

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Second Week of May (8<sup>th</sup> May –15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

**National /State News**

1. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ State Government launched "India's first government-run ambulance network" - Dr. YSR Mobile Veterinary Ambulatory Clinical Services" / YSR Samchaara Pasyu Aarogya Seva for the welfare of animals and livestock and to boost the veterinary sector.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttarakhand
- C. Punjab
- D. Odisha

Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy on Thursday, launched "India's first government-run ambulance network" for the welfare of animals and livestock and to boost the veterinary sector in Andhra Pradesh.

The Chief Minister flagged off 175 veterinary ambulances costing Rs 143 Crore in the first phase under the "Dr YSR Mobile Veterinary Ambulatory Clinical Services" / YSR Samchaara Pasyu Aarogya Seva from the CM Camp Office at Tadepalli.

A total of 340 Veterinary Ambulances will be set up across the state at a cost of Rs 278 Crore. Another 165 Veterinary Ambulances costing Rs 135 crore will be added in the second phase.

These ambulances will also have a 24/7 toll-free call center. The Mobile Veterinary Services project will provide timely treatment on receipt of a call at 1962 at the doorstep of the livestock's owner.

**ANDHRA PRADESH**  
**CM to launch**  
**mobile vet**  
**clinics today**

New Delhi: The government of Andhra Pradesh is implementing the 340 Dr YSR Samchaara Pasu Aarogya Seva/ Mobile Ambulatory Veterinary Clinics in the state with an outlay of Rs 278 crore to strengthen the services delivery mechanism to ensure better accessibility of veterinary services by the department. Chief minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy will formally inaugurate the event on Thursday. **ENS**

2. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ state government is working to launch a family identity card called Parivar Kalyan Card to map each family in the state.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Haryana
- D. Punjab

- The Uttar Pradesh government is working to launch a family identity card called Parivar Kalyan Card to map each family in the state.
- The new 12-digit card will help the state government map all the families and the

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*benefits of several government schemes received by a family.*

- *A pilot project was carried out in Prayagraj using the ration card data and the state government tried to map the beneficiaries within a family.*
  - *It also gave data on families who are not getting any benefits from the government schemes.*
  - *In 2020, both Haryana and Karnataka launched 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' and 'Kutumba Card', respectively.*
3. *Recently Rays Experts to commission the world's largest solar park in \_\_\_\_\_ with a 3000MWp capacity .*
- A. *Haryana*  
 B. *Punjab*  
 C. *Rajasthan*  
 D. *Odisha*

## Yogi Govt to Launch Family ID Card to Map Govt Scheme Beneficiaries Across State

**Kumar.Anshuman**  
@timesgroup.com



**New Delhi-** The Uttar Pradesh government is working to launch a family identity card called Parivar Kalyan Card to map each family in the state. The new 12 digit card will help the state government map all the families and the benefits of several government schemes received by a family.

A presentation was made before chief minister Yogi Aditya Nath last week describing in detail about the card. ET has seen the presentation which advocates making the ration card data as the base for the family card. "If we use ration cards as the base, 60 per cent of the families will be mapped under the family identity card in just a few days," a government source told ET.

A pilot project was carried out in Prayagraj using the ration card data and the state government tried to map the beneficiaries within a family. It

also gave data of families who are not getting any benefits from the government schemes. The government officials believe

**UP govt would also talk to their Haryana and Karnataka counterparts for their model of family cards**

that such a card would be helpful in curbing fake cards and repetition of services for one family. Sources told ET that this could also bring families under the net of government benefits. In 2022, the BJP in its manifesto had promised to give one

employment source to each family. Now with the family card, the state government will be able to identify families who need an employment source. The aim of this card is to integrate all the other government services through this to make the process simpler. "If one member of the family has got a caste certificate, next time other members can simply apply and get it rather than producing all the documents," a government official told ET.

The state government will also consult its legal and justice department to check whether a law is needed to implement the scheme.

Officials from the UP government would also talk to officials from Haryana and Karnataka to see their model of family cards. In 2020, both Haryana and Karnataka had launched 'Parivar Pehchan Patra' and 'Kutumba Card', respectively. Haryana's family card is based on ration card data as planned by UP. The family card is likely to find a mention in the upcoming budget of UP on May 26.

## Rays Experts to commission world's largest solar park

Rays Experts on Tuesday said it will commission the world's largest solar park in Rajasthan with a 3000 MWp capacity. The 9,000-acre solar park will be built in Bikaner, Rajasthan. It has signed the necessary transmission agreements and obtained all approvals for the same, a company statement said. This is the first and the only 100 per cent privately-owned ultra mega solar park in the country connected to the central transmission system, it stated. All the other major solar parks built in the past are partly or fully government-owned. **PTI**

*Rays Experts, a solar park developer in India, is poised to achieve yet another milestone by setting up the world's largest solar park in India.*

*The 9000-acre solar park at Bikaner, Rajasthan, has a capacity of up to 3000 MWp.*

*It has signed the necessary transmission agreements and obtained all approvals for the same.*

*This is the first and only 100% privately owned ultra mega solar park in the country connected to the central transmission system.*

*All the other major solar parks made in the past are partly or fully government-owned. Rahul Gupta, MD & CEO, Rays Experts*



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4. Recently Border Road Organisation (BRO) has decided to develop the country's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnels across the mighty Brahmaputra in \_\_\_\_\_ at an estimated cost of Rs 7,000 crore.
- A. West Bengal
  - B. Sikkim
  - C. Assam
  - D. Jharkhand

In an attempt to provide impetus to India's road and infrastructure, the Road and railway ministries along with the Border Road Organisation (BRO) have decided to develop the country's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnels across the mighty Brahmaputra in Assam at an estimated cost of Rs 7,000 crore.

According to the estimate, the government would shell out approximately Rs 7,000 crore for these tunnels. A company under the Road Transport Ministry, National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL), had earlier proposed twin tunnels for vehicles and estimated an expenditure of Rs 12,800 crore.

## First underwater rail-&-road tunnels

The road and railway ministries and BRO will build India's first underwater road-cum-rail tunnels across the Brahmaputra in Assam. The three parallel tunnels, 9.8 km long each, will be inter-connected for evacuation in case of emergency. **PG OPP**

5. Consider the following statement regarding **PM Suraksha Bima Yojana**.
1. Launched on 9 May 2015 and provides affordable insurance for poor & underprivileged people of 18 to 70 years.
  2. Risk coverage under the scheme is Rs 2 lakh for accidental death & full disability and Rs 1 lakh for partial disability.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

6. Consider the following statement regarding **PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY)**.
1. Launched on 9 May 2015. The age limit for this scheme is 18-50 years.
  2. Provides life cover of Rs 2 lakhs in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.
  3. Annual premium amount for this scheme is Rs 330. The life cover of the member ends at the age of 55 years.

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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

7. Consider the following statement regarding *Atal Pension Yojana (APY)*.

1. Launched on 9 May 2015 and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
2. Subscribers receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 1000 or Rs 2000 or Rs 3000 or Rs 4000 or Rs 5000 at the age of 60 years.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The three social security schemes (*PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY*) have completed seven years on 09 May 2022.
- These three schemes were launched by PM Modi on 9th May 2015 in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) are two insurance schemes.
- These provide access to low-cost life or accidental insurance cover to the people.
- Atal Pension Yojana (APY) provides saving opportunities to people in the present so that they get a regular pension in old age.
  
- *PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):*
  - Launched on 9 May 2015 and provides affordable insurance for poor & underprivileged people of 18 to 70 years.
  - Risk coverage under the scheme is Rs 2 lakh for accidental death & full disability and Rs 1 lakh for partial disability.
  - Offered by Public Sector General Insurance Companies or any other General Insurance Company.
  
- *PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):*
  - Launched on 9 May 2015. The age limit for this scheme is 18-50 years.
  - Provides life cover of Rs 2 lakhs in case of death of the insured, due to any reason.
  - The annual premium amount for this scheme is Rs 330. The life cover of the member ends at the age of 55 years.



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- Offered by Life Insurance Corporation and all other life insurance companies.
  - Atal Pension Yojana (APY):
  - Launched on 9 May 2015 and administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
  - Open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years.
  - Subscribers receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 1000 or Rs 2000 or Rs 3000 or Rs 4000 or Rs 5000 at the age of 60 years.
8. Recently in May PM Modi addressed the inaugural session of JITO Connect 2022, a global summit. What is the theme of this summit?
- A. Come Together for Trade
  - B. Together Towards Tomorrow**
  - C. Trade For Tomorrow
  - D. Trade Now in India
- The inaugural session of JITO Connect 2022 was virtually addressed by PM Modi.
  - JITO Connect 2022 is a three-day global summit that is being organized from May 6-8 by Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) in Pune.
  - The theme of this summit is 'Together Towards Tomorrow'.
  - On this occasion, Prime Minister gave a new dimension to the word EARTH.
  - E means environment where one should encourage the practices that protect the environment.
  - A means agriculture and natural farming, farming technology, and the food processing sector.
  - R means recycling and focusing on the circular economy.
  - T means technology for all and H means health care.
  - Jain International Trade Organisation is a global body connecting Jains worldwide.
9. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ became first 'Village of Honey' in the country.
- A. Wayanad
  - B. Kalpakkam
  - C. Idukki
  - D. Manghar**

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- **Manghar village will be the first 'Village of Honey' in the country. On 16th May, Manghar, a village in Maharashtra's Mahabaleshwar will become the first 'Village of Honey'.**
- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission will implement the Village of Honey scheme as part of the Project Honeybee.**
- **Out of 100 families in Manghar village, 80 are engaged in the business of beekeeping.**
- **The objective of the scheme is to produce high-quality honey and to set up a hospital and laboratory for honeybees.**
- **Under the "Village of Honey" initiative, the government will take necessary steps to increase the number of honeybees in the region.**

10. Consider the following statement regarding the census of India.

1. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that the upcoming census would be digitized. India's first digital census would be completed by 2024.
2. the First census was carried out in different parts of India in the year 1872.
3. The census was last time carried out in 2011.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

## Census to become fully digitised by 2024: Shah

Utpal Parashar

letters@hindustantimes.com

**GUWAHATI:** The next census held in the country will be carried out through a digital platform which will be ready by 2024, said Union home minister Amit Shah on Monday.

Shah, who is on a two-day visit to Assam, said that the 2021 census process, which was stopped due to Covid-19, will be an e-census (electronic census).

"Though Covid-19 has slowed us down, I am confident that by 2024, we will complete modernisation of the Registrar General of India's (RGI) work and develop a software which will address several tasks under one platform," Shah said while inaugurating the state census office in Amingaon, on the outskirts of Guwahati.

"We have taken the historic step to shift the census process from paper to an electronic format. People can easily fill up all their family details using the software," he added.

Shah said the new software will have multi-dimensional uses as it will be linked with reg-



Amit Shah

istration of births and deaths. As soon as someone is born, their details will get updated in the software, Shah said.

Once that person turns 18, their names will get registered in the voters' list from the census office itself. The names will get deleted from voters' list, from the census office, once that person dies. Shah said details like people shifting residences will also be updated via the software.

"Lot of tasks will get addressed through the software like registration of births, inclusion of names in voters' lists, registration of deaths. There will be an automatic addition and deletion of such details. There needs to be lot of awareness about this," he said.

"Success of digital census is very important for the country. We have kept the goal of 100% registration through civil registration system (CRS) by 2024. Each and every birth and death would be registered online and our population figures would get updated automatically," the home minister added.

Earlier in the day, Shah visited a BSF border outpost on the India-Bangladesh boundary at Mancachar where he took stock of security and the comprehensive integrated border management system. He also took part in ground breaking and foundation stone laying ceremony of the central workshop and store for Central Armed Paramilitary Force in Tamulpur district.

Later in the evening, Shah inaugurated the super-specialty wing Guwahati Medical College and Hospital.

On Tuesday, Shah is scheduled to present the President's Colour Award to Assam Police in Guwahati and will also address a public meeting in Guwahati on the occasion of one year of the coalition in Assam.

**Union Home Minister Amit Shah said that upcoming census would be digitized. He also said India's first digital census would be completed by 2024.**

**He inaugurated the new office building of the Directorate of Census Operations at Amingaon in Kamrup district, Assam.**

**He said that the census would be automatically updated after each birth and death in the country.**

**He said that nearly 50% of the population would be able to feed their data themselves after downloading the mobile application on their phones.**

**First census was carried out in different parts of India in the year 1872.**

**Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India, Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for the Census.**

**The Census in India is carried out once a decade. The census was last time carried out in 2011.**

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11. Consider the following statement regarding **Ladli Laxmi scheme 2.0**.

1. **Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Ladli Laxmi scheme 2.0.**
2. **The CM announced that the MP government will give 25,000 rupees in two installments to the Ladli Laxmis who join the college.**
3. **MP will every year celebrate Ladli Laxmi Utsav from May 2 to May 12.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

**Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Ladli Laxmi scheme 2.0.**

**While launching the scheme, he said that the MP government will pay the complete fee of Ladli Laxmis if they take admission in medical, IIT, IIM, or any other institute. The CM announced that MP government will give 25,000 rupees in two installments to the Ladli Laxmis who join the college. He also announced that Ladli Laxmi Panchayat status will be given to the panchayats, who work for the betterment of girls. He launched Ladli e-Sawad App. MP will every year celebrate Ladli Laxmi Utsav from May 2 to May 12. MP government is implementing Ladli Laxmi Yojana from 1st April 2007.**

12. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ and **SECI signed an mou for promoting green energy initiative.**

- A. **Ministry of Home Affairs**
- B. **Ministry of Panchyati Raj**
- C. **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs**
- D. **Ministry Of Culture**

**Ministry of Home Affairs and SECI sign an mou for promoting green energy initiative.**

**An mou was signed between Ministry of Home Affairs and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) in New Delhi.**

**This is an umbrella mou that aims for collaboration between the two for jointly undertaking installation of Solar Rooftop PV Power Plants.**

**It is a step towards government efforts to promote renewable energy thereby moving towards a carbon neutral economy. Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI): It is a company of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy that was established to implement the National Solar Mission.**

around 50% of top 10 domestic routes. P11



The panels will be set up in CAPF, NSG campuses.

## SECI, MHA plan to set up solar panels

Union ministry of home affairs and Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to harness the potential of solar energy on the available rooftop areas in the campuses of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) and National Security Guard (NSG).

