth, secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, was also present.

RRA recommends withdrawal of 225 more circulars

The RBI on Monday said the Regulations Review Authority (RRA) has recommended the withdrawal of an additional 225 redundant circulars, reports



PTI. The RBI had set up the Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) with an objective to reduce the compliance burden on regulated entities.

“Regulations Review Authority (RRA 2.0) has recommended withdrawal of additional 225 circulars in the third tranche of recommendations,” the RBI said in a statement. The notifications containing the list of specific instructions recommended for withdrawal are being issued separately, it added. The RRA had recommended the withdrawal of 150 circulars in the first tranche of recommendations in November 2021, and 100 circulars in the second tranche of recommendations in February 2022.

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Days and Obituary News

88. Every Year *International Workers Day or Labour Day* is celebrated on _____ to commemorate the struggles and sacrifices of the workers and labours movement.

- A. 1st May
- B. 2nd May
- C. 3rd May
- D. 4th May

International Workers' Day or Labour Day is celebrated on May 1 in most countries. Labour Day is observed to commemorate the struggles and sacrifices of the workers' and labours' movement. It is also known as May Day.

May Day is celebrated in more than 80 countries, including India, Cuba and China. The origin of Labour Day can be traced back to the United States of America in the 19th Century. May 1 in particular was chosen as the date to mark Labour Day to commemorate the nationwide strike for an eight-hour day in 1886 that began on May 1 and ended as the Haymarket affair in Chicago US.

It was first celebrated in India in Chennai then known as Madras on May 1, 1923. The initiative was taken by the

89. Every Year, on _____ *World Hand Hygiene Day* is observed across the planet to increase visibility, global promotion, sustainability, and the importance of hand hygiene in health care.

- A. 4th May
- B. 6th May
- C. 5th May
- D. 7th May

World Health Organization (WHO) marks May 5 every year as World Hand Hygiene Day.

World Hand Hygiene Day (WHHD) theme for 2022 is a "health care quality and safety climate or culture" that values hand hygiene and IPC, and the slogan is "Unite for safety: clean your hands".

90. Every Year, on _____ *International Day of the Midwife* to recognize and honour midwives.

- A. 5th May
- B. 6th May
- C. 7th May
- D. 8th May

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International Day of the Midwife is celebrated annually on 5 May, providing the opportunity to honour the work of midwives, and promote awareness of the crucial care that midwives provide to mothers and their newborns.

This year marks the establishment, 100 years ago, of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM). There are currently 143 Midwives' Associations representing 124 countries worldwide, including the Confederation of African Midwives Associations (CONAMA), which was inaugurated in 2013.

International Day of the Midwife was established by the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) in 1992, and it is celebrated annually on May 5.

91. **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** observed its _____ **Raising Day on 07 May 22.**

- A. 61st
- B. 62nd
- C. 63rd
- D. 64th

The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960, with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and north eastern states. On 7 May 2021 BRO celebrated its 63rd Raising Day (foundation day).

It is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.

BRO Headquarters: New Delhi; Director-General of BRO: Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary

92. Every year, on _____ **International No Diet Day** is observed to raise awareness about the consequences of dieting.

- A. 4th May
- B. 5th May
- C. 6th May
- D. 7th May

Every year on 6 May, International No Diet Day is observed to raise awareness about the consequences of dieting.

It is dedicated to encouraging a healthy way of life. The day is observed to tackle the issues related to diet and body awareness.

In 1992, first International No Diet Day was celebrated in the UK. It was started by Mary Evans.

93. Recently on **01 May** which of the following two states celebrated its foundation day?

- A. Maharashtra & Goa
- B. Maharashtra & Gujarat
- C. Gujarat & Rajasthan
- D. Chattisgarh & Odisha

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- *Gujarat celebrated its 62nd foundation day on 01 May 2022 as “Gujarat Gaurav Divas”.*
- *The main function was held in Patan district of North Gujarat.*
- *On the occasion, Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel dedicated to the people Regional Science Center in Patan.*
- *Gujarat was formed after the bifurcation of erstwhile Bombay state in 1960.*
- *Maharashtra celebrated its 62nd foundation day as ‘Maharashtra Din’.*
- *Maharashtra was formed in 1960 after the Bombay Reorganization Act was enacted by Parliament.*
- *Sanyukt Maharashtra Andolan was started for demanding a separate state for Marathi-speaking people.*
- *105 Hutatme sacrificed for separate state known as Maharashtra. Maharashtra CM paid tribute to these Hutatme at Hutatma Smarak in Mumbai.*

94. Every Year, **World Asthma Day** is celebrated on the first _____ of May to raise awareness about asthma all over the world.

- A. Monday
- B. Tuesday**
- C. Wednesday
- D. Saturday

World Asthma Day is celebrated annually on first Tuesday of May.

This year, the day has been celebrated on 03 May and its theme is Closing Gaps in Asthma Care.

World Asthma Day is organized by Global Initiative for Asthma every year since 1998.

95. Every Year, **World pulmonary hypertension day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about the importance of improving the quality of life and raising the life expectancy.

- A. 4th May
- B. 5th May**
- C. 6th May
- D. 7th May

Pulmonary hypertension organizations and groups celebrate World pulmonary hypertension day every year on 5 May.

World pulmonary hypertension day was first celebrated in 2012 in Madrid, Spain.

World pulmonary hypertension day raises awareness about the importance of improving the quality of life and raising the life expectancy.

96. Every year, **World Tuna Day** is observed on _____ to spread awareness about Tuna fish and its importance to humans and planet earth.

- A. 1st May

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- B. 2nd May
- C. 3rd May
- D. 4th May

In a bid to spread awareness about Tuna fish and its importance to humans and planet earth, May 2 is observed as World Tuna Day.

World Tuna Day was established in December 2016 by the United Nations General Assembly, with an aim to preserve endangered species.

The first World Tuna Day was observed. As per the UN, around 7 million metric tons of tuna and tuna-like species are harvested every year.

World Tuna Day is very significant, and this year it is being celebrated under the theme “Our Tuna, Our Heritage”

97. Every Year **National Coal Miners Day** is celebrated on _____ to highlights the contributions of coal miners in meeting our energy demands.