The MoU was signed by Rakesh Kumar Singh, joint secretary, MHA and Suman Sharma, managing director, SECI.

“SECI is happy to serve the Government of India for fulfilling India’s climate commitments and look forward to expanding rooftop solar sector to the remotest corners of the country,” said Suman Sharma.

Ajay Kumar Bhalla, Union home secretary and Indu Shekhar Chaturvedi, secretary MNRE were present on the occasion.

The MoU is a step ahead towards supply of green power to the country’s security forces and reinforces the government’s commitment towards a sustainable future. The MoU will support MHA in implementing rooftop solar plants under RESCO model. **SWATI LUTHRA**



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**13. Recently The 10th session of the India-Oman Joint Commission meeting was held in which city?**

- A. Chennai
- B. Jaipur
- C. Kanpur
- D. New Delhi**

**10th session of India-Oman Joint Commission meeting held in New Delhi.**

**The India-Oman Joint Commission Meeting has been co-chaired by Piyush Goyal and the Sultanate of Oman Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef. The 48 member delegation of Oman led by Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef is visiting India.**

**Bilateral trade between both countries has increased from US\$ 5.4 billion in 2020-21 to US\$ 9.94 billion during 2021-2022. Both sides agreed on the fast-tracking of approvals for the registration of Indian pharmaceutical products already registered by USFDA, UKMHRA and EMA.**

**Both sides discussed signing the MoU/ agreement on different fields including the India-Oman Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement, India-Oman Bilateral Investment Treaty, Invest Oman and Invest India treaty, etc.**

## India, Oman to have joint study on limited trade deal

SHREYA NANDI  
New Delhi, 11 May

India and Oman on Wednesday agreed to undertake a joint feasibility study, before going ahead with a preferential trade deal on limited goods.

A senior commerce department official said Oman had requested India for a preferential trade agreement on limited items, where both nations can discuss reduction in tariff of some items of export interest. The development is taking place at a time when India is set to begin deeper engagements with the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries towards inking a free trade agreement (FTA). GCC is a regional, intergovernmental political economic union comprising six countries — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"We are also negotiating a free trade agreement with GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council) countries, in which



Piyush Goyal with Qais Bin Mohammed Al Yousef in New Delhi

Oman is also a member... Oman will also be a party to the GCC FTA as and when it is concluded. Meanwhile, they suggested that they can consider a PTA. For that, India said both nations need to do a feasibility study jointly. That's what has been decided today (Wednesday)," the department of commerce joint secretary Srikar Reddy told reporters.

Oman will be the second GCC member to work towards a trade agreement. India and UAE have already signed a comprehensive economic partnership agreement

(CEPA) in February.

The discussion on the trade deal and a joint feasibility study took place at the 10th session of the India-Oman joint commission meeting (JCM) in New Delhi, which was co-chaired by Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal and his counterpart in Oman Qais bin Mohammed al Yousef. A 48-member delegation includes senior officials and business representatives from diverse areas spanning health, pharmaceuticals, mining, tourism, telecommunication, energy, shipping and real estate in India

Oman is India's 31st largest trading partner. Bilateral trade has been witnessing robust growth increasing from \$5.4 billion in FY21 to \$9.94 billion during FY22, up 82.6 per cent. "With forward-looking and solution-oriented deliberations, the JCM witnessed significant progress on all matters of mutual interest across the entire gamut of bilateral economic relations between the two countries," an official statement said.

One of the important outcomes of the meeting was fast tracking of approvals for registration of Indian pharmaceutical products already registered by USFDA, UK Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and European Medicines Agency during the deliberations. Other outcomes include, joint release of a market research report commissioned by the embassy of India, Muscat on the pharmaceutical sector in Oman, highlighting strategies and opportunities for Indian companies in that country.

**14. Recently where did Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane recently inaugurate the first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (coek)?**

- A. Gandhinagar
- B. Shillong
- C. Kolkata
- D. New Delhi**

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*Union Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Narayan Rane inaugurated first Centre of Excellence for Khadi (coek) in New Delhi. The minister inaugurated coek hub in New Delhi and its spokes in Gandhinagar, Shillong, Kolkata and Bengaluru. Khadi and Village Industries Commission has partnered with National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to establish coek.*

*Mou for establishment of coek was signed between KVIC and NIFT last year. The coek will develop a knowledge portal for Khadi.*

15. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ State Government has launched 'Chaar-Bijae Yojana' for fodder growers.

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Uttarakhand
- D. Maharashtra

*Haryana Government launched 'Chaar-Bijae Yojana' for fodder growers. Under this scheme, farmers tied up with gaushalas will receive financial aid of ₹10,000 per acre for up to 10 acres under fodder cultivation. The amount will be transferred to the farmers' bank account through direct benefit transfer. The number of Cow shelters in Haryana has increased from 175 in 2017 to 600 in 2022. Due to an increase in the stray animal population, most cow shelters are overcrowded in the state.*

*Haryana Agriculture and farmers' welfare Minister JP Dalal said that a huge market will be opened in Ganaur and he also directed officers to resolve the disputed cases of crop damage claims over the last three to four years*

16. Recently In May PM Narendra Modi launched the Startup Policy of which state on 13th May?

- A. Bihar
- B. Gujarat
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Assam

*During the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave, PM Narendra Modi will also address the startup community on 13th May 2022. PM Narendra Modi will also launch the Madhya Pradesh Startup portal to promote the startup ecosystem.*

*Around 1,937 start-ups have been recognised by the Union government in Madhya Pradesh, 45 per cent of them are run by women. Policymakers from the government and private sector, innovators, entrepreneurs, and academicians will participate in the Madhya Pradesh Startup Conclave. A Startup Expo displaying new trends and innovations will also be also displayed at the venue.*

## PM launches MP govt's new start-up policy

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi on Friday launched the Madhya Pradesh government's Start-Up Policy 2022 and a start-up portal through video link in the presence of young entrepreneurs in Indore. Under the new policy, start-ups would get subsidies towards rent and salaries of employees.



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17. Recently **PM Modi** took part in **Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on 12 May 2022** under the theme

- A. **Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness**
- B. **Know and Plan your Finances to Live a Better Life**
- C. **Enable markets, promote pro-business policies and strengthen trust**
- D. **Coping with the Pandemic: A Third-Tier Dimension**

- **PM Modi** took part in **Second Global COVID Virtual Summit on 12 May 2022**.
- He addressed the inaugural session of the summit **on the theme 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritizing Preparedness'**.
- He said **India has laid the foundation of the WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine at Jamnagar, Gujarat**.
- It aims to make traditional medicinal knowledge available to the world. **Prime Minister Modi had also taken part in the first Global COVID Virtual Summit.**
- This was hosted by **President Biden on 22 September 2021**.

18. Consider the following **initiatives launched by Union Minister Hardeep S Puri during Plumbex India Exhibition**.

1. **Union Minister Hardeep S Puri launched the 'BHARAT TAP' initiative at Plumbex India Exhibition to help in promoting water conservation efforts.**
2. **He also launched NARDECO MAHI's 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative, which will save 500 crore liters of water per year.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

## PM to take part in global Covid summit today

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday participate in the second global virtual summit on Covid-19, being hosted by US President Joe Biden, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Wednesday.

The MEA said the summit intends to galvanise new actions to address the challenges of the pandemic and build a stronger global health security architecture.

The MEA said the PM will deliver remarks in the opening session of the summit on the theme 'Preventing Pandemic Fatigue and Prioritising Preparedness'.

"India is playing a key role in ongoing global efforts to combat the pandemic by supplying safe and affordable vaccines, medicines, development of low-cost indigenous technologies to test and treat, genomic surveillance, and capacity building for health care workers," the ministry said. **ENS**



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*Union Minister Hardeep S Puri launched the 'BHARAT TAP' initiative at Plumbex India Exhibition.*

*Bharat Tap initiative aims to provide low-flow sanitary ware on a large scale and thus significantly reduce the consumption of water at the source. Bharat Tap initiative is expected to be accepted quickly and it will help in promoting water conservation efforts.*

*Union Minister Hardeep S Puri said that AMRUT 2.0 will provide 100% coverage of water supply to all households in 4,700 ULBs. He also launched NARDECO MAHI's 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' initiative, which will save 500 crore litres of water per year.*

*'Plumbex India' exhibition is an exhibition of products and services related to the plumbing, water and sanitation industry.*

*Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation 2.0 (AMRUT 2.0) was launched by PM Modi on 1 October 2021 with an aim to develop water secure cities in the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat. It targets to provide reliable 2.68 crore new water tap connections to all in about 4,800 statutory towns. It also proposes to get universal household coverage of sewerage/ septage services in 500 AMRUT cities through new sewer connections.*

19. Recently **India's first organic waste-powered Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station** has been inaugurated in which of the following cities in May 2022?

- A. Mumbai
- B. Bhopal
- C. Chennai
- D. Lucknow

*India's first organic waste-powered Electric Vehicle (EV) charging station has been inaugurated.*

*Maharashtra Environment Minister Aaditya Thackeray inaugurated it at Keshavrao Khadye road near Haji Ali in Mumbai.*

*The station will generate 220 units of electricity from food waste collected from its nearby areas.*

*The project is a joint venture between Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation and aerocare Clean Energy.*

*The setting up of organic waste-powered EV charging station in each of the 24 administrative wards is being planned by Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation.*

20. Recently who among the following has **launched Atal Innovation Mission- Prime Playbook in New Delhi**?

- A. Dr. Bharati Pawar
- B. Bhupesh Baghel
- C. Narayan Tatu Rane
- D. Pralhad Joshi

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*Union Minister Bharati Pawar launched Atal Innovation Mission- Prime Playbook.*

*Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Dr Bharati Pawar launched Atal Innovation Mission- Prime Playbook in New Delhi. It has been launched to help entrepreneurs in growing and expand their businesses.*

*Its main objective is to promote early-stage science-based, deep technology ideas to market through training and guidance over a period of 12 months using a blended learning curriculum. Its main aim is to make scientists, startups and incubators aware of the steps after their technical ideas.*

*Atal Innovation Mission (AIM): It was launched in 2016. It is a flagship initiative of NITI Aayog to promote innovation and entrepreneurship.*

**21. Consider the following statement regarding *Prime Minister's Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI)*.**

- 1. *railtel launched the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme for providing fast & free public wifi services across 100 Indian Railways stations.***
- 2. *To access this wifi network, people have to use android based mobile application 'Wi-DOT'. This mobile application has been developed in association with C-DOT.***

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

*Railtel launched the Prime Minister Wi-Fi Access Network Interface (PM-WANI) scheme for providing fast & free public wifi services across 100 Indian Railways stations.*

*PM-WANI is an ambitious initiative of the Department of Telecom. It would be in addition to the existing method for using wifi at railway stations.*

*To access this wifi network, people have to use android based mobile application 'Wi-DOT'. This mobile application has been developed in association with C-DOT.*

*These railway stations are located in 22 states and out of 100 stations, 71 are of the A1 category while 29 are of other categories.*

*The wifi network of railtel is now available across 6102 railway stations.*

*Railtel is a "Mini Ratna (Category-I)" Central Public Sector Enterprise founded in the year 2000.*

**22. Recently in May which *state police has recently received President's Colours Award?***

- A. Assam**
- B. Bihar**

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- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Nagaland

*Union Home Minister Amit Shah presented the President's Colours Award to Assam Police at a Special Ceremony at Guwahati.*

*Assam is the 10th state to receive the award for its exceptional service.*

*Amit Shah said that Union Government has already removed Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA) from the 23 districts of Assam.*

*Amit Shah also laid the foundation stone of many development projects in Assam.*

*The President's Colours is the highest honour given to any military or police unit in recognition of exceptional service rendered to the nation. President's Colours is also known as 'Nishaan'.*

**23. Recently seen in the news *Nanjarayan Tank* is situated in which of the following state?**

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

*Minister for Forests K Ramachandran announced in the Assembly that the Nanjarayan Tank in Tiruppur district will be turned into a bird sanctuary at a cost of Rs 7.5 crore and slender loris sanctuaries will be established in Dindigul and Karur districts, with Rs 5 crore being allocated for the project.*

*To increase the number of bird sanctuaries in the State and utilise the potential of Nanjarayan tank, which is home to about 130 species, the tank would become the State's 17th bird sanctuary. Besides, steps would be taken to set up the Cauvery South Wildlife Sanctuary adjacent to the Cauvery North Wildlife Sanctuary.*

**24. Recently In May *Pooram* festival is celebrated at *Vadakkumnatha Temple* of which of the following states?**

- A. **Kerala**
- B. Tamil Nadu
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Odisha

*Pooram festival started at Vadakkumnatha Temple in Thrissur, Kerala. Poora Vilambaram held at Vadakkumnatha Temple in Thrissur on 09 May 2022. Poora Vilambaram is the ritual that marks starting of the Pooram festival.*

*According to the tradition, an Elephant carrying the idol of goddess Neythalakkavu Bhagavathy from Kuttur reached the Vadakkumnatha Temple. It is an annual festival. It is held in Valluvanadu area and parts of north-central Kerala after the summer harvest.*



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25. Consider the following statement regarding the portal launched for *Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel*.

1. Home Affairs Ministry has launched a portal named '*CAPF Punarvaas*' for re-employment of retired *Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel* with private security agencies.
2. The portal has been launched *through Welfare and Rehabilitation Board*.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The government launched a portal for *retired CAPF and Assam Rifle personnel*.
- Home Affairs Ministry *has launched a portal named 'CAPF Punarvaas'* for re-employment of retired *Central Armed Police Force (CAPF) and Assam Rifle personnel* with private security agencies.
- The portal has been launched *through Welfare and Rehabilitation Board*.
- It will help retired personnel in finding an appropriate job by uploading their details on the website.
- Home Affairs Ministry is already running a portal under the *Private Security Agencies Regulation Act* for the registration of *Private Security Agencies*.
- This portal will bridge the gap between job seekers and job providers.