- A. 1st May
- B. 2nd May
- C. 3rd May
- D. 4th May

98. Every Year, **World Press Freedom Day** is celebrated on _____ to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom in any democracy.

- A. 1st May
- B. 2nd May
- C. 3rd May
- D. 4th May

“May 3, is celebrated as World Press Freedom Day across the world.

It is celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of press freedom in any democracy. It is also observed to mark the anniversary of the Declaration of Windhoek.

World Press Freedom Day was proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in December 1993.

On this occasion, UNESCO and the Republic of Uruguay will host the annual World Press Freedom Day Global Conference.

This year’s World Press Freedom Day theme is “Journalism under Digital Siege”.

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Sports Award Books News

99. Recently _____ has been named as the 2022 World Food Prize Laureate for her work to determine the impact of climate change on worldwide food production.

- A. Ratan Lal
- B. Kishore Deb
- C. Cynthia Rosenzweig**
- D. James Hansen

NASA climate scientist wins World Food Prize

ASSOCIATED PRESS
DES MOINES

A NASA climate research scientist who has spent much of her career explaining how global food production must adapt to a changing climate was awarded the World Food Prize on Thursday.

Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, was awarded the \$2,50,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modelling of the impact of climate change on food production. She is a senior



Cynthia Rosenzweig

research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and serves as adjunct senior research scientist at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, both in New York.

Ms. Rosenzweig said she hopes the win will focus attention on the need to improve food and agricultural systems to lessen the effects of climate change.

"We basically cannot solve climate change unless we address the issues of the greenhouse gas emissions from the food system, and we cannot provide food security for all unless we work really hard to develop resilient systems," she said.

The Des Moines-based World Food Prize Foundation award recognized Ms.

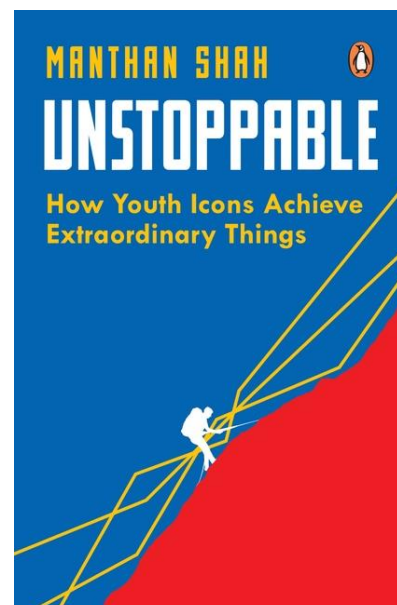
Rosenzweig as the founder of the Agricultural Model Inter-comparison and Improvement Project. The organisation draws scientists from around the world and from many disciplines to advance methods for improving predictions of the future performance of agricultural and food systems as the global climate changes.

The foundation credited her work with directly helping decision-makers in more than 90 countries establish plans to prepare for climate change.

- **Cynthia Rosenzweig, an agronomist and climatologist, was awarded the \$250,000 prize in recognition of her innovative modelling of the impact of climate change on food production was awarded the World Food Prize.**
- **She is a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies and serves as adjunct senior research scientist at the Columbia Climate School at Columbia University, both based in New York.**
- **The Des Moines-based World Food Prize Foundation award recognized Rosenzweig as the founder of the Agricultural Model Inter comparison and Improvement Project.**
- **World Food Prize Foundation President Barbara Stinson**
- **Nobel Prize laureate Norman Borlaug created the World Food Prize in 1986 to recognize scientists and others who have improved the quality and availability of food. Rosenzweig will receive the award and make a speech during an October ceremony in Des Moines.**

100. Who is the author of the book titled "Unstoppable: How Youth Icons Achieve Extraordinary Things"?

- A. Arunadhathi Mishra
- B. Manthan Shah**
- C. Swapnil Ghosh
- D. Swati Mishra



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“From Olympians and academicians to musicians and environmentalists, a new book chronicles the inspiring journeys of 40 Indian youth icons who overcame their struggles to create something of value.

“Unstoppable: How Youth Icons Achieve Extraordinary Things”, written by debutant author-podcaster Manthan Shah, It is published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI).

It features stories of Olympians Dutee Chand and Deepa Karmakar, rapper Kaam Bhaari, track and field para athlete Sandeep Chaudhary, astrophysicist Karan Jani, acid Attack survivor Reshma Qureshi and Sanket Deshpande, the youngest Indian to send satellite in space, among others.

The World University Games in Chengdu have been postponed until 2023. The FISU (International University Sports Federation) Games had initially been scheduled for the summer of 2021, but were rescheduled because of the postponement of the Tokyo Olympic Games from 2020 to 2021.

The 19th Asian Games, which were to be held from September 10-25 in Hangzhou, have been postponed due to the pandemic

101. Recently _____ has won **Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA) Award 2021** for the best in-depth Hindi TV series based on pet care ‘Best Friend Forever’.

- A. Doordarshan
- B. Netflix
- C. Amazon Prime
- D. Disney Hot star

DD National Pet Show wins ENBA Award 2021

Posted On: 01 MAY 2022 12:25PM by PIB Delhi

Yet again, proving its mettle when it comes to production of quality content that matters, Doordarshan has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series. TV series based on pet care ‘Best Friend Forever’ on Doordarshan has won big at the 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA).

Best Friend Forever is half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National, wherein two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues. Objective of the show is to maintain a two way communication where viewers can directly call and talk to the experts, and share their worries and experiences. From the first day, phone calls started pouring in from across the country. Apart from other age-groups, youngsters and kids engage the most with the show.

The show also features stories which explain unique relationship one develops with their pets and how pets not only take the modern day stress away but are also life-savers. The show is aired every Sunday at 7 pm and is also available on the YouTube channel of DD National. Click on the given link to watch all the episodes so far - <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUiMfS6qzIMzRVOMb92wfgGf2hgVo8p6>

The coveted ENBA awards celebrate remarkable work done by individuals and leaders in the media industry who are responsible for shaping the future of Television broadcasting in India.

- Doordarshan has won ENBA Award 2021 for the best in-depth Hindi series. TV series based on pet care ‘Best Friend Forever’ on Doordarshan has won big at **the 14th edition of the Exchange4media News Broadcasting Awards (ENBA).**
- Best Friend forever is half-an-hour weekly live phone-in show on DD National, wherein two pet experts guide people on how to take care of their pets, about their food, nutrition, routine health check-ups, vaccination and other pet related issues.

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- *The coveted ENBA awards celebrate remarkable work done by individuals and leaders in the media industry who are responsible for shaping the future of Television broadcasting in India.*

102. Recently PV Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after losing to _____ Akane Yamaguchi in the semi final.

- A. China
- B. Japan**
- C. Singapore
- D. Italy

- *Double Olympic medallist P V Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games*
- *This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament -- she had claimed a bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.*

103. Recently, Kerala beat _____ at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram to win the Santosh Trophy National Tournament for the _____ time.

- A. Odisha , 5th
- B. West Bengal , 7th**
- C. Karnataka , 6th
- D. Goa , 8th

- *In Football, Hosts Kerala beat West Bengal 5-4 in a penalty shootout at the Payyanad Stadium in Malappuram to win the Santosh Trophy National Tournament for the seventh time.*
- *This is the first win for Kerala on home soil since 1993.*

104. Recently _____ has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for his contribution to involving indigenous

Sindhu returns with bronze

Loses to Yamaguchi in three games



Falling short: Sindhu started on a positive note but couldn't keep the momentum going. •AP

BADMINTON

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MANILA
 P.V. Sindhu ended her Badminton Asia Championships campaign with a bronze medal after going

down fighting to Japan's Akane Yamaguchi in three games here on Saturday. Sindhu started the match on a positive note but couldn't keep the momentum going, losing 21-13, 19-21, 16-21 to the top

seed and World No. 2 Yamaguchi in the clash, which lasted one hour and six minutes. This is Sindhu's second medal in the tournament after the bronze in the 2014 Gimcheon edition.

Kerala shoots out Bengal

Clinches the title with a 5-4 win on penalties



In seventh heaven: Kerala had the last laugh in the final against Bengal. •SAKEER HUSSAIN

SANTOSH TROPHY

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MANJERI
 Nearly 27,000 people filled up the Malappuram District Sports Complex Stadium long before the kick-off of the final of the Santosh Trophy National football championship on Monday night. The team they came to cheer for, Kerala, made it a memorable night for them.

Kerala lifted the title for the seventh time, beating Bengal 5-4 in the penalty shootout. After regulation time failed to produce a goal, the teams were tied 1-1 after extra-time.

It was a case of history re-

peating itself: Kerala's last triumph had also come after a shootout against Bengal, four years ago at Kolkata.

On this night, though, Bengal was just four minutes away from winning its 32nd title. It was leading by the 97th-minute goal scored by Dilip Orawn, but Muhammed Safnad equalised for Kerala.

That goal was greeted by one of the loudest cheers you could imagine on a sporting field. That noise showed how much football means to this part of the world.

Safnad's equalising header came off P.N. Noufal's cross from the right. Bengal's goal had also come through a

header – Supriya Pandit provided the cross – after a defensive lapse from Kerala.

Earlier, in normal time, both sides had plenty of chances to score as they played some exciting end-to-end football.

In the shootout, Bengal had to pay dearly for Sajal Bag's miss off the second attempt. All the other penalties went in.

When the last of those kicks, taken by Kerala's M. Fasluhman, kissed the right top corner, the stadium erupted once again.

The result: Bengal 1 (Dilip Orawn 97) drew with Kerala 1 (Muhammed Safnad 116). Kerala won 5-4 in shootout.

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communities in the conservation and recovery of big cat species in Asia's high mountain ecosystems.

- A. N Phong Kyom
- B. Charudutt Mishra**
- C. Kajal Mishra
- D. Bhupendra Sharma

- **Charudutt Mishra, a snow leopard conservationist, was awarded the Whitley Gold Award on April 27, 2022, at the Royal Geographical Society in London, for his efforts to involve local communities in conserving the enigmatic big cat of Inner Asia.**
- **This is Mishra's second WFN Prize. He had won the award previously in 2005.**
- **He is the first international Executive Director of the Snow Leopard Trust (SLT), founded and headquartered in Seattle in 1981.**
- **SLT is the largest and oldest organisation dedicated to promoting ecosystem and wildlife conservation across the high mountains of South and Central Asia, with the endangered snow leopard as the flagship.**

{ MY INDIA } WILDLIFE CONSERVATION

Charudutt Mishra awarded Whitley Gold Award



Noted snow leopard expert and wildlife conservationist Charudutt Mishra has won the prestigious Whitley Gold Award for his contribution to involvement of indigenous people in conservation and recovery of enigmatic big cat species in high mountain ecosystems of Asia. The award was presented to him at London's Royal Geographic Society Thursday by Princess Anne. This is his second Whitley Fund for Nature Award after 2005. According to WFN, Mishra was given the award for his work in 12 snow leopard range countries. HTC

106. Recently, _____ was awarded the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award held in New Delhi.

- A. Atal Tunnel**
- B. New Delhi World Trade Center
- C. Statue of Equality
- D. Delhi–Mumbai Expressway

- **The Atal Tunnel constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) got the Indian Building Congress (IBC) 'Best Infrastructure Project' award in New Delhi.**
- **Around 30 projects have been nominated for this prestigious award. Atal Tunnel has been named as the Best Projects for Excellence in the Built Environment in 2021.**
- **Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry received the prize on the behalf of Border Roads Organisation during the IBC's 25th annual Convention.**

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- **Atal Tunnel: It is 9.02 km long that connects Manali to Lahaul-Spiti valley. It is built in the Pir Panjal Range of the Himalayas at the height of 10,000 feet from the mean sea level. It reduces the road distance between Manali and Leh by 46 km.**

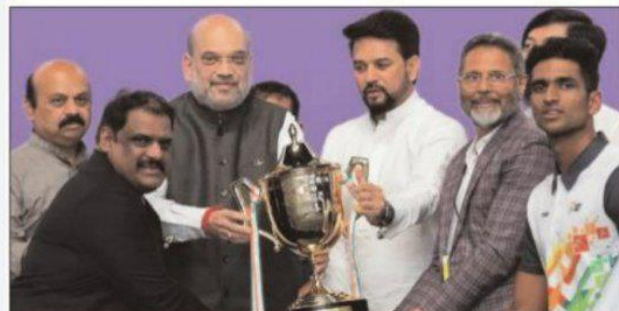
107. Consider the following statements regarding Khelo India University Games 2021.