26. Consider the following statement regarding *Mission Amrit Sarovar*.

1. The Mission is aimed at developing and *rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of the celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*.
2. The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be *completed by 15th August 2023*.
3. *Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics(BISAG-N)* has been engaged as a *Technical Partner for the Mission*.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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*The Mission is aimed at developing and rejuvenating 75 water bodies in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.*

*The Mission Amrit Sarovar is to be completed by 15th August 2023.*

*In total, it would lead to creation of 50,000 water bodies of a size of about an Acre or more with a water holding capacity of 10,000 cubic meter.*

*This Mission has been launched with a whole of Government Approach in which following Ministries/Department are involved: Dept of Rural Development , Department of land resources, Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Department of Water resources, Ministry of Panchayati Raj and Ministry of Environment.*

*Also Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Application and Geo-informatics(BISAG-N) has been engaged as Technical partner for the Mission.*

*The Mission works through the States and Districts, through refocusing of various schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi NREGS, XV Finance Commission Grants, PMKSY sub schemes such as Watershed Development Component, Har Khet Ko Pani besides States' own schemes.*

**27. Recently Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande received Param Vishisht Seva Medal from President Ram Nath Kovind for his exceptional service. The Param Vishisht Seva Medal was instituted by the President of India in \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- A. 1950
- B. 1960
- C. 1965
- D. 1972

*Army Chief Gen Manoj Pande received Param Vishisht Seva Medal from President Ram Nath Kovind for his exceptional service.*

*The President also conferred 14 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 24 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals President also conferred 13 Shaurya Chakras, including six posthumously. Gen. Manoj Pande has become the 29th Chief of the Army Staff on 30th April.*

*The Param Vishisht Seva Medal was instituted by the President of India on 26 January 1960 to recognise distinguished service rendered by personnel of the Armed Forces.*

## Army chief gets Param Vishisht Seva Medal

Defence investiture ceremony held

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI

Army chief Gen Manoj Pande was on Tuesday given the Param Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service of exceptional order by President Ram Nath Kovind at a Defence investiture ceremony held at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

President Kovind, who is the supreme commander of the armed forces, conferred 13 Shaurya Chakras, including six posthumously, on Service personnel, a Defence Ministry statement said.

“The gallantry awards were given to the personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty,” it stated. The Presi-



President Kovind presenting Param Vishisht Seva Medal to Gen. Manoj Pande.

dent also gave away 14 Param Vishisht Seva Medals, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals and 24 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals for distinguished service of exceptional order.

The awards were approved by the President in January.

**28. Consider the following statement regulations regarding food products under the Ayurveda Aahara category.**



## Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam Second Week of May (8<sup>th</sup> May –15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

1. **Ayush Ministry and FSSAI have prepared regulations for food products under the Ayurveda Aahara category.**
2. **Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022 rules will be applied to the manufacturing and marketing of Ayurveda Aahara products.**
3. **Ayurveda Aahara is not suggested for children under the age of two.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

### FSSAI sets norms for Ayurveda food products, labelling

Manufacturers cannot make claims about preventing/curing diseases

MEENAKSHI VERMA AMBWANI

New Delhi, May 9

The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has notified regulations for the Ayurveda Aahara segment after public consultations, a move that will bring regulatory clarity for food products based on Ayurveda-prescribed recipes such as herbal nutritional supplements.

This is the first time that regulations have been brought in for the Ayurveda Aahara segment. Such food products are prepared in accordance with the recipes, ingredients and processes described in authoritative Ayurveda books and the regulations, therefore, cover foods specified for

consumption in accordance with Ayurvedic dietetics or *pathya*.

#### Display of logo

The regulations, which prescribe labelling and permissible additive standards for Ayurveda Aahara, stated that it will be mandatory for manufacturers of these products to display an 'Ayurveda Aahara' logo and a warning advisory stating "only for dietary use" on the labels.

The regulations also prevent makers of such products from making any claims about treatment or cure of diseases. "The labelling, presentation and advertisement shall not claim that the Ayurveda Aahara has the property of



This is the first time regulations have been brought in for the Ayurveda Aahara segment

preventing, treating or curing a human disease or refer to such properties," the regulations added.

#### Not for infants

To be able to make "disease-risk reduction" claims, manufacturers will need to take "evidence-based prior approvals" from the food safety authority. For health benefit claims, approvals will not be required if such

claims are backed by authoritative Ayurveda texts, the regulations stated.

Every label of Ayurveda Aahara product will also need to mandatorily specify the intended purpose, the target consumer group and the recommended duration of use on the labels.

"No person shall manufacture or sell Ayurveda Aahara intended for administration to infants up to the age of 24 months," the regulations added.

An expert committee will be constituted under the Ministry of Ayush, comprising experts, including FSSAI representatives, for providing recommendations on approval of claims in this segment and to address any issues regarding registration, licensing, certification, laboratory accreditation, testing or quality of Ayurveda Aahara products.

The regulations also specify the list of additives permitted in Ayurveda Aahara. The norms also state that vitamins, minerals and amino acids cannot be added to such products.

However, manufacturers will need to make a declaration on the label regarding naturally present vitamins and minerals in the products.

"The food business operator shall provide information on the purity criteria adopted for ingredients at the time of licensing and any subsequent changes," the regulations added.

FSSAI has clarified that Ayurvedic drugs or medicines listed under Schedule E-1 of the Drug and Cosmetics Act, 1940, and the Drug and Cosmetics Rules do not fall under the Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022.

- **Ayush Ministry and FSSAI have prepared regulations for food products under the Ayurveda Aahara category. The regulations are related to safety and quality standards for food products under the Ayurveda Aahara category.**
- **The regulations will ensure the manufacturing of quality Ayurveda food products.**
- **Food Safety and Standards (Ayurveda Aahara) Regulations, 2022 rules will be applied to the manufacturing and marketing of Ayurveda Aahara products.**



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- Only after the license and approval from the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Ayurveda Aahara products will be available in the market.
- A special logo has been created for the “Ayurveda Aahara” category.
- Ayurvedic medicines and medicinal products, cosmetics, narcotic or psychotropic substances, and herbs will not be included in ‘Ayurveda Aahara’.
- Ayurveda Aahara is not suggested for children under the age of two.

29. Recently in May The Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones and has paved the way for gas-powered plants to be set up at \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Hyderabad
- B. Andaman**
- C. Pune
- D. Noida

## Andaman to get gas-based power plant

Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to laws governing regulation of coastal zones

**JACOB KOSHY**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Environment Ministry has approved an exemption to the laws governing the regulation of coastal zones and has paved the way for gas-powered plants to be set up on the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches.

**Enabling provision**

In the aftermath of a proposal from the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority (ANCZMA), an expert body of the

Ministry of Environment and Forests, called the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA), recommended in August 2021 that it was necessary to provide an “enabling provision in the ICRZ notification” to meet the energy requirement of the islanders while reducing the dependence on highly polluting energy sources such as conventional diesel generator (DG) sets.

The NCZMA has recommended that gas-based power plants be permitted within the Island Coastal Regulation Zone area only on islands with geographical areas greater than 100 sq. km.



Andaman administration has sought dual-fuel power plants. \*AFP

The Central government, following this, invited comments from the public on modifications to the ICZR, and on May 5, issued a notification

accepting the National Coastal Zone Management Authority recommendation.

The Andaman and Nicobar administration is expected to commission a 50-MW power project running on liquefied natural gas at Hope Town, Port Blair, to be developed by the National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).

Following visits by the NTPC personnel, a dual-fuel power plant that runs on both diesel and LNG is expected to be commissioned.

**Back-up clause**

Diesel is necessary, the Andaman administration authorities argued, as a back-up

fuel when the region faced inclement weather.

There has been an increased interest in the development of the Andaman region following a policy push by the NITI Aayog.

A proposed project plans to develop the Greater Andaman region or the southernmost stretch of the island group.

Proposals include a 22-sq.km airport complex, a transshipment port (TSP) at South Bay at an estimated cost of ₹12,000 crore, a parallel-to-the-coast mass rapid transport system and a free trade zone and warehousing complex on the southwestern coast.

- The Island Coastal Zone Regulation (ICRZ), 2019, limits infrastructure development on vulnerable coastal stretches.
- In the aftermath of a proposal from the Andaman and Nicobar Coastal Zone Management Authority (ANCZMA), an expert body of the Ministry called the National Coastal Zone Management Authority (NCZMA), recommended in August 2021
- The NCZMA has recommended that gas-based power plants be permitted within the Island Coastal Regulation Zone area only in islands with geographical areas greater than 100 sq. km.

30. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ state government announced a Breakfast scheme to eradicate nutrition deficiency, and establishment of schools of excellence.

- A. Odisha

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- B. Tamil Nadu**
- C. Uttar Pradesh**
- D. Rajasthan**

On the occasion of the DMK government of Chief Minister M. K. Stalin stepping into its second year, the State was richer with five new development schemes

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**ONE YEAR AS TAMIL NADU CM**

**Stalin announces breakfast scheme for govt school kids**

**ARUN JANARDHANAN**  
CHENNAI, MAY 7

TAMIL NADU Chief Minister MK Stalin on Saturday announced five new schemes including a breakfast scheme for all government school children in the state.

Speaking in the Assembly, on completion of one year as chief minister, Stalin said his government had fulfilled 60 to 70 per cent of the promises DMK had made in its poll manifesto. He also coined a new word — Dravida Model — for his governance plan.

Among other announcements he made were a special nutritional scheme for children below the age of six years, based on a public health study by the government on alarming trends of malnourished children in the state; Delhi-model schools of excellence; and



Tamil Nadu CMMK Stalin in Chennai on Saturday. PTI

708 urban public health centres at a cost of Rs 180 crore.

"There was a government study that showed that many children who start early were skipping breakfast," Stalin said. "They mostly miss breakfast not only for

the distance they have to travel but also for the misery and difficulties at home. So, we are launching this scheme, for students up to Class 5, in a selected number of schools in corporations, municipalities and rural areas, before implementing it statewide."

Similarly, referring to studies of unhealthy, underweight children in the state, Stalin said the nutritional scheme being announced by his government is to ensure the health of children below the age of six, and to "ensure all children in Tamil Nadu are not malnourished".

The new schools of excellence programme, modelled on a similar project by the Delhi government, will be implemented in all corporations in the state at a cost of Rs 150 crore to modernise the infrastructure and invent a new learning environment for

students. The 708 urban medical centres being set up in 21 corporations and 63 municipalities at Rs 180 crore will function with full staff strength, including doctors, nurses and other health staff, between 8 am and 11 am, and 4 pm and 8 pm.

The government also allocated Rs 1,000 crore to set up a scheme which Stalin said would directly monitor the collection of grievances from all constituencies. "Let it be the people from my constituency, Kolathur, or Opposition leader's Edappadi or O Panneerselvam's Bodi; we will be there to address their grievances," he said. "I am not Kalaighar (his father, late M Karunanidhi). I cannot speak like Kalaighar. I cannot write like him. But I had taken the pledge that I will work hard like him," he added.

Mr. Stalin made the announcements in the Assembly. The schemes are a free morning breakfast scheme for government school students, a scheme to eradicate nutrition deficiency, the establishment of schools of excellence and primary health centers in urban areas, and the expansion of 'CM in Your Constituency', a public grievances redress system, to all 234 constituencies.

**Govt targets to reduce 50% road accident deaths by 2024: Gadkari**

The government has set a target to reduce 50 per cent road accident deaths by 2024, Union Minister Nitin Gadkari said. He also stressed the sensitisation of stakeholders for collectively addressing issues regarding road safety. Addressing an event on Monday, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister said that road safety is a very serious issue and there should be zero tolerance for road accidents.

PTI

31. Recently in May, The government has set a target to reduce 50 percent of road accident deaths by

- A. 2024**
- B. 2025**
- C. 2023**
- D. 2030**



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- *The government has set a target to reduce **50 percent of road accident deaths by 2024**,*
- *Addressing an event, the Union Road Transport and Highways Minister said that road safety is a very serious issue and there should be zero tolerance for road accidents.*

32. Recently Union Home Minister Amit Shah inaugurated The '**National Cyber Forensic Laboratory' (NCFL)** at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) campus in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Hyderabad**
- B. Pune
- C. Mumbai
- D. New Delhi

*. National Cyber Forensic Laboratory inaugurated at the CFSL campus in Hyderabad. The 'National Cyber Forensic Laboratory' (NCFL) has been inaugurated at the Central Forensic Science Laboratory (CFSL) campus in Hyderabad by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.*

*In Telangana's Thukuguda municipality in the Tukuguda area, the Home Minister addressed "Praja Sangram Yatra" (Phase-2).*

*On the occasion of Dr. BR Ambedkar Jayanti, the second part of the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP) 'Praja Sangrama Yatra' began in April 2022.*

*The first phase of the Yatra was conducted for 36 days in August 2021 covering 19 assembly constituencies in eight districts.*

*Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Hyderabad was established in 1967 and it is one of the six Central Forensic Science Laboratories in India.*

33. Consider the following statement regarding the "**GatiShakti Sanchar**" Portal.

1. "**GatiShakti Sanchar**" Portal has been **launched to streamline the process of Right of Way (RoW) applications and permissions.**
2. This portal has been **launched to achieve the "Broadband for All" goal envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy-2.**
3. The portal has **been developed by MP State Electronics Development Corporation**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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



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*Department of Telecommunication launched the “GatiShakti Sanchar” Portal. “GatiShakti Sanchar” Portal has been launched to streamline the process of Right of Way (RoW) applications and permissions.*

*This portal has been launched to achieve the “Broadband for All” goal envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy-2. The Portal will help in achieving the objective of “Ease of doing business” for telecommunications infrastructure works. Applicants from various Telecom Service providers (TSPs) and Infrastructure providers (IPs) can now apply for Right of Way (RoW) through this single platform.*

*Timely disposal of RoW applications will enable quick infrastructure creation which will also help in the timely launch of 5G networks. The portal has been developed by MP State Electronics Development Corporation.*

**LEGAL BACKING FOR RIGHT OF WAY BY DEC, SAYS VAISHNAW**

# Infra for 5G rollout: GatiShakti Sanchar for RoW nod launched

**ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 14

UNION MINISTER Ashwini Vaishnaw on Saturday said that legal backing for right of way (RoW) for telecom infrastructure projects will be put in place by December this year, as he launched the GatiShakti Sanchar portal that aims to accelerate approvals for laying of fibre and tower installations, ahead of the 5G roll-out in the country.

The GatiShakti Sanchar portal will enable centralised right of way (RoW) approvals for telecom infrastructure projects and can be used by industry players to apply for RoW approvals, including for 5G services.

The portal has been adopted by all central ministries, state governments and union territories, the Telecom Minister said.

He added that the current process for RoW approvals is handled administratively and giving it a legal backing would help officials at the local levels to approve RoW requests quicker, bring clarity on the fee structure



**Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw (centre) launches the ‘GatiShakti Sanchar’ portal for centralised right of way approvals, on Saturday, New Delhi. PTI**

and fix accountability.

Vaishnaw also said that the portal has already brought down the time taken for such approvals from nearly 100 days to around 22, and legal backing would further bring that time down to close to a week.

“The timely disposal of RoW applications of various service and infrastructure providers shall enable speedy infrastructure creation which would be an enabler for timely rollout of 5G networks,” Vaishnaw said. The integration of the portal with the

Geographic Information System (GIS) will also give state governments and various agencies added visibility into the optical fibre mesh and digital networks that are in place, he further said.

The launch of the portal comes on the heels of the draft policy guidelines to bring consistency in RoW-related procedures across states that were released in April. The Department of Telecommunications (DoT), in the draft, has proposed a methodology for calculating RoW area, establishment of

poles for the deployment of small cells, and usage of street furniture for the deployment of small cells, among other things.

The Centre also plans to link various other portals handled by railways, highways, and waterways, among others to the GatiShakti Sanchar portal,

“Work has already started on interlinking these portals and it should be completed in the next 3-4 months,” Vaishnaw said.

The portal, built by the Madhya Pradesh State Electronics Development Corporation, includes a dashboard for tracking applications, and has already received more than 50,000 RoW applications, out of which around 28,000 have been approved.

The industry has welcomed the portal. “The GatiShakti Sanchar portal is an important step towards making a robust mechanism to achieve the goal of ‘Broadband for All’, as envisaged in the National Digital Communication Policy, 2018,” said SP Kochhar, director general, Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI).



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**34. Rakhigarhi archaeological site recently seen in news is located in which of the following state?**

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Bihar
- C. Gujarat
- D. Haryana**

*DNA samples collected from two human skeletons unearthed at a necropolis of a Harappan-era city site in Haryana have been sent for scientific examination, the outcome of which might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.*

*Seven mounds scattered around two villages (Rakhi Khas and Rakhi Shahpur) in Hisar district are part of the Rakhigarhi archaeological site.*

*RGR 7 is a cemetery site of the Harappan period when this was a well-organised city*



The excavation site at Rakhigarhi where 60 skeletons were found by the Archaeological Survey of India. •PTI

## Rakhigarhi skeletons' DNA samples sent for analysis

Many artefacts found at Harappa site

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
RAKHIGARHI**

DNA samples collected from two human skeletons unearthed at a necropolis of a Harappan-era city site in Haryana have been sent for scientific examination, the outcome of which might tell about the ancestry and food habits of people who lived in the Rakhigarhi region thousands of years ago.

The skeletons of two women were found a couple of months ago at mound number 7 (named RGR 7 by the Archaeological Survey of India or ASI), believed to be nearly 5,000 years old. Pots and other artefacts were also found buried next to them in a pit, part of the funerary rituals back in the Harappan Civilisation era, ASI officials said.

"Seven mounds scattered around two villages (Rakhi Khas and Rakhi Shahpur) in Hisar district are part of the Rakhigarhi archaeological

site. RGR 7 is a cemetery site of the Harappan period when this was a well-organised city. The two skeletons were unearthed about two months ago by our team. And DNA samples were collected by experts about two weeks ago," Joint Director-General, ASI, S.K. Manjul said.

At present RGR 1, RGR 3 and RGR 7 have been taken up for investigation.

Dr. Manjul, who is leading the excavation team at the Rakhigarhi site since it commenced on February 24, 2022, said the DNA analysis will help answer a lot of questions, anthropological or otherwise. The samples will be first examined by the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences, Lucknow for preliminary investigation and scientific comparison, before being sent further for forensic analysis from an anthropological perspective, he said.

**35. Recently India's National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), and UAE establishing Skill India International Centre in \_\_\_\_\_ .**

- A. Pune
- B. Varanasi**
- C. Kolkata
- D. Mumbai

*India and UAE signed MoU for establishing Skill India International Centre in Varanasi. The MoU has been signed between India's National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Hindustan Ports Private Limited, and UAE's DP World. Skill India International Centre will provide skills to Indian youth for getting employment opportunities in logistics, port operations and allied sectors.*

*Training will be provided as per the demand of international employers in countries like the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Canada, Australia, etc. This centre will have a wide network of organisations and overseas recruiters.*

*Foreign language training, placement and immigration and post-placement support like services will be provided by the Skill India International Centres. India and UAE leaders also discussed the recognition of certificates issued by Indian Skilling Centres in the UAE.*

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36. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first state to notify the restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS).
- A. Rajasthan
  - B. Punjab
  - C. Chhattisgarh
  - D. Uttar Pradesh

*Chhattisgarh has become the first state to notify the restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS).*

*The Chhattisgarh government has sent a detailed proposal to Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). The Old pension scheme will be effective from April 1, 2022. The 10% monthly contribution deduction from government employees' salaries as a contribution to the new pension scheme will be abolished from April 1, 2022.*

*However, a minimum of 12 per cent of the basic salary will be deducted as per the General Provident Fund rule. The old pension scheme provided a pension equal to 50% of the employee's salary. National Pension System (NPS), was introduced for Central Government employees in 2003.*

37. Consider the following statement regarding **National Education Policy (NEP)**.
1. NEP 2020 focuses on **five pillars: Affordability, Accessibility, Quality, Equity, and Accountability – to ensure continual learning.**
  2. This is the **1st such education policy since India's independence.**

*Which of the following statement is correct?*

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

*The new National Education Policy (NEP) gives more freedom of choice for skill development to the students of vocational courses with its multidisciplinary approach and gives due weightage to all types of skills, All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE) chairman said recently.*

*The NEP 2020, outlines the vision of India's new education system.*

*NEP 2020 focuses on five pillars: Affordability, Accessibility, Quality, Equity, and Accountability – to ensure continual learning.*

*The new policy replaces the previous National Policy on Education, 1986 and forms a comprehensive framework to transform both elementary and higher education in India by 2040.*

*This is the 3rd such education policy since India's independence. The earlier two were launched in 1968 & 1986.*

*The revised policy expands the age group of mandatory schooling from 6-14 years to 3-18 years. This new system will include 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre-schooling.*



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38. Recently Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, and Dairying inaugurated Mobile Veterinary Units (VMAs) in \_\_\_\_\_ to provide veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep based on the phone calls received at the Call Centre from the farmers.
- A. Maharashtra
  - B. Karnataka**
  - C. Tamil Nadu
  - D. Odisha

*Union Minister for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying inaugurated Mobile Veterinary Units (MVUs) in Karnataka to provide veterinary services at the farmer's doorstep based on the phone calls received at the Call Centre from the farmers.*

*Establishment & Strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals & Dispensaries – Mobile Veterinary Units (ESVHD-MVUs)*

*The component "ESVHFD-MVU" under Central Sector Scheme "Livestock Health & Disease Control" provides veterinary health services at farmers' door-steps through Mobile Veterinary Units.*

*The services are to be operated through Call Centers in the State/UTs, the farmers in case of any emergency will make call to these call centers and after prioritizing the emergencies, the services for diagnosis and treatment will be provided by a team of Veterinarian & Para-veterinarian in these Mobile Veterinary Units.*

39. Consider the following statement regarding **National Highway**
1. The Indian government is aiming to increase its infrastructure spending and as part of that, it plans to build **18,000 km of highways across the country in the 2022-23 financial year,**
  2. Government is aiming to build a **50 km highway every day in this financial year.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

## **Nitin Gadkari commits to construct 18,000 km of NHs in 2022-23**

**New Delhi:** Union minister for road, transport and highways, Nitin Gadkari has committed to expanding the National Highways (NH) network across the country with the aim of constructing 18,000 km of NHs in 2022-23 at a record speed of 50 km per day. The minister said that the target is to fulfil the ambitions of New India.

**SWATI LUTHRA**

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*The Indian government is aiming to increase its infrastructure spending and as part of that, it plans to build 18,000 km of highways across the country in the 2022-23 financial year, said Minister for Road, Transport and Highway Nitin Gadkari. He also said that the government is aiming to build a 50 km highway every day in this financial year. He also said that the government aims to complete building a two lakh km national highway network by 2025.*

*This plan has been revealed after India's national highway construction slowed down to 28.64 km a day in 2021-22 due to the Covid-19 pandemic-related disruptions and a longer-than-usual monsoon in some parts of the country. Back in the financial year 2020-21, the pace of national highway construction in the country had touched a record 37 km per day.*

*The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), which oversees the national highway construction across India, awarded projects for a total length of 6,306 km in the last financial year, while it was able to construct 4,325 km of highways*

40. Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated to the nation the prestigious gas-based urea manufacturing plant of \_\_\_\_\_ at the end of this month.
- A. IIFCO
  - B. RFCL**
  - C. BPCL
  - D. Vedanta

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to dedicate to the nation the prestigious gas-based urea manufacturing plant of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) at Ramagundam this month-end.*

*The RFCL is a joint venture between National Fertilizers Limited, Engineers India Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India, which operated the unit until it stopped production on March 31, 1999.*

*By a 2015 revival package, the plant was commissioned with an investment of ₹6,180 crore.*

*It was targeted to complete the works by 2018 but quite a few deadlines were jumped since.*

41. Consider the following statement regarding the *State of the World's Birds*.
1. The *State of the World's Birds*, an annual review of environmental resources was published on May 5, 2022, by the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU)
  2. The review found that 5,245 or about 48% of the existing bird species worldwide were known or suspected to be undergoing population decline.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2



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**C. Both 1 & 2**

**D. None of the above**

*The State of the World's Birds, an annual review of environmental resources was published on May 5, 2022.*

**Humans eat 14% of the world's surviving species of birds. However, this is not the only reason why 48% of the extant bird species are undergoing population decline, a study led by the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) says. The report has attributed the threat to almost half of the 10,994 recognised extant species of birds to the expanding human footprint on the natural world and climate change.**

**The use of 37% of the surviving bird species as common or exotic pets and 14% as food are examples of direct overexploitation.**

**The review found that 5,245 or about 48% of the existing bird species worldwide were known or suspected to be undergoing population decline.**

## Modi to dedicate RFCL unit at Ramagundam

Date of event to be confirmed soon

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
HYDERABAD**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to dedicate to the nation the prestigious gas-based urea manufacturing plant of Ramagundam Fertilizers and Chemicals Limited (RFCL) at Ramagundam this month-end.

The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers had indicated to the RFCL management to be prepared for the big event on May 25 or 26 but the date will be confirmed on May 10. Meanwhile, the security agencies have already started their preparatory work, sources said. The commercial operations at the plant to produce 2,200 tonnes of ammonia per day and 3,850 tonnes of urea per day had already started in March last year after a gap of 22 years.



The RFCL plant, during trial production, in Telangana's Ramagundam.

The RFCL is a joint venture between National Fertilizers Limited, Engineers India Limited and Fertilizer Corporation of India, which operated the unit until it stopped production on March 31, 1999. By a 2015 revival package, the plant was commissioned with an investment of ₹6,180 crore.

It was targeted to complete the works by 2018 but quite a few deadlines were jumped since.

## Future looms dark for 48% of bird species

Study points to increased human footprint

**RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI**

Humans eat 14% of the world's surviving species of birds. However, this is not the only reason why 48% of the extant bird species are undergoing population decline, a study by nine renowned avian experts and conservationists has revealed.

*The State of the World's Birds*, an annual review of environmental resources published on May 5, has attributed the threat to almost half of the 10,994 recognised extant species of birds to the expanding human footprint on the natural world and climate change.

The degradation and loss of natural habitats as well as direct overexploitation of many species are the key threats to avian biodiversity, the study led by the Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU) says.

The use of 37% of the surviving bird species as common or exotic pets and 14% as food are examples of direct overexploitation, the report indicates.

The review found that 5,245 or about 48% of the existing bird species worldwide were known or suspected to be undergoing population decline. While 4,295 or 39% of the species had stable trends, about 7% or 778 species had increasing population trends. The trend of 37 species was unknown.

The study underlines bird-watching as a form of avian conservation but warns of "local negative impacts" of bird feeding valued at \$5 billion-\$6 billion a year. It reviewed changes in avian biodiversity using data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List



Over 5,200 bird species are facing decline in numbers. •K. K. MUSTAFAH

to reveal the changes in fortunes of all the global bird species.

The caution is for some non-provisioned species via trophic cascades, an "ecological phenomenon triggered by the addition or removal of top predators and involving reciprocal changes in the relative populations of predator and prey through a food chain, which often results in dramatic changes in ecosystem structure and nutrient cycling". "Avian diversity peaks globally in the tropics and it is there that we also find the highest richness of threatened species. We know a lot less about the fortunes of tropical bird species than we do about temperate ones, but we are now witnessing the first signs of a new wave of extinctions of continentally-distributed bird species, which has followed the historic loss of species on islands like the dodo," said MMU's Alexander Lees, the lead author of the study.

The study that involved scientists from MMU, Cornell University, Birdlife International, the University of Johannesburg, Pontifical Xavierian University and the India-based Nature Conservation Foundation reviewed changes in avian biodiversity using data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List.



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42. Consider the following statement regarding **Cruise tourism**.

1. Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways inaugurated **the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022 in Mumbai**.
2. The 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference has been **jointly organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, the Government of India, and FICCI**.
3. **New International Cruise terminal coming up in Mumbai at BPX-Indira Dock, which is expected to be commissioned by July 2024**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

**Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways inaugurated the 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference 2022 in Mumbai.**

**The 1st Incredible India International Cruise Conference has been jointly organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India and FICCI.**

**Government has set up a Task Force headed by the Secretary, Tourism and Secretary, Shipping for development of cruise tourism.**

**The Minister announced the setting up of a high level Advisory Committee, comprising national and international experts, to help the Task Force in creating an enabling eco-system for development of cruise tourism in the country.**

**‘Four theme based coastal destination circuits such as Gujarat Pilgrimage tours, West Coast – Cultural and scenic tours, South Coast – Ayurvedic wellness tours and East Coast – Heritage tourism have been developed to activate cruise demand.**

**India aims to increase cruise passenger traffic from 0.4 million at present to 4 million. Economic potential of Cruise tourism is expected to go up from USD 110 mn to USD 5.5 bn in the years to come.**

**Upgradation and modernisation are being carried out at seven major ports in the country including the flagship New International Cruise terminal coming up in Mumbai at BPX-Indira Dock, which is expected to be commissioned by July 2024.**

43. Recently in May **A first of its kind, Bird Festival** is going to be organized in \_\_\_\_\_ to promote sustainable ecotourism and give impetus to nature-based alternative sources of livelihood to the local people.