1. Jain University Clinch Khelo India University Games Championship as they ended up with 20 golds.
2. Two national records were also broken in the competition — Siva Sridhar setting a new mark in the Men's 200m Individual Medley and MT Ann Mariya breaking the clean and jerk record in the women's weightlifting +87kg class.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

- **Khelo India University Games 2021 concluded with the men's and women's Kabaddi finals, drawing the curtain on 10 days of high octane sporting action.**
- **The hosts Jain University ensured that there would be no complications to their grasp on the title,**
- **They ended up with 20 golds, three more than their closest competitors Lovely Professional University (17 gold, 15 silver, 19 bronze). While LPU ended up with the most medals of any university in the competition, their gold deficit saw them lose the title to the hosts. Defending champions Panjab University finished third (15 gold, 9 silver, 24 bronze).**
- **Two national records were also broken in the competition — Siva Sridhar setting a new mark in the Men's 200m Individual Medley and MT Ann Mariya breaking the clean and jerk record in the women's weightlifting +87kg class.**
- **Sridhar was the runaway athlete of the Games, winning 7 golds and two silvers in the competition.**



Home minister Amit Shah and Youth Affairs and Sports minister Anurag Singh Thakur at the KIUG closing ceremony.

KHELO INDIA UNIVERSITY GAMES

Hosts Jain University clinch championship

PTI/ENS
BENGALURU, MAY 3

HOSTS JAIN University clinched the Khelo India University Games championship title after finishing on top of the standings with 32 medals, including 20 golds, here on Tuesday.

Besides 20 gold, Jain University also bagged seven silver and five bronze medals to finish win the overall crown in the Games, which concluded on Tuesday after 10 days of high octane sporting action.

Jain University sealed the title a day in advance on Monday, courtesy Priya Mohan's exploits on the track and two gold in karate (Syed Baba in the 55kg and another in the team men kumite).

Lovely Professional University (17 gold, 15 silver, 19 bronze) finished second while defending champions Panjab University had to be satisfied with the third spot (15 gold, 9 silver, 24 bronze). In total 97 KIUG records were broken or equalled in the competition. A mind boggling 42 were in weightlifting, 28 came in the pool, while 23 came in athletics.

Two national records were also broken in the competition — Siva Sridhar setting a new mark in the men's 200m individual medley and MT Ann Mariya breaking the clean and jerk record in the women's weightlifting +87kg class.

Sridhar was the runaway athlete of the Games, winning seven golds and two silvers. The swimmer also set a new KIUG mark with each gold he won in the pool. Swimmer Shrunji Bandekar's four gold and one silver made her the most successful female athlete of the Games. Mohan's 200m, 400m double secured her spot as the most dominant athlete on the track.

When the University of Mumbai stepped

FINAL MEDAL TALLY

	G	S	B	T
Jain University	20	7	5	32
LPU, Punjab	17	15	19	51
Panjab University	15	9	24	48
GNDU, Amritsar	14	14	14	42
MDU, Rohtak	14	14	13	41

out to play the Men's Team Table Tennis Final against SRM University on Monday at the Khelo India University Games 2021, there was a big surprise in store. The Captain of Mumbai University, Mandar Hardikar, had decided to miss out on the summit clash, and instead, Chinmaya Somaiya, Deepit Patil, and Parthav Kelkar were picked to start. Mandar, who had been a key player for Mumbai University, in the Group Stage game against the SRM University a couple of days ago, was on the sidelines cheering for his team.

"It was a strategic decision we made based on our results in the tournaments so far, and which player has performed better against which player," Mandar said after his team picked up a 3-0 win in the final to claim the Gold medal in the Men's Team Table Tennis event at KIUG 2021.

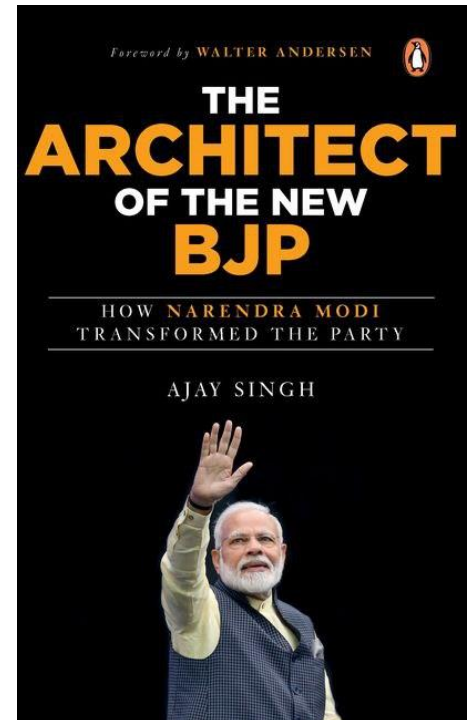
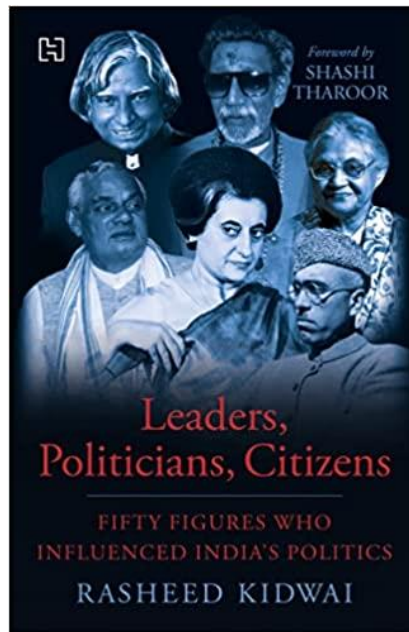
Currently, Mandar plays in the European League for the Croatian club, STK Starr, and has been a regular feature in the Champions League. Mandar has also played for India at the U-19 level in the China Open in 2019 and has attended several India camps throughout his career. His teammate Deepit Patil, has also represented India at the SAF Games at the U-21 level. Mandar believes that the international experience really helped their team in the final against a very strong SRM University team.

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- *Swimmer, Shrungi Bandekar four gold and one silver make her the most successful female athlete at the games.*

108. Who is the author of the Book titled " *The Architect of the New BJP: How Narendra Modi Transformed the Party*"?

- A. Pawan Goyal
- B. **Ajay Singh**
- C. Rahul Bose
- D. Sangeeta Singh



109. The new book titled "*Leaders, Politicians, and Citizens*" is authored by who amongst the following?

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. Rahul Ramagundam
- C. Ajay Singh
- D. **Rasheed Kidwai**

- *In this book, Rasheed Kidwai has compiled stories of 50 personalities who influenced India's politics.*
- *It has been published by Hachette India.*
- *In this book, he has written about leading political figures such as Sheikh Abdullah, Jyoti Basu, Sheila Dixit, Rajiv Gandhi, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, etc.*

110. Recently _____ became *India's first weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece.*

- A. Meerabai Chanu
- B. **Sangeeta Chanu**
- C. Anjali Patel
- D. Harshada Sharad Garud

- **Harshada Sharad Garud became India's first weightlifter to win a gold medal at the IWF Junior World Championships in Heraklion, Greece.**
- **Harshada claimed the yellow metal with a total effort of 153kg (70kg+83kg) in the women's 45kg category.**
- **The 70kg effort in snatch earned Harshada a top-of-the-podium finish while she was second-best in the clean and jerk section, behind Turkey's Bektas Cansu (85kg), who took home silver medal with an overall effort of 150kg (65kg+85 kg)**
- **The other Indian in the field, Anjali Patel finished fifth overall with a total effort of 148kg (67kg+81kg)**
- **Mirabai Chanu who won a bronze in 2013 and last year's silver winner Achinta Sheuli are the other Indians who have won medals at the junior world event previously.**
- **The International Weightlifting Federation (IWF), headquartered in Lausanne, is the international governing body for the sport of Olympic weightlifting.**
- **The IWF was founded in 1905.**

111. Recently, **FIFA announced which Indian documentary for its newly launched digital streaming platform - FIFA+?**

- A. **Maitanam**
- B. **Zazba**
- C. **Mission Impossible**
- D. **Coda**

- **FIFA launched a new streaming video service, FIFA+ on April 12, 2022.**
- **FIFA plus will also include an archive of every World Cup and Women's World Cup match ever recorded on camera.**
- **The first Indian sports documentary 'Maitanam - The Story of Football in Kerala' went live on FIFA+ on May 1, 2022.**

Harshada crowned Jr. World champion

WRESTLING

Y.B. SARANGI

Harshada Garud became the first Indian to win a gold medal in the World junior weightlifting championships at Heraklion, Greece, on Monday.

Harshada rode on her snatch performance (70kg) to lift a total of 153kg and beat her nearest rival Turkey's Bektas Cansu by three kg in the women's 45kg weight class.

Moldova's Hincu Teodora-Luminita (149kg) took the third spot.

The 18-year-old Pune girl, who had earlier won the Khelo India Youth Games crown and the Asian championships bronze medal with an identical total of 139kg in 2020, did 64kg, 67kg and 70kg in snatch to push Spain's Marta Garcia (68kg) to the second place.

Harshada also lifted successfully in all her three



Harshada... proud moment. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

clean and jerk attempts to record 83kg, two kg less than Bektas (who had registered 65kg in snatch), to claim the second place.

However, she still managed to clinch a historic gold.

Another Indian in fray, Anjali Patel (snatch 67kg, clean and jerk 81kg) tied with Indonesian Najla Khoirunni-

sa on an aggregate of 148kg and ended up at the fifth place.

Both of them were one kg away from the third-placed Hincu.

Before this, Mirabai Chanu (women's 48kg, bronze, 2013, Lima), Jhilli Dalabehera (women's 48kg, bronze, 2018, Tashkent) and Achinta Sheuli (men's 73kg, silver, 2021, Tashkent) achieved podium finishes in the event.

"I was not well till December. My improvement happened after I joined the National camp. All credit to the coaches, the Indian Weightlifting Federation, the other support staff and my family for their support," said Harshada.

TV PICKS

NBA: Sports 18, Vh1, Voot Select, MTV & Jio TV, 7 a.m.

IPL 2022: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Champions League: Sony Ten 2 & 3 (SD & HD) & Sony LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

FIFA+ goes live with Maitanam

MUMBAI

FIFA announced the launch of documentary *Maitanam* for the newly-launched digital streaming platform FIFA+ in India on Sunday. *Maitanam* joins an elite list of global sports storytelling content as part of the select FIFA+ Originals made available globally. The 40-minute documentary comprises six inspirational and vivid stories from Kerala where football is a way of life. ANI

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- With this, Maitanam has joined an elite list of global sports documentaries as a part of select FIFA+ Originals that have been made available globally on FIFA's new digital streaming platform.
- Maitanam is a 40 minute sports documentary that showcases a range of different stories on the love for football in Kerala.
- The documentary has been produced by FIFA in collaboration with Reliance- backed RISE Worldwide.
- Maitanam translates to ground or stadium in Kerala's native language, Malayalam. It is generally associated with a football ground.

112. Recently _____ won the 35th Spanish league title by defeating Espanyol by 4-0.

- A. Bayern Munich
- B. Real Madrid**
- C. Liverpool
- D. Manchester United

Real Madrid romps home to 35th La Liga title

EURO LEAGUES

AGENCIES
MADRID

Real Madrid won a record-extending 35th La Liga title after two goals from Rodrygo spurred it to a 4-0 win over Espanyol on Saturday.