- A. **Jammu & Kashmir**
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Uttar Pradesh

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**D. Madhya Pradesh**

*A first of its kind, Bird Festival in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir is going to be organized soon to promote sustainable ecotourism and give impetus to nature based alternative sources of livelihood to the local people.*

*The Secretary, Tourism & Culture Jammu and Kashmir, Sarmad Hafeez said that the festival is tentatively being planned to be held in Pahalgam and Dachigaam areas.*

*He said that besides the bird watching sessions, awareness camps and conservation drives, it would have pre festival bird watching trails for more than a month all across Jammu and Kashmir.*

**International / Report News**

44. Consider the following statement regarding according to the report by the **Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health**.

1. The overall pollution death toll has dropped **from an estimated 2.5 million in 2015 to 2.35 million in 2019.**
2. In India, the **biggest killer pollutant is air, estimated to have killed 1.6 million in 2019.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

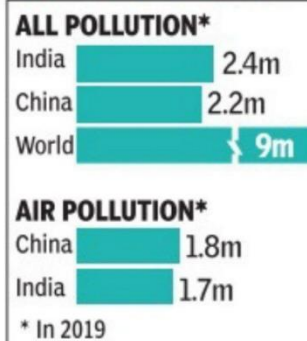
- The **Lancet analysis** showed that **nine million deaths across the world occurred due to air, water, and occupation-related pollution in 2019.**
- The **Lancet report, while ranking countries on this rate, has placed India at 16th place with 169.5 deaths per lakh population.**
- **On the bright side for India, the overall pollution death tally has dropped from an estimated 2.5 million in 2015 to 2.35 million in 2019.**
- **Air pollution remains the main killer at 74%**
- **The latest Lancet report shows deaths in China increased from 1.8 million in 2015 to 2.17 million in 2019.**

## ‘At 2.4m in 2019, India led world in pollution deaths’

New Delhi: Pollution led to nearly 2.4 million (24 lakh) premature deaths in India in 2019, accounting for over a fourth of the nine million such fatalities worldwide, an update to The Lancet Commission on Pollution and Health published in The Lancet Planetary Health said, reports **Sushmi Dey**. Economic losses from modern forms of pollution — including ambient air and toxic chemical — now amount to at least 1% of the country’s GDP, it added.

While ambient air pollution alone may have led to nearly 1.7 million deaths in India in 2019, fatalities attributed to the traditional sources

### HIGHEST TOLLS



of pollution — household air, and water — have steadily dropped to less than half of the number in 2000.

► ‘Content hub’, P 15



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- In India, the biggest killer pollutant is air, estimated to have killed 1.6 million in 2019, water pollution killed 0.5 million while occupational pollution-related deaths were 0.16 million deaths, and lead exposure possibly killed 0.23 million Indians.*

45. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ became the first Asian nation to join NATO's cyber defense group, according to the country's National Intelligence Service (NIS).

- A. India
- B. South Korea**
- C. Japan
- D. Nepal

*South Korea became the first Asian nation to join NATO's cyber defense group, according to the country's National Intelligence Service (NIS).*

*The NIS was formally admitted into the NATO Cooperative Cyber Defense Center of Excellence (CCDCOE) based in Tallinn, Estonia,*

*With Seoul's admission, the number of the group members has now risen to 32, including 27 NATO members.*

*It "will represent South Korea in the center's training and research activities."*

*NATO established the CCDCOE in 2008 in response to an alleged Russian cyberattack that "crippled" Estonia's state networks.*

46. Consider the following statement regarding *Financial Secrecy Index (FSI-2022)* released by Tax Justice Network (TJN)

1. The *United States of America (USA)* has climbed from the second rank held by it two years ago to the top of the list of countries.
2. *India* is ranked 36 among the 141 countries in this index.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

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*The United States of America (USA) has climbed from the second rank held by it two years ago to top the list of countries in the Financial Secrecy Index (FSI-2022).*

*Switzerland, occupies second position to be followed by Singapore.*

*As per the previous index - FSI-2020, the top three positions were held by Cayman Islands, USA and Switzerland.*

*At first glance, the biggest surprise is that Cayman Island which had ranked first in the FSI-2020 and is no longer in the list of the top ten countries, a spot routinely occupied by it.*

*India is ranked 36 among the 141 countries in this index and neighbouring China is at eleventh position.*

*Tax Justice Network (TJN), an independent international network which pushes for transparency, in its bi-annual FSI grades each country's financial and legal system with a secrecy score.*

## US tops financial secrecy index, India at 36th spot

Lubna.Kably@timesgroup.com

The US has climbed from the second rank held by it two years ago to top the list of countries in the Financial Secrecy Index (FSI- 2022), which was released on Tuesday. According to Tax Justice Network, which issues the bi-annual index, the US dramatically expanded the gulf between itself and the rest of the world by enabling the biggest supply of financial secrecy ever recorded by the index — nearly twice as much as Switzerland, which currently occupies second spot to be followed by Singapore.

According to TJN, an estimated \$10 trillion is held offshore beyond the rule of law by wealthy individuals through secretive arrangements. TJN is calling on the G7 to commit to a global asset register to ensure accountability. Countries such as US, Singapore, Japan, Ge-

rmany and UAE that figure among the top 10 (and are perceived as actively promoting secrecy in global finance) are also among the top 10 FDI source countries for India. India is ranked 36 among the 141 nations in this index and neighbouring China is at eleventh position.

As per the previous index FSI-2020, the top three spots were held by Cayman Islands, US and Switzerland. Cayman Island, which had ranked first in the FSI-2020, is no longer in the list of the top ten countries. The reason is that the size of the financial services provided by a country to non-residents also impacts ranking and for the first time Cayman Island disclosed data that showed the true scale of these services. This was much lower than previously estimated, resulting in it now ranking 14.

47. Consider the following statement regarding **Seoul Forest Declaration**.

1. The **15th World Forestry Congress concluded in Seoul and the Seoul Forest Declaration was adopted**
2. The **Declaration was signed by 141 participant countries.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- On May 13, 2022, the **15th World Forestry Congress concluded in Seoul and the Seoul Forest Declaration was adopted.**
- The 15th edition of this event **was hosted by the South Korean government in Seoul.**
- The Declaration was **signed by 141 participant countries**



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- **World Forestry Congress** It is held every six years. This year's event, hosted by the Republic of Korea and co-organized with FAO, was the second congress held in Asia.
- **Indonesia hosted the first Congress in Asia in 1978.** Congress has been providing a forum for inclusive discussion on the key challenges and way forward for the forestry sector.
- **The theme for 2022: Building a green, healthy and resilient.**
- **This is an investment in sustainable development and in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.**

48. Consider the following statement regarding the Indian Council for Medical Research on the 'Burden of cancers in India.

1. The number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2021.
2. Mizoram, Delhi, and Meghalaya had the highest cancer and the most vulnerable demographic.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

The number of Indians suffering from cancer is projected to increase to 29.8 million in 2025 from 26.7 million in 2021

Mizoram, Delhi and Meghalaya had the highest cancer DALYs and the most vulnerable demographic are people in the 65–69-year age group,

According to a report by the Indian Council for Medical Research on the 'Burden of cancers in India', seven cancers accounted for more than 40% of the total disease burden: lung (10.6%), breast (10.5%), oesophagus (5.8%), mouth (5.7%), stomach (5.2%), liver (4.6%) and cervix uteri (4.3%).

49. Recently in May, The United Nations General Assembly elected the Czech Republic as a member of the Human Rights Council. The Czech Republic will replace \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. India
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. Russia
- D. Ukraine

- The United Nations General Assembly elected the Czech Republic as a member of the Human Rights Council.

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- The **Czech Republic will replace Russia**, which was suspended from the U.N. Human Rights Council after it invaded Ukraine.
- It has received 157 votes in its favor in United Nations General Assembly. The Czech Republic will complete the term left by Russia.
- The Human Rights Council will soon have a special session on Ukraine after reviewing the situation in Kyiv.
- The Czech Republic was the only candidate for the seat on the 47-member Human Rights Council.

50. Consider the following statement regarding UK India Industry Taskforce.

1. It has been formed by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as part of a memorandum of understanding
2. UK India Industry Taskforce is a joint commission to give a push to the UK-India Free Trade

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

A new UK India Industry Taskforce has been launched to increase collaboration between India and the United Kingdom.

UK India Industry Taskforce is a joint commission to give a push to the UK-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA).

It has been formed by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) as part of a memorandum of understanding.

The joint commission has been designed to reduce the barriers for market access and to support firms in exporting products.

The collaboration between CII and CBI will cover joint efforts in different fields such as advancing technology, digitalization, climate change and sustainability, and multilateral collaboration.

The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) said that reducing tariffs on green exports will open new opportunities for companies in India.

Confederation of Indian Industry (CII): It was established in 1895 as a non-governmental trade association.

51. Recently Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed an MoU with \_\_\_\_\_ for strategic partnership in agriculture, crop insurance and credit.

- A. Asian Development Bank



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- B. *International Monetary Fund*
- C. ***United Nations Development Programme***
- D. *World Bank*

*Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has signed an MoU with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The MoU is for strategic partnership in Agriculture, Crop Insurance and Credit.*

*Under the MoU, UNDP will provide technical support for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Kisan Credit Card – Modified Interest Subvention Scheme (KCC-MISS).*

*CEO-PMFBY Ritesh Chauhan and UNDP Resident Representative Shoko Noda signed MoU in presence of Union Minister of Agriculture Narendra Singh Tomar.*

**52. Consider the following statement regarding International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on climate change and food systems.**

- 1. The number of Indians at risk from hunger in 2030 is expected to be 73.9 million in 2030 due to climate change,**
- 2. These projections are part of an IMPACT model**
- 3. It was developed with inputs from scientists from the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR)**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

**India's food production could drop 16% and the number of those at risk for hunger could increase 23% by 2030 due to climate change, says a report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) on climate change and food systems.**

**These projections are part of a IMPACT model that was used to evaluate the impact of climate change on aggregate food production, food consumption (kilocalories per person per day), net trade of major food commodity groups, and the population at risk of going hungry.**

**IMPACT, as the model is called, simulates national and international agricultural markets.**

**It was developed with inputs from scientists from the Consortium of International Agricultural Research Centers (CGIAR) and other leading global economic modelling efforts.**

**The number of Indians at risk from hunger in 2030 is expected to be 73.9 million in 2030 and, if the effects of climate change were to be factored in, it would increase to 90.6 million. The aggregate food production index will, under similar conditions, drop from 1.6 to 1.5.**

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**Banking / Economy News**

53. Recently **Volopay**, corporate cards, and payable management fintech firm has signed a partnership with \_\_\_\_\_ to be part of the **Fintech Fast Track Program** which will significantly expand Volopay's offering of financial management solutions in the Australian market.

- A. Mastercard
- B. Visa**
- C. Rupay
- D. NPCI

- **Volopay**, a corporate cards and payable management fintech firm backed by Y-Combinator, announced it has signed a partnership with **Visa** to be part of **Visa's Fintech Fast Track Program** which will significantly expand Volopay's offering of financial management solutions in the Australian market.
- **Visa's Fintech Fast Track Program** enables Volopay to issue Visa cards to its customers in Australia, making it the only fintech company in the country with the ability to do this, and this offers a one-of-a-kind for Australian businesses.

54. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ announced the launch of an end-to-end Digital Platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process.

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

- Public sector banks **Bank of Baroda** announced the launch of an end-to-end Digital Platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs.
- The platform will provide seamless integration between the Bank and multiple NBFC partners to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process.

between 36 months to 60 months will offer a cumulative return of 7%. Senior citizens will get up to 0.25% higher rates.

**PNB increases fixed deposit interest rates**

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (PNB) has increased interest rates on term deposits in selected buckets up to 60 basis points. The new FD rates are applicable on deposits up to ₹10 crore. Under Single Domestic Term Deposits of ₹2 crore- ₹10 crore (Callable), maturity bucket of 30 days to 45 days will undergo a hike of 60 basis points; for maturity bucket of 271 days to < 1 year, there is 50 bps rate hike. Under single domestic term deposits of less than ₹2 crore, the rate hike is 10 - 20 bps.

**BANKING**  
**Co-lending platform from Bank of Baroda**

BANK OF BARODA HAS launched an end-to-end digital platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with mul-

multiple non-banking financial companies (NBFC). It will provide seamless integration between the bank and multiple NBFC partners to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process. The platform uses rule-based algorithms for underwriting, enables credit assessment checks, enables retail, MSME, agri co-lending product offerings and increases process efficiency.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**  
**Volopay, Visa partners for fintech solutions**

VOLOPAY HAS PARTNERED with Visa's Fintech Fast Track Programme to offer financial management solutions. The partnership will allow Volopay to start issuing its own Visa cards to its customers in the APAC market. The partnership is not just a licence to issue Visa cards but a gateway for Volopay into a thriving financial ecosystem. The switch from being a card distributor to an issuer allows the company to graduate upwards, with regard to the quality and range of services it offers.



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- The digital co-lending platform has state-of-the-art capabilities to handle both the option 1 (Non-Discretionary) and option 2 (Discretionary) models of co-lending for secured as well as unsecured products as per the latest RBI guidelines on the co-lending model,
- e Bank is targeting to partner with at least 10 NBFCs and also to build an Rs.10,000 crore co-lending loan book through the digital platform in the next two years."

55. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ is set to launch India's first-ever mental health insurance cover in its group policies.

- A. Axa France
- B. Bharti Axa General Life Insurance
- C. HDFC Ergo
- D. Axis Securities

- AXA France India, with its Indian insurance partners, is set to launch India's first-ever mental health insurance cover in its group policies, said a person aware of the development.
- The mental health insurance would provide Rs 25,000 for consultation with therapists, psychologists, and life coaches, among others through virtual mode, and up to Rs 1 lakh for hospitalization.

- The cover would also provide free mental health assessment tests as recommended by the World Health Organisation (WHO).

# India's 1st standalone mental health insurance cover soon

### Axa to provide ₹25,000 for consultation, up to ₹1 lakh for hospitalisation

NIKUNJ OHRI & SOHINI DAS  
New Delhi/Mumbai, 16 May

AXA France India, with insurance partners in India, is set to launch the country's first ever mental health insurance cover in its group policies, said a person aware of the development. This is the first standalone mental health cover in the country.