The win also made Carlo Ancelotti the first manager to capture titles in each of Europe's top five leagues – England, Spain, Germany, Italy and France.

Real is on 81 points with four games to go. It is 17 points ahead of nearest rival Sevilla.



That winning feeling: Real Madrid players celebrate. •AP

season.

Norwich was relegated after a 2-0 defeat at Aston Villa left it 13 points adrift of safety with just four games remaining.

The results:
Premier League: Newcastle 0 lost to Liverpool 1 (Keita 19); Aston Villa 2 (Watkins 41, Ings 90+3) bt Norwich City 0; Leeds 0 lost to Manchester City 4 (Rodri 13, Ake 54, Jesus 78, Fernandes 90+3).
 Southampton 1 (Romeu 9) lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Eze 60, Zaha 90+2).
 Wolves 0 lost to Brighton 3 (Mac Allister 42-pen, Trossard 70, Bissouma 86); Watford 1 (Tarkowski 8-og) lost to Burnley 2 (Cork 83, Brownhill 86).
La Liga: Real Madrid 4 (Rodrygo 33, 43, Asensio 55, Benzema 81) bt Espanyol 0.
Serie A: Napoli 6 (Koulibaly 7, Osimhen 15, Lozano 19, Mertens 21, 54, Rahman 80) bt Sassuolo 1 (Lopez 86).
Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 3 (Haaland 18-pen, 30-pen, 62) lost to VfL Bochum 4 (Polter 3, Holtmann 8, Locadia 81, Pantovic 85-pen); Mainz 05 3 (Burkardt 18, Niakhate 27, Barreiro 57) bt Bayern Munich 1 (Lewandowski 33).
On Friday: La Liga: Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 7) drew with Cez 66).

- Real Madrid wins the 35th Spanish league title by defeating Espanyol by 4-0.
- This is Madrid's second title in three seasons and third in six years.
- In the final match, Rodrygo scored two goals while Marco Asensio and Karim Benzema scored the one-one goal.
- Carlo Ancelotti became the first coach to lift trophies in the top five European leagues.

113. Recently, Ronnie O'Sullivan of _____ won the snooker World Championship for the record _____ world title.

- A. Russia , 5th
- B. Sweden , 6th
- C. England , 7th**

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D. America, 8th

- **Ronnie O'Sullivan won a record seventh World Snooker Championship crown after beating Judd Trump 18-13 in the final**
- **With this title, O'Sullivan has equalled Stephen Hendry's modern-day record of seven world titles.**
- **O'Sullivan, at 46, the oldest World Championship finalist since mentor Ray Reardon in 1982,**

India finishes 2021-22 season as World's No. 1 T20I team

Australia, NZ lead Test and ODI rankings respectively

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI

India, under new captain Rohit Sharma, finished the 2021-22 season as the World's No. 1 ranked T20I team after a string of impressive performances at home but was a good nine points behind Australia in the annual Test rankings released by ICC on Wednesday.

The Black Caps from New Zealand finished the last season as the World No. 1 ODI team with the cut-off date being May 4, 2022.

India remained on top in T20Is, extending the lead over second-placed England from one to five points. South Africa and Australia have overtaken New Zealand, which is now in sixth place. Similarly, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are now ahead of Afghanistan (10th).

In the updated ODI rankings, New Zealand remains on top but its lead over En-



Número uno: The Men in Blue retained their top ranking with a string of impressive performances. ■FILE PHOTO

gland is reduced from three to one point. The gap between England and third-placed Australia has increased from seven to 17 points.

Widening the gap

"Australia have increased their lead over second-placed India from one to nine rating points while Pakistan have overtaken England to fifth position in the

ICC Men's Test Team Rankings following the annual update carried out today," the ICC release stated.

"India have also gained a point to move to 119 while England have had the biggest decrease of nine points as their 4-1 series win over India in 2018 is now dropped from the rankings. England's 88 rating points is their lowest since 1995," the release added.

{ **SPORT** } LAST WINNER FROM 1950s

British F1 legend Tony Brooks dies



Tony Brooks, the British 'racing dentist' who was Formula One's last surviving grand prix winner from the 1950s and finished second in the 1959 world championship, has died aged 90. The BBC said the news was announced by Brooks' daughter Giulia. Charles Anthony Standish Brooks, known as Tony, won six grands prix during one of the sport's deadliest eras, making his championship debut with BRM in 1956 and retiring in 1961 at the age of 29. He also drove for Vanwall, Ferrari and Cooper. The Briton, a keen amateur racer, was a 23-year-old dentistry student at Manchester University preparing for his finals when he won the 1955 non-championship Syracuse Grand Prix in Sicily. "Brooks was a tremendous driver, the greatest — if he'll forgive me saying this — 'unknown' racing driver there's ever been," late compatriot Stirling Moss told writer Nigel Roebuck in the 1986 book *Grand Prix Greats*. **REUTERS**

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Science Tech Environment Defence

114. Consider the following statements regarding *India's first Indigenous Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels*.
1. *Cochin Shipyard Limited has committed to invest an initial corpus of Rs. 50 Crore in Start-up companies engaged in the maritime sector.*
 2. *Cochin Shipyard Limited has partnered with KPIT Technologies Limited and Indian developers in the areas of Hydrogen Fuel cell, power train and Indian Register of Shipping for developing rules and regulation for such vessels*
 3. *The Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel based on Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around Rs. 17.50 crores of which 75% would be funded by the Government of India.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 2
- D. All of the above

- *Cochin Shipyard Limited has committed to invest an initial corpus of Rs. 50 Crore in Start-up companies engaged in the maritime sector.*
- *Shri Sonowal also unveiled the Government's plan for building Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels keeping pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions.*
- *Shri Sonowal also unveiled the Government's plan for building Hydrogen Fuelled Electric Vessels keeping pace with the Global Maritime Green Transitions at the Workshop on Green Shipping organised by the Ministry jointly with Cochin Shipyard Limited and The Energy and Resources Institute.*
- *Cochin Shipyard Limited has partnered with KPIT Technologies Limited and Indian developers in the areas of Hydrogen Fuel cell, power train and Indian Register of Shipping for developing rules and regulation for such vessels.*
- *Hydrogen Fuel Cell Vessel based on Low Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around Rs. 17.50 crores of which 75% would be funded by the Government of India.*
- *Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) is the largest shipbuilding and maintenance facility in India. It is part of a line of maritime-related facilities in the port-city of Kochi, in the state of Kerala.*

India to Build Hydrogen-fuelled Vessels at Cochin Shipyard

Our Bureau

New Delhi: The shipping ministry has decided to develop and build hydrogen-fuelled electric vessels at Cochin Shipyard (CSL), kick-starting the country's efforts to transition to green shipping.

Shipping minister Sarbananda Sonowal on Saturday said the plan is in keeping pace with the global maritime green transition.

"The move is part of India's transformative efforts on the innovative and new technology front on green energy, sustainable cost-effective alternate fuel front," he said.

"The hydrogen fuel cell vessel based on low temperature proton exchange membrane technology (LT-PEM), called fuel cell electric vessel (FCEV), is expected to cost around ₹17.50 crore, of which 75% would be funded by the Centre," an official statement said.



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- *Cochin Shipyard was incorporated in 1972 as a Government of India Company.*

115. Consider the following statements regarding *world's longest' glass-bottomed bridge*.

1. *World's longest' glass-bottomed bridge named Bach Long pedestrian bridge opens in Japan.*
2. *Its Total Length is of 632 metres.*
3. *It Surpass a 526-metre structure in Guangdong, China.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. *Only 1 & 2*
- B. *Only 2 & 3*
- C. *Only 1 & 3*
- D. *All of the above*



Vietnam opens 'world's longest' glass-bottomed Bach Long bridge (Photo: Facebook/ Moc)

- *Vietnam opened a new attraction for tourists a glass-bottomed bridge was opened by the Asian country.*
- *The Bach Long pedestrian bridge is suspended 150 metres (490 feet) above a lush jungle in northwest Son La province.*
- *The name of the bridge translates to "white dragon".*
- *The total length of the bridge is 632 metres (690 Yards).*
- *Bridge is made from French-produced tempered glass.*
- *The company that built the bridge (Saint Govind) claims it to be the world's longest glass-bottomed bridge, surpassing a 526-metre long structure in China's Guangdong.*

116. Recently, in May *Indian Coast Guard commissioned its second Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG), at the Coast Guard Air Enclave in _____.*

- A. *Kolkata*
- B. *Kochi*
- C. *Delhi*
- D. *Chennai*

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- Coast Guard commissioned its 2nd Air Squadron, 845 Squadron (CG), at Coast Guard Air Enclave at Nedumbassery in Kochi.
- Coast Guard Director General V S Pathania commissioned new Air Squadron.
- New Air Squadron is equipped with Advanced Mark III (ALH Mark III) helicopters, which are indigenously developed.
- The Squadron is led by Commandant Kunal Naik.
- Indian Coast Guard:
- It is an armed force, maritime, search and rescue, and law enforcement agency. It works under the Ministry of Defence.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi. It was established on 18 August 1978.

117. Recently, Pfizer has set up a global drug development centre at _____, first and only one at present being set up by Pfizer in Asia.

- A. IIT Bombay
- B. IIT Madras
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Delhi

- Pfizer has set up a global drug development centre at the Indian Institute of Technology Madras Research Park in Chennai.
- The centre's capabilities will include development of both, active pharmaceutical ingredients and finished dosage forms of differentiated products.
- Pfizer has invested \$20 million (Rs 150+ crore) in t
- While this centre will be a part of a network of 12 global centres set up worldwide, it is the first and only one at present being set up by Pfizer in Asia.

118. Recently, _____ has become the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres after she climbed Mount Kanchenjunga.

- A. Srishti Sinha
- B. Priyanka Mohite
- C. Archana Gulati
- D. Anuradha Ghosh

Pfizer sets up global drug development centre at IIT Madras Research Park

OUR BUREAU

Chennai, May 4

Pharmaceutical giant Pfizer on Wednesday unveiled a global drug development centre at the IIT Madras Research Park, its first in Asia. The research and technology centre, which will be part of a network of 12 global centres, will support Pfizer's manufacturing centres worldwide and develop products.

Pfizer has invested over ₹150 crore (\$20 million) in the 61,000 sq ft facility, which is spread across two floors equipped with 10 advanced laboratories and a capacity to employ 250 scientists and technicians.

"The centre will focus on developing small molecules, including solid doses and sterile injectables, active pharmaceutical ingredients, and finished dosage forms. The centre will cater to all Pfizer products, including current and future innovative products and a



host of off-patent products," S Sridhar, Country Manager, Pfizer India, said during a press conference post the inaugural event.

Sridhar said that the company has invested over \$4.5 billion across its three manufacturing facilities in India at Visakhapatnam (sterile injectable manufacturing), Goa (Oral solids and Steroids) and Ahmedabad (injectable cytotoxic drugs) in addition to 25-30 contract manufacturing sites across the country.

Speaking at the launch, Tamil Nadu Health Secretary, J Radhakrishnan, said, "It is encouraging to see a company like Pfizer make a significant

investment in R&D in India and added that the centre will offer Indian scientists the opportunity to establish a global footprint in medical R&D."

IITM Research Park President, Ashok Jhunjhunwala, said the proximity of Pfizer to IIT Madras, scientists and students, the Tech corridor, and other leading industry startups will foster greater collaboration between industry and academia.