Mental health insurance will provide ₹25,000 for consultation with therapists, psychologists, life coaches, among others in virtual mode, and up to ₹1 lakh for hospitalisation. The cover will also provide free mental health assessment tests as recommended by WHO. This comes amid rising awareness about mental health in India and the number of cases increasing after the pandemic

## PNB MetLife launches India's 1st dental health insurance plan

PNB MetLife India Insurance Co on Monday launched a dental health insurance plan. This is the first insurance plan in India that covers fixed-benefit outpatient expenses and provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health, the company said in a statement.

came.

The policy will provide coverage for consultation, therapy medicines, and hospitalisation, and is expected to be available from July 1, said the person quoted above. This will be a first-of-its-kind policy focusing on mental health, said Rajesh Dalmia, partner, EY India. The demand for such a product would pick up slowly with rising awareness on mental health issues, Dalmia said.

Such a policy can be made

compulsory for employer-employee groups and a limited exposure would make it more feasible and adequately priced, he said. It would also help in curbing fraud due to there being an unclear definition of mental health, Dalmia added.

Last week, AXA, along with the Manas Foundation, launched a fully funded, free-of-cost, 24 by 7 mental health helpline to provide free mental health support and consultations from counsellors and psy-

chologists. The recently released National Family Health Survey shows 0.1 per cent of the urban households and 0.2 per cent of the rural households in India have mental disabilities. However, it is estimated around 99 per cent of retail insurance policies do not cover mental health as illness cover.

Experts like Prathap C Reddy, founder and chairman of Apollo Hospitals, have pointed out non-communicable diseases are the biggest threat to the world. Clinicians welcomed having mental health coverage in health insurance policies. "It's important that all stakeholders play their part and in this insurance providers have a very important role," said Dr Samir Parikh, director, Mental Health and Behavioural Sciences, Fortis Healthcare.

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56. Recently *Worldline, payment services*, has partnered with \_\_\_\_\_ to digitize several kinds of citizen-centric services, fines, and tax collections for Panvel City Municipal Corporation (PMC).
- A. Indian Bank
  - B. Bank Of India**
  - C. Canara Bank
  - D. Bank Of Maharashtra

*Worldline, payment services, has partnered with Bank of India (BOI) to digitise several kinds of citizen-centric services, fines and tax collections for Panvel City Municipal Corporation (PMC).*

*With this development, citizens of PMC can make payments via credit and debit cards towards services like birth/death registration certificates, marriage registration certificates, assessment fee, transfer fee, license fee, NOC, electricity meter license, and daily charges among others.*

57. Recently *Assam Rifles*, \_\_\_\_\_ Bank, and *National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO)* have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness, to secure a better future for the youth of Nagaland.
- A. State Bank Of India
  - B. Axis Bank**
  - C. ICICI Bank
  - D. Punjab National Bank

*Assam Rifles, Axis Bank and National Integrity and Educational Development Organisation (NIEDO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a Centre of Excellence and Wellness, to secure a better future for the youth of Nagaland.*

*“The center named ‘Late Capt N Kenguruse, MVC Centre of Excellence and Wellness’ will be located at Chieswema in the outskirts of Kohima*

*It is expected to be fully functional for the first batch of 30 students by the first week of July 2022.*

58. RBI has imposed a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on *Abhyudaya Co-op Bank* for non-compliance with its directions on the Placement of Deposits with Other Banks.
- A. Rs 90 lakh crore
  - B. Rs 93 lakh crore
  - C. Rs 58 lakh crore**
  - D. Rs 50 lakh crore

- RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 58 lakh crore on Abhyudaya Co-op Bank. RBI has imposed a penalty for non-compliance with its directions on the Placement of Deposits with Other Banks.**



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- The non-compliance with RBI's directions on Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism of Frauds is another reason for imposing of fine.
- As per the RBI, Abhyudaya Co-op Bank reported fraud with a delay of 942 days.
- It also failed to classify certain loan amounts as NPAs in line with Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning, and Other Related Matters (IRAC norms).
- **Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank is an urban multi-state Cooperative based in Mumbai.**

59. Recently In May \_\_\_\_\_ has entered into an agreement with **Aarunya** to onboard women artisans, weavers, and handicraft makers through **Flipkart Samarth**.

- A. Snapdeal
- B. Amazon
- C. Reliance
- D. Flipkart**

**Flipkart has entered into an agreement with Aarunya. The e-commerce company has entered into agreement to onboard women artisans, weavers, and handicraft makers.**

**The Flipkart will help them promote their products all over India on its platform. It will guide them through Flipkart Samarth. Narayanpet district, Telangana is known for its handlooms and handicrafts, and Aarunya is the brand name for it.**

**Aarunya began with 10 women during the COVID-19 pandemic. It was started to help local women sell their specialised products.**

**Aarunya is now a campaign to train women on Kalamkari and Black paintings. It has received funding from NABARD for training sessions.**

60. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has launched 30-minute 'Xpress Car Loans' for its customers that will avail of this facility for loans up to Rs 20 lakh.

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

## RBI slaps ₹58-lakh fine on Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Monday said it has imposed a penalty of ₹58 lakh on Abhyudaya Co-operative Bank, Mumbai, for non-compliance with several directions, including NPA-related norms. The fine has been imposed for non-compliance of the directions issued by RBI on 'Placement of Deposits with other banks,' 'Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism of Frauds,' 'Income Recognition, Asset Classification, Provisioning and Other Related Matters (IRAC norms)' and 'Management of Advances'.

## BoB launches digital co-lending platform



BANK OF BARODA on Monday launched an end-to-end digital platform to facilitate co-lending of loans in partnership with NBFCs. The platform provides integration between the bank and multiple non-bank financial company partners to strengthen, accelerate and simplify the co-lending process, it said.

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- **HDFC Bank has launched 30-minute 'Xpress Car Loans'.** As per the bank, 20-30% of its customers will avail of this facility for loans up to Rs 20 lakh.
- The bank has integrated its lending application with automobile dealers all over India.
- The loan facility will be available across all the bank's branches, and dealerships.
- It will eventually be available on third-party aggregator platforms.
- **HDFC Bank Limited is headquartered in Mumbai. HDFC Bank is India's largest private sector bank. It was founded in 1994. The CEO of HDFC Bank is Sashidhar Jagdish.**

61. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has launched a digital broking solution, E-Broking in association with the technology partner Fisdom.
- A. Axis Bank
  - B. HDFC Bank
  - C. Indian Bank**
  - D. Union Bank Of India

**Indian Bank has launched a digital broking solution, E-Broking. The bank has launched E-Broking in association with the technology partner Fisdom.**

**E-Broking allows the customers to open demat and trading account.**

**It is an instant and paperless demat and trade account opening facility.**

**It is integrated with IndOASIS, the mobile banking application of Indian Bank**

**It was founded in 1907. Its headquarters are in Chennai. Shanti Lal Jain is its MD & CEO. From 1 April 2020, Allahabad bank has been merged with Indian Bank.**

62. Recently in May which of the following refineries has won the IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality Award 2021 in the Manufacturing Category?
- A. IOC Paradip Refinery
  - B. ONGC Mangalore Refinery
  - C. Reliance Jamnagar Refinery
  - D. BPCL Kochi Refinery**



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**BPCL Kochi Refinery has won IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality Award – 2021. BPCL Kochi Refinery won the award in the Manufacturing Category.**

**IMC Ramakrishna Bajaj National Quality Award (RBNQA) was started by IMC Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Mumbai, in 1996.**

**It gives special recognition to performance excellence in Indian organizations.**

**BPCL Kochi Refinery is located in Kochi, Kerala. In terms of production capacity, it is largest public sector refinery in India.**

**63. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ launched online platform for export-import transactions named Trade nxt to enables corporates and MSMEs to carry out all cross-border export-import transactions.**

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Indian Bank
- C. Union Bank Of India**
- D. Bank Of Baroda

- **Union Bank of India launched an online platform for export-import transactions.**
- **The platform is named Trade nxt. It enables corporates and MSMEs to carry out all cross-border export-import transactions.**
- **It offers seamless processing of letters of credit, bank guarantees, and export and import bills.**
- **It also offers a disbursement of export credit, outward & inward remittances, dealer financing, etc.**
- **Union Bank of India was founded in 1919. Its CEO is Rajkiran Rai G. It is headquartered in Mumbai. It is a government-owned bank.**

**64. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has signed an MoU with British bank Santander UK to collaborate on the banking requirements of UK corporates operating in India.**

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. ICICI Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. HDFC Bank

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*ICICI Bank and British bank Santander UK have signed an MoU. ICICI Bank has signed an MoU to collaborate for the banking requirements of UK corporates operating in India. ICICI Bank will offer banking solutions to the UK corporates operating in India.*

*It will also offer retail banking, supply chain, treasury solutions to the UK corporates operating in India. Santander UK will help Indian corporates for their requirements in UK.*

*ICICI Bank (ICICI Bank Limited) is a private sector bank. Girish Chandra Chaturvedi is the Chairman of its board of directors. Its MD & CEO is Sandeep Bakhshi.*

**65. Recently in May, The CCI approves the acquisition of \_\_\_\_\_ of Magma HDI by Sanoti Properties LLP.**

- A. 49.15 %**
- B. 20.5 %**
- C. 55.39%**
- D. 74.58 %**

CCI approves acquisition by Sanoti Properties LLP of shareholding in Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited

Posted On: 19 MAY 2022 11:54AM by PIB Delhi

The CCI approves acquisition by Sanoti Properties LLP (Sanoti/Acquirer) of shareholding in Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited (Magma HDI/Target) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002

The proposed combination is acquisition of 55.39% of the total equity share capital of Magma HDI by Sanoti, by way of a proposed subscription of certain equity shares of the Target along with a proposed simultaneous acquisition of certain equity shares of the Target held by Poonawalla Fincorp Limited and Serum Institute of India Private Limited.

Sanoti is engaged in the business of development of commercial and residential real estate projects.

Magma HDI is engaged in the business of general / non-life insurance in India and offers a complete range of general / non-life insurance products.

- The CCI approves the acquisition by Sanofi Properties LLP (Sanoti/Acquirer) of shareholding in Magma HDI General Insurance Company Limited (Magma HDI/Target) under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002**
- The proposed combination is the acquisition of 55.39% of the total equity share capital of Magma HDI by Sanoti, by way of a proposed subscription of certain equity shares of the Target along with a proposed simultaneous acquisition of certain equity shares of the Target held by Poonawalla Fincorp Limited and Serum Institute of India Private Limited.**
- Sanoti is engaged in the business of the development of commercial and residential real estate projects.**
- Magma HDI is engaged in the business of general / non-life insurance in India and offers a complete range of general / non-life insurance products.**

**66. Consider the following statement regarding Permanent Account Number (PAN).**



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1. PAN will be required for *withdrawal or deposit of ₹20 lakh or more from one or more bank accounts in a financial year.*
2. It will apply to account(s) with a *commercial bank, co-operative bank, or with the post office. The rules will be applicable from May 26, 2022.*
3. It is a *Twelve -digit alphanumeric number issued by the Income Tax Department.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **PAN will be required for withdrawal or deposit of ₹20 lakh or more from one or more bank accounts in a financial year. This norm will also apply to opening a current account.**
- **It will apply to account(s) with a commercial bank, co-operative bank, or with the post office. The rules will be applicable from May 26, 2022.**

## PAN must for cash withdrawal, deposit of ₹20 lakh or more a year

### OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 11

Customers will need to quote their Permanent Account Number for depositing or withdrawing ₹20 lakh in cash from one or more bank accounts in a financial year and for opening a current account.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes has notified amendments in the Income Tax Rules, 1962, prescribing new transactions for quoting PAN. According to the notification, transactions include deposit/withdrawal of cash amounting to ₹20 lakh or more in a financial year through one or more bank accounts including with commercial bank, co-operative bank or



with the post office and for opening a current account or cash credit account. Anita Basrur, Partner (Direct Tax), Sudit K Parekh & Co LLP, says in Budget 2020, the government had introduced tax deducted at source on cash withdrawal in excess of ₹ 20 lakh. In addition to the above, the government has now come up with the re-

quirement of PAN in specified transactions. Further, "the PAN or Aadhaar number along with demographic information or biometric information of an individual need to be submitted to the tax authorities by the banks," she said.

### Clarification required

According to Aakanksha Goel, Direct Tax Partner with T R Chadha & Co LLP, said "Since the rules are applicable from May 26, 2022, clarification is required from CBDT as to whether the transactions concluded prior to May 26, 2022, shall be considered for computing the aggregate value of ₹ 20 lakh for this financial year," she said.

- **The amendments in the Income Tax Rules, 1962 have been notified by the Central Board of Indirect Taxes (CBDT).**
- **In Budget 2020, TDS (Tax Deducted at Source) on cash withdrawal over ₹20 lakh was introduced by the government.**
- **Section 139A of the Income Tax Act deals with persons or transactions who should apply for and quote PAN.**
- **It is a ten-digit alphanumeric number issued by the Income Tax Department.**
- **As per provisions of Section 272B of the Income Tax Act 1961, a penalty of ₹10,000 can be levied on possession of more than one PAN.**

67. Recently in May Annual Conference of Chief Commissioners of Customs & CGST named \_\_\_\_\_ was held at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu. to discuss key challenges facing the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).