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- *Priyanka Mohite from Satara in western Maharashtra has become the first Indian woman to scale five peaks above 8,000 metres after she climbed Mount Kanchenjunga*
- *Priyanka (30), the recipient of Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award 2020, successfully completed her expedition to Mount Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), the third highest mountain on the planet, at 4.52 pm.*
- *In April 2021, she had scaled Mt Annapurna (8,091 m), the 10th highest mountain peak in the world and had become the first Indian woman climber to achieve the feat.*
- *In 2015 Priyanka scaled Mt. Menthosa which at 6443 metres is the second-highest peak in the Lahaul and Spiti district of Himachal Pradesh.*
- *The Bengaluru-based climber is also the recipient of the Maharashtra Government's Shiv Chhatrapati State award for adventure sports for 2017-2018.*

119. Consider the following statements regarding **Exercises Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022**.

1. **DEFENDER-Europe 22 & Swift Response** is a multinational, regular joint and combined exercise **organized by the United States Armed Forces and NATO**.
2. Both **DEFENDER-Europe 22 & Swift Response 2022 Exercise** will held in Poland.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

- *Defender Europe is a regular international exercise organized by the US Armed Forces to increase preparedness and interoperability between US and NATO allies and partners.*
- *Swift Response is also an international exercise organized by the US Armed Forces to enhance cooperation between the United States, NATO Allies and military partners.*
- *“International exercises Defender Europe and Swift Response 2022 will take part in Poland.*
- *According to the Polish Ministry of National Defence, Defender Europe 2022 and Swift Response 2022 will run from 1 to 27 May in nine countries. In total, 18,000 servicemen from more than 20 countries will take part in them.*

120. Consider the following statements regarding the **Fast patrol vessel ICGS ‘Kamla Devi’**.

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1. Fast patrol vessel ICGS 'Kamla Devi', named after social reformer and freedom activist Kamladevi Chattopadhyay.
2. It is built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd in a public-private partnership with TWL for the Indian Coast Guard.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2
- D. None of the above

Fast patrol vessel ICGS 'Kamla Devi', named after social reformer and freedom activist Kamladevi Chattopadhyay and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd in a public-private partnership with TWL for the Indian Coast Guard,

The vessel was christened Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) 'Kamla Devi' by Neela Pathania, wife of ICG Director General Virender Singh Pathania.

'Kamla Devi' was scheduled to be the fourth ship in the series of five such FPVs that GRSE was contracted to build for the ICG, but became the fifth as the fourth one was exported to the Republic of Seychelles as the 'SCG PS Zoroaster' in 2021,

"ICGS Kamla Devi is named after... 'Kamladevi Chattopadhyay' who worked towards the upliftment of artisans and craftsmen across the country and development of the performing arts,"

She also worked for the socio-economic betterment of women in India, and was awarded the Padma Bhushan, the Padma Vibhushan and the Ramon Magsaysay Award.

The ships, used for anti-smuggling, anti-poaching and rescue operations at sea, are 48.9-metre long and 7.5-metre wide with a displacement of around 308 tonnes, and are designed for a maximum speed of 34 knots with an endurance of more than 1,500 nautical miles,

121. Recently in May _____ has signed a Letter of Agreement with India Meteorological Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions to combat climate crisis.

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Mandi
- D. IIT Delhi

- **The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) B Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions**

May 03, 2022, 8:12AM

IIT Bombay collaborates with IMD to develop climate solutions to combat climate crisis

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Bombay has signed a Letter of Agreement with India Meteorological Department (IMD) to develop climate solutions. In a statement, IIT-B said that this collaboration is likely to work on the development of Sensors and Drone-based Smart Monitoring systems, Climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, Intelligent and automated early warning systems, and Smart power grid management.

Talking about the Interdisciplinary Program in Climate Studies at IIT Bombay, Secretary of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Dr. M. Ravichandran said just like science, multiple disciplines like mathematics, engineering, and social sciences are required to understand the discipline of climate studies as well. Talking about the collaboration, IIT-Bombay's Director, Prof. Subhasis Chaudhuri said, it is crucial to develop actionable and sustainable solutions to combat the climate crisis. He added that IIT Bombay's mission is to be a thought-leader in Climate Studies and make a difference with its cutting-edge research and industry collaborations.



FILE PIC

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- *This collaboration is likely to work on the development of Sensors and Drone-based Smart Monitoring systems, Climate-smart agriculture technology for water and food security, Intelligent and automated early warning systems, and Smart power grid management.*
- *IIT Bombay's mission is to be a thought-leader in Climate Studies.*

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) plans to launch India's first Venus Mission 'Shukrayaan-I' in December 2024 window. The Shukrayaan mission is a planned orbiter to Venus to study the planet's surface and atmosphere.

Shukrayaan will be India's first orbiter mission to Venus after sending similar missions to the Moon and Mars. The mission aims to study the surface of the hottest planet in our solar system and unravel the mysteries under the Sulphuric Acid clouds enveloping it.

Several missions have flown to Venus since the 1960s but only a few in recent years. The European Space Agency's Venus Express orbited the planet between 2006 and 2014 and Japan sent Akatsuki spacecraft that entered the planet's orbit in 2015 after a previous unsuccessful attempt. Akatsuki is one of the few missions that are operational around Venus.

Isro to join race to Venus, eyes 2024 orbiter launch

Surendra.Singh
@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: After successfully completing Moon and Mars missions, India is set to join the race with the US and several other countries to go to Venus. The mission's objective will be to study the Venusian atmosphere, which is toxic and corrosive in nature as clouds of sulfuric acid cover the planet.

Isro chairman S Somnath says the work on the mission has been going on for years and that the space agency is now "ready to send an orbiter to Venus". "The project report is made, over-all plans are ready, money identified, all that thing is done. Building and putting a mission on Venus is possible



The mission's objective will be to study the Venusian atmosphere

for India in a very short space of time, as the capability today exists with India," the Isro chairman said.

Isro is eyeing the December 2024 window for its launch with orbital manoeuvres planned for the following year when the Earth and Venus would be so aligned

that the spacecraft could be put in the planet's orbit using minimum propellant. The next similar window will then be available in 2031. However, Isro is yet to officially release a timeline for the Venus mission.

Experiments planned for the Venus mission include an investigation of the surface processes and shallow subsurface stratigraphy, including active volcanic hot-spots and lava flows, studying the structure, composition and dynamics of the atmosphere, and investigation of solar wind interaction with the Venusian Ionosphere. Nasa is also sending two spacecraft to Venus. Likewise, the European Space Agency has also announced a mission Venus.