- A. SATHAK

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- B. SANKALP
- C. SIDDHANT
- D. SAMRIDDHI

*Annual conference of Chief Commissioners of Customs & CGST held at Mahabalipuram, Tamil Nadu.*

*The two day conference was named SANKALP. The conference was held to discuss key challenges facing the Central Board of Indirect Taxes & Customs (CBIC).*

*In his inaugural address, Revenue Secretary Tarun Bajaj complimented all the officers of CBIC.*

*Vivek Johri, Chairman of CBIC highlighted the achievements of CBIC during the year 2021-22.*

68. Recently in May **Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL)** has partnered with \_\_\_\_\_ and digital payment firm **Phi Commerce** to facilitate a one-stop omnichannel payment solution at **Kempegowda International Airport**.
- A. **Kotak Mahindra Bank**
  - B. Axis Bank
  - C. ICICI Bank
  - D. RBL Bank
- **Bangalore International Airport Ltd (BIAL)** has partnered with **Kotak Mahindra Bank** and digital payment firm **Phi Commerce** to facilitate a one-stop omnichannel payment solution at **Kempegowda International Airport**. Designed specifically for the airport, the solution will enable a secure, scalable, and unified payment experience. It will power **B2B and B2C payments across channels**
  - The new payment experience will bring all online, in-store, and cash transactions taking place across the airport ecosystem into one single platform
69. Recently **IIFL Home Finance** in association with the **Asian Development Bank** will promote green affordable housing in **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana**, aiming at home loans worth **Rs 7,200 crore** by \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 2030
  - B. **2025**
  - C. 2024
  - D. 2023



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*IIFL Home Finance in association with the Asian Development Bank will further promote green affordable housing in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana, aiming at home loans worth Rs 7,200 crore by 2025.*

*The company said with a total disbursement of Rs 2,448 crore in these two states, it benefitted over 17,000 households as on March 31, 2022.*

*The digital-first home finance company organised the 9th chapter of its flagship event Kutumb; 'Andhra Pradesh & Telangana - Urgent need for green affordable housing' -- the 3rd event in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB).*

*Kutumb is a knowledge ecosystem conceptualised by IIFL Home Finance to promote green affordable housing in India for better understanding of green design, rating and financing options available.*

**70. Recently Shri Rane also launched the second phase of the MSME RuPAY Credit Card with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and four banks, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, SBM Bank (India), and**

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. State Bank Of India
  - B. HDFC Bank**
  - C. RBL Bank
  - D. DBS Bank

- *Union Minister for MSME Shri Narayan Rane has called upon the field officers to achieve the targets of growth of MSME in their respective areas within the stipulated period. Addressing the National conference of MSME-Development Institutes, Testing Centres, and Technology*
- *At the conference, Shri Rane also launched the second phase of the MSME RuPAY Credit Card with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) and four banks, viz. Kotak Mahindra Bank, Bank of Baroda, SBM Bank (India) and HDFC Bank. This card will provide a simplified payment mechanism for MSMEs to meet their business-related operational expenses.*

**71. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has launched a financial literacy campaign 'InspiHE₹- enabling an empowered future'– a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women and enable them to make informed financial decisions for a secured future.**

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

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*Bharti AXA Life Insurance has launched a financial literacy campaign ‘InspiHER– enabling an empowered future’– a special initiative to spread financial awareness among women and enable them to make informed financial decisions for a secured future.*

*Observing International Mother’s Day and ahead of the International Day of Families, the company has embarked upon this initiative to empower women, especially mothers by teaching them the basics of financial planning and savings to secure their future.*

72. Consider the following statement regarding the **L&T arm LTI merger with Mindtree**.

1. Merged entity to be **called LTIMindtree**
2. **L&T will hold 68.73 % of the merged entity**
3. **L&T merges LTI with Mindtree to create 5th largest IT firm**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Larsen & Toubro Infotech (LTI) and Mindtree announced a merger intending to create India's next large-scale IT services player.**
- **"The boards of directors of Mindtree and LTI at their respective meetings approved a composite scheme of amalgamation of both these independently listed IT services companies under the Larsen & Toubro Group,**
- **The proposed integration will see Mindtree and LTI join strengths to create an efficient and scaled-up IT services provider exceeding \$3.5 billion.**
- **The new shares of LTI will be traded on both BSE and NSE. Besides, Larsen & Toubro Limited will hold 68.73 percent of LTI after the merger**
- **Till the merger is complete, both Mindtree and LTI will continue to operate independently.**
- **"The name of the combined entity will be 'LTIMindtree' leveraging the advantages of both the brands and creating**

## L&T merges LTI with Mindtree to create fifth largest IT firm

The merged entity will be able to bag large orders

**DEBANGANA GHOSH**

Mumbai, May 6

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) has decided to merge its IT services companies – Infotech (LTI) and Mindtree – to create the fifth largest IT services company by market capitalisation in the country.

The combined entity, to be called LTIMindtree, will be headed by Mindtree's current Managing Director and CEO Debashis Chatterjee. LTI's CEO and MD Sanjay Jalona has decided to move on for "personal reasons".

The size of the combined entity exceeds \$3.5 billion in revenue. LTI has a market capitalisation of ₹1.03-lakh crore, and Mindtree of ₹65,285 crore. The merged entity will have 81,719 employees. L&T will hold 68.73 per cent of LTI after the merger. The company is also setting up an independent integration committee and the merger is expected to be closed in 11-12 months.

"Upon the scheme becoming effective, all shareholders of Mindtree will be issued shares of LTI in the ratio of 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree. The new shares of LTI so issued will be traded on the NSE and the BSE," the company said.

"The transaction is subject to shareholder and regulatory

**New kid on the block**

- Merged entity to be called LTIMindtree
  - L&T will hold 68.73% in the merged entity
  - The combined revenue of LTIMindtree will be \$3.5 billion
  - The merged entity will have 81,719 employees; no layoffs planned
  - Mindtree shareholders will get 73 shares of LTI for every 100 shares of Mindtree

approval. This merger will help unlock greater value for all stakeholders. Both the companies have shown better performance than other mid-tier companies. Going forward, the merged entities will have scale and resources to take on bigger challenges and deliver," AM Naik, Group Chairman, L&T, said addressing the media.

### No layoffs for now

Naik said that the workforce in the two companies will continue to function as is, given the very limited overlap of products and clients. "The respective leadership knows what they are strong at. Almost 90 per cent of the businesses both the companies do not overlap," he said.

As of now no lay-offs are expected, with Naik pointing out that having more talent is an advantage in a situation of growing demand.

### Unlocking mega deals

A key benefit of the merger is the size of the company, giving it the heft to bid for larger

deals. As of now, the average ticket size of LTI and Mindtree deals has been around \$25 million, barring a few in the \$50-million and \$100-million buckets. With the new scale and resources, the company hopes to land more large deals.

"We are confident that the proposed merger will help us build on the combined strengths of both these organisations to unlock synergies through scale, cross-vertical expertise, and talent pool. This will help us emerge as a partner of choice for large-scale tech transformations and create a distinctive employee value proposition," SN Subrahmanyam, CEO & MD, L&T, said.

"In the last one year, deal sizes for the companies have any way grown bigger. With the merged entity, synergy comes from volumes, and economies of scale... large business deals that today customers have been giving to only tier-I companies... our size now will help us get them," Naik said.



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- *L&T owns a little over 60% in Mindtree and a 74 per cent stake in L&T Infotech.*

73. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has announced that it has successfully commissioned its 90 MW solar power project in Assam, the largest in the state.

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

- *Renewable energy major Azure Power has announced that it has successfully commissioned its 90 MW solar power project in Assam, the largest in the state. The 90 MW of solar capacity is spread across four districts in Assam – Udalguri, Kamrup, Nagaon, and Cachar.*
- *Azure Power said that the solar power project was commissioned in phases. The final phase of 25 MW has been commissioned in Cachar. The power generated by the plant is being supplied to Assam Power Distribution Company Limited under a long-term 25-year power purchase agreement (PPA) at a tariff of Rs 3.34 per kWh.*
- *Pawan Kumar Agrawal, CFO, Azure Power*
- *In its budget for 2022-23, the Assam Government has allocated Rs 4,000 crore for setting up solar power plants under Mukhyamantri Sauro Shakti Prokolpo to enhance the clean energy generation in the state.*

74. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ became the first state in India to surpass 10 GW of cumulative large-scale solar installations, as per Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker.

- A. Odisha
- B. Gujarat
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Rajasthan

*Rajasthan became the first state in India to surpass 10 GW of cumulative large-scale solar installations, as per Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker. The state has a total of 32.5 GW of installed power capacity, with renewables contributing 55%, followed by thermal energy at 43%, and nuclear energy making up for the remaining 2%. According to Mercom's India Solar Project Tracker, Rajasthan has over 16 GW of solar projects under development. SECI-awarded projects amount to 11.6 GW, of which 6.2 GW are interstate transmission system (ISTS) projects. Installations increased despite several projects getting stranded due to the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) issue. State-owned THDC India recently signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) to build 10 GW solar power projects through a 74:36 joint venture with Rajasthan Renewable Energy Corporation Limited, entailing an investment of ₹100 billion (~\$1.33 billion).*

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75. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has delivered India's first semi high-speed regional train for National Capital Region Transport Corporation's (NCRTC) 82.5-kilometer Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS line.
- A. Alstom  
 B. BEML  
 C. HAL  
 D. BHEL

**Alstom was awarded the 436-million-euro (459.31m USD) contract to design, build and deliver 210 regional commuter and transit train cars, along with 15 year's maintenance services, in 2020.**

**The first train design, which was inspired by the Lotus Temple monument in Delhi, was unveiled in September 2020 and manufacturing began last July.**

**Built to travel at 180 kilometres an hour, the new trains are expected to decrease the journey time between Delhi and Meerut by 40%.**

**In line with the Indian Government's Make in India programme, they were designed at Alstom's Hyderabad engineering centre and manufactured in Savli, while the propulsion systems and electricals were manufactured at the company's factory in Maneja.**

76. Consider the following statement regarding the periodic labor force surveys by the National Statistical Office (NSO).

1. The unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above in urban areas slipped to 8.7 percent in October-December 2021 from 10.3 percent in the year-ago quarter

2. Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas also dipped to 8.3 percent in October-December 2021.

Which of the following statement is correct?

● FINDINGS OF PERIODIC LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

# Survey shows marginal let-up in urban joblessness in Dec quarter

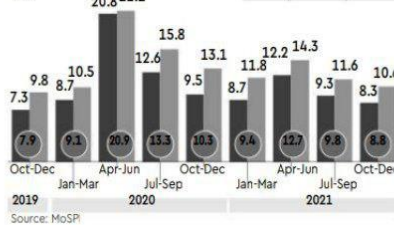
According to the latest PLFS report, female unemployment rate remained in double digits for 8 quarters in a row

SURYA SARATHI RAY  
New Delhi, May 7

**SIGNALING A MARGINAL** improvement in the job market, the urban unemployment rate fell below the pre-pandemic level for the first time in the October-December, 2021 period at 8.8%, according to the latest quarterly periodic labour force survey (PLFS) data released by the ministry of statistics and programme implementation (MoSPI).

In January-March quarter which immediately preceded the pandemic, the urban joblessness rate was 9.1%, but it jumped to 21.2% in the subse-

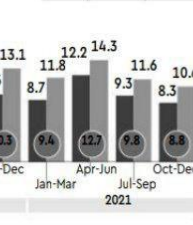
Urban unemployment rate for all age groups (%)



quent quarter which saw the first wave of the pandemic and the consequent nation-wide lockdown. The rate has since come down through the pace was not steady. The second Covid pace led to a temporary spike in the rate.

However, despite the fall in the urban unemployment rate in the October-December 2021, nine of the 21 states surveyed in the latest round of PLFS had double-digit unemployment rate in their urban areas. The highest rate was in Uttarak-

Male Female All



hand at 15.5%. In the July-September 2021 period, 11 states had double-digit unemployment rate in their urban areas.

Urban unemployment rate in the January-March quarter of the current year might have come down a bit further going by the findings of the Center for Monitoring of Indian Economy (CMIE). Though CMIE data is not strictly comparable with PLFS outcome, urban unemployment rate, according to CMIE, fell to 8.14% in January, 7.57% in February and 8.28% in

## NHFS survey shows marginal rise in women employment

ACCORDING TO THE National Family Health Survey (NFHS)-5 conducted from 2019-21, 32% of married girls and women aged 15-49 are employed. Among them, 83% earn cash, while 15% does not receive any payment.

The employment rate among women in this age group shows a marginal increase—to 32%—from 31% as recorded in NFHS-4.

The percentage of earning women has also increased by 3%, it said.

The latest NHFS survey has not seen a change in the percentage of employed men, while those that earn cash has increased from 91% to 95%.

In India, only 32% of married girls and women aged 15-49 are employed, compared to 98% of married men in the same age group.

Among working girls and women, 83% earn cash, including 8% who are compensated both in cash and in kind. Fifteen per cent of the employed women are not paid for their work, the survey stated.

— PTI

March compared with 7.37% in October, 8.2% in November and 9.3% in December.

The latest PLFS report, however, showed that female unemployment rate in urban areas remained in double digits for eight quarters through

October-December 2021. Incidentally, the rate was 10.5% in the pre-pandemic January-March, 2020 quarter. Unemployment rate for males, however, fell to 8.3% in the October-December 2021 quarter, the lowest in two years.



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

The unemployment rate for persons of 15 years and above in urban areas slipped to 8.7 per cent in October-December 2021 from 10.3 per cent in the year-ago quarter, showed a periodic labour force survey by the National Statistical Office (NSO). The unemployment rate for persons of age 15 years and above in July-September 2021 was 9.8 per cent in urban areas, the 13th Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) showed. Among males, the unemployment rate in urban areas also dipped to 8.3 per cent in October-December 2021

It was 9.3 per cent in July-September 2021.

NSO launched PLFS in April 2017. On the basis of PLFS, a quarterly bulletin is brought out giving estimates of labour force indicators namely unemployment rate, Worker Population Ratio (WPR), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR), distribution of workers by broad status in employment and industry of work in Current Weekly Status (CWS).

77. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has overtaken Apple as the world's most valuable company worth about \$2.43 trillion, compared with Apple's \$2.37 trillion.
- A. Microsoft
  - B. Saudi Aramco
  - C. Reliance Industries
  - D. Accenture
- Saudi Aramco has overtaken Apple as the world's most valuable company, underscoring the recent surge in oil prices that have boosted the energy giant this year.
  - Aramco is now worth about \$2.43 trillion, compared with Apple's \$2.37 trillion,
  - Earlier this year, Apple (AAPL) hit the \$3 trillion mark, becoming the first to do so and making it by far the most valuable company on the planet.
78. Recently India's merchandise exports surged 30.7 per cent to \_\_\_\_\_ billion in April .
- A. \$60.19 billion
  - B. \$40.19 billion
  - C. \$50.19 billion

## Saudi Aramco is world's most valuable stock



APPLE SHARES FELL on Thursday, with the stock now about 22% below its January peak as a selloff in technology stocks spreads from more speculative shares to the world's biggest companies. The stock fell as much as 3.3% to \$141.66. The slump has erased about \$696 billion in Apple's market value since the January 3 record, a slump that enabled Saudi Aramco — which has benefited from this year's surge in oil prices — to overtake the tech giant as the world's most valuable company.



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**D. \$20.19 billion**

- **India's merchandise exports surged 30.7 percent to \$40.19 billion in April on account of healthy performance by sectors like petroleum products, electronic goods, and chemicals, even as the trade deficit widened to \$20.11 billion during the month**
- **Imports during the month under review grew by 30.97 percent to \$60.3 billion.**

**79. Recently RBI said in a circular. Bank credit to NBFCs, including HFCs, for on-lending, will be allowed up to an overall limit of**

**\_\_\_\_\_ percent of an individual bank's total priority sector lending in the case of commercial banks.**

- A. 5 %**
- B. 10 %**
- C. 20%**
- D. 25%**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday permitted banks, including small finance banks, to continue providing credit facilities to NBFCs for on-lending to certain priority sectors. The facility of lending by commercial banks to NBFCs and lending by Small Finance Banks (SFBs) to NBFC-MFIs, for on-lending to certain priority sectors, was available till March 31, 2022.**

• **RBI said in a circular.**

- **Bank credit to NBFCs, including HFCs, for on-lending, will be allowed up to an overall limit of 5 percent of an individual bank's total priority sector lending in the case of commercial banks.**

**Exports rise 30.7% in April to over \$40 billion**

Trade deficit widens to \$20.11 billion as imports surge 30.97% to \$60.3 billion

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 13

Goods exports continued on the high growth track in April increasing 30.7 per cent (year-on-year) to \$40.19 billion driven by items such as petroleum products, electronics, cereals, processed food and leather products, per foreign trade data released by the Commerce & Industry Ministry.

Trade deficit during the month, however, widened to \$20.11 billion, an increase of 31.5 per cent, as goods imports shot up 30.97 per cent to \$60.30 billion. This was largely due to a sharp escalation in imports of petroleum products, coal, fertilisers and



In 2021-22, exports touched a record high of \$419.65 billion, growing 40 per cent over the previous fiscal year.

chemicals. Gold imports, on the other hand, fell sharply during the month compared to the same month last year.

**Services sector grows**

Services exports posted a growth of 53 per cent in April to \$27.60 billion, according to an estimation made by the Ministry that will be revised based on the RBI's subsequent

release of services sector data for the month.

"Starting the fiscal with such an impressive performance will further add to the motivation of the exporting community for much higher growth during the financial year," said FIEO President A Sakhivel. The benefits of the newly-signed FTAs and the PLI scheme will further help ex-

porters in building on the milestones achieved during the previous fiscal, he added.

**FTA pacts on cards**

India has just signed FTAs with the UAE and Australia and is negotiating similar pacts with the EU and the UK. "The high trade deficit is largely contributed by spike in oil prices, which alone has contributed additional \$10 billion to the trade deficit. The growth in services exports in April is remarkable, which will help the reduction in overall trade deficit," said Prahalathan Iyer, Chief General Manager, India Exim Bank.

In 2021-22, exports touched a record high of \$419.65 billion (growing over 40 per cent over the previous fiscal), as the world bounced back from the Covid-19 induced slowdown. Imports rose to \$611.89 billion, resulting in a trade deficit of \$192.24 billion.

**ON-LENDING TO PRIORITY SECTORS**

**Banks can provide credit to NBFCs on an ongoing basis: RBI**

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, May 13

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday said that banks can provide credit to non-banking finance companies for on-lending to certain priority sectors on an ongoing basis.

The facility of lending by commercial banks to NBFCs and lending by small finance banks (SFBs) to NBFC-MFIs, for the purpose of on-lending to certain priority sectors, was permitted up to March 31, 2022.

"To ensure continuation of the synergies that have been developed between banks and NBFCs in delivering credit to the specified priority sectors, it has been decided to allow the above facility on an on-going basis," the RBI said.

**The Finance Industry Development Council had recently requested the RBI to extend the facility for another one year until March 2023**

Bank credit to NBFCs (including housing finance companies) for on-lending will be allowed up to an overall limit of five per cent of an individual bank's total priority sector lending in case of commercial banks.

In case of SFBs, credit to NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs which are members of RBI recognised 'self-regulatory or-

ganisation' of the sector, will be allowed up to an overall limit of 10 per cent of an individual bank's total priority sector lending.

**Cap for SFBs**

SFBs are allowed to lend to registered NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs that have a 'gross loan portfolio' (GLP) of up to ₹500 crore as on March 31 of the previous financial year, for the purpose of on-lending to priority sector.

The Finance Industry Development Council, which is the representative body of assets and loan financing NBFCs, had recently also requested the RBI to extend the facility for another one year until March 2023.

## Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam Second Week of May (8<sup>th</sup> May –15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

- In the case of SFBs, credit to NBFC-MFIs (Non-Banking Financial Company - Micro Finance Institutions) and other MFIs (Societies, Trusts, etc) which are members of RBI recognized 'Self-Regulatory Organisation' of the sector, will be allowed up to an overall limit of 10 percent of an individual bank's total priority sector lending.
- According to the circular, SFBs are allowed to lend to registered NBFC-MFIs and other MFIs which have a Gross Loan Portfolio (GLP) of up to Rs 500 crore as of March 31 of the previous financial year, for on-lending to priority sectors.

80. Consider the following statement regarding **Intersolar Europe 2022**.

1. Shri Bhagwant Khuba attended the **Intersolar Europe 2022 held in Munich, Germany**. The Minister delivered a key note address at the investment promotion event on "India's Solar Energy Market".
2. India offers a great opportunity for investments in the RE sector; \$196.98 bn worth of projects are underway in India.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Union Minister of State for Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, Shri Bhagwant Khuba attended the **Intersolar Europe 2022 held in Munich, Germany**. The Minister delivered a key note address at the investment promotion event on "India's Solar Energy Market".

- Shri Bhagwant Khuba in his key note address said that 'As Hon'ble PM Modiji's ambitious Panchamrit targets set during COP-26 India is all set to achieve net-zero by 2070 and install 500GW

## Intersolar Europe 2022: India woos global investors for solar PV, green hydrogen projects

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 13

India is inviting global investments and expertise to expand its renewable energy sector including ramping up solar photovoltaic manufacturing and production of green hydrogen. The opportunities are spread across 493 projects totalling \$196.98 billion.

In this regard, the Minister of State for New and Renewable Energy Bhagwant Khuba attended the 'Intersolar Europe 2022' event, held at Munich, Germany, where he delivered the keynote address at an investment promotion programme – India's Solar Energy Market.



India's vast renewable energy resource potential and strong policy backing provide a strong foundation for achieving these goals, Khuba said.

### 'Great opportunity'

"India offers a great opportunity for investments. Currently, around \$196.98 billion worth of projects are underway in India. I once again invite all the

developed countries and major RE players to utilise the opportunity India is offering to the world," the Minister said.

He emphasised that India is committed to increase its domestic manufacturing potential of high-efficiency solar PV modules for which a total budget outlay of ₹24,000 crore is made.

### Green Hydrogen Mission

Besides, to promote green hydrogen economy India has an estimated outlay of ₹25,425 crore. Green Hydrogen Mission has an expected outcome of generating 4.1 million tonnes of annual production.

In April 2021, the government approved the national

programme on high efficiency solar PV modules to promote manufacturing of high efficiency solar PV modules, including the upstage vertical components like solar PV cells, wafers, ingots and polysilicon.

Letters of Award (LoAs) have been issued to three successful bidders for setting up about 9 gigawatt (GW) capacity of fully integrated solar PV module manufacturing units with initial allocation of ₹4,500 crore. An additional outlay of ₹19,500 crore was announced in the Budget 2022-23. This would create a solar manufacturing capacity of 50 GW in India within the next 4-5 years.



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*of non-fossil  
by 2030.*

- *The Minister also emphasized that India is committed to increasing domestic manufacturing of high-efficiency Solar PV modules for which a total budget outlay of Rs. 24,000 Cr is made*
- *India has an estimated outlay of Rs. 25,425 Cr. The Green Hydrogen Mission has an expected outcome of generating 4.1 Million Tonnes of annual Green Hydrogen production.*
- *'Further India offers a great opportunity for investments. Currently, around \$196.98 bn worth of projects is underway in India.*

81. Consider the following statement regarding *frauds amount data of PSBs by the Reserve Bank of India.*

1. *Public sector banks reported over 51 percent dip in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 crore during the financial year ended March 2022,*
2. *The highest amount of Rs 9,528.95 crore was reported by the city-based Punjab National Bank (PNB), involving 431 such incidents.*

*Which of the following statement is correct?*

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

*Public sector banks reported over 51 per cent dip in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 crore during the financial year ended March 2022, the Reserve Bank of India has said.*

*The 12 PSBs (Public Sector Banks) had reported frauds worth Rs 81,921.54 crore in preceding fiscal 2020-21, the Reserve Bank has said in response to an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act.*

*However, the number of fraud cases didn't fall at the same pace as a total of 7,940 frauds reported by the PSBs in 2021-22, against 9,933 incidents reported in FY21*

*According to the RBI data on frauds reported by PSBs in all categories during FY22, the highest amount of Rs 9,528.95 crore was reported by the city-based Punjab National Bank (PNB), involving 431 such incidents.*

*The country's largest lender State Bank of India reported frauds worth Rs 6,932.37 crore in as many as 4,192 cases -- reflecting incidents of a large number of small value frauds.*

*Bank of India reported frauds worth Rs 5,923.99 crore (209 incidents), followed by Bank of Baroda at Rs 3,989.36 crore (280); Union Bank of India Rs 3,939 crore (627), while Canara Bank reported frauds worth Rs 3,230.18 crore in just 90 cases -- showing that the transactions were of high value frauds.*



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82. Consider the following statement regarding the *Forbes Global 2000 list*.

1. Billionaire *Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd* climbed two spots to No. 53 on *Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide*.
2. *Berkshire Hathaway* took the No. 1 spot for the first time since *Forbes* started publishing the *Global 2000* in 2003, dethroning the *Industrial and Commercial Bank of China*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

*Billionaire Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Industries Ltd* climbed two spots to No. 53 on *Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide*.

*Forbes Global 2000* ranks the largest companies in the world using four metrics: sales, profits, assets and market value, *Forbes* said releasing the 2022 ranking of the world's top 2,000 companies.

*Reliance* is the top-ranked Indian firm on the list, followed by *State Bank of India* at No. 105, *HDFC Bank* at No. 153 and *ICICI Bank* at No. 204.

Other top 10 Indian firms on the list include state-owned *Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)* at 228 rank, *Housing Development Finance Corporation Ltd (HDFC)* at No. 268, *Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)* at No.357, *Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS)* at No. 384, *Tata Steel* at No. 407 and *Axis Bank* at No. 431.

*Oil-to-telecom-to-retail conglomerate Reliance*, which recorded sales of USD 104.6 billion between April 2021 and March 2022, became the first Indian company to generate over USD 100 billion in annual revenue.

*Berkshire Hathaway* took the No. 1 spot for the first time since *Forbes* started publishing the *Global 2000* in 2003, dethroning the *Industrial and Commercial Bank of China*, which dropped to No. 2 after nine consecutive years at the top of the list. *Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco)* took the 3 Spot.

83. Consider the following statement regarding *the world's highest-paid athlete, according to the annual Forbes which is not among the top 3?*

1. *Lionel Messi*
2. *Lebron James*
3. *Cristiano Ronaldo*
4. *Roger Federer*

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*Lionel Messi was the world's highest-paid athlete over the last year, according to the annual Forbes list released on Wednesday that had the Paris Saint-Germain forward ahead of the NBA's LeBron James and Manchester United's Cristiano Ronaldo.*

*Messi earned \$130 million, a figure which includes \$55 million of endorsements, during the 12-month period ending May 1, 2022, to sit atop the list of the 10 highest-paid athletes a year after finishing second to Irish MMA fighter Conor McGregor.*

*Los Angeles Lakers forward James was next on the list after bringing home a combined \$121 million, shattering the \$96.5 million record for an NBA player that he set last year, while Portugal captain Ronaldo earned \$115 million to sit third.*

84. Recently **United Arab Emirates-based telecoms company 'e&'** has bought a \_\_\_\_\_ stake in **Vodafone** for **\$4.4 billion**.
- A. 5.4 %
  - B. 8.5 %
  - C. 9.8 %
  - D. 2.4 %

*Emirates Telecommunications Group Company PJSC "e&" (Etisalat Group) on Saturday announced the acquisition of approximately 2,766 million shares in Vodafone Group Plc aggregating to \$4.4 billion.*

*The shares represent 9.8% of Vodafone's issued share capital. The transaction is in line with e&'s ambition to be a global player in telecom and technology and to increase its exposure to international markets.*

*The Emirati-based multinational telecom services provider's expects the investment in the United Kingdom headquartered Vodafone to gain significant exposure to a world leader in connectivity and digital services*

85. Recently In May **World Bank** sanctioned \_\_\_\_\_ billion to **Gujarat** under the project **implementation of Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G)** to improve the health facilities and services,
- A. USD 200 billion
  - B. USD 150 billion
  - C. USD 350 billion
  - D. USD 250 billion

*The World Bank delegation called upon Gujarat Health Minister Hrishikesh Patel to discuss the implementation of Systems Reform Endeavours for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G) and sanctioned USD 350 billion to the state under the project to improve the health facilities and services,*

*Under the SRESTHA-Gujarat project, the government will undertake the initiative to improve the quality of the health system of the state by expanding the health services to the rural and urban people and strengthening the epidemic prevention system of the state. "The five-year total cost of the project will be around USD 500 billion which is approximately Rs 3,750 crore. Of this, USD 350 billion which is approximately Rs 2,625 crore, will be provided by the World Bank. While Gujarat will spend Rs 1125 crore in five years.*

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86. Consider the following statement regarding Sebi's new rules to strengthen the regulatory framework for CIS.
1. The regulator has mandated a minimum of 20 investors and a subscription amount of at least Rs 20 crore for each Collective Investment Scheme (CIS).
  2. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended CIS regulations. The rules, first notified in 1999, have not been reviewed since then.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

To strengthen the regulatory framework for collective investment schemes, markets regulator Sebi has enhanced the net worth criteria and track record requirements for entities managing such schemes.

the regulator has mandated a minimum of 20 investors and a subscription amount of at least Rs 20 crore for each Collective Investment Scheme (CIS)

Currently, CIS rules do not mandate minimum number of investors, maximum holding of a single investor or minimum subscription amount.

In addition, the regulator has put a cap on cross-shareholding in Collective Investment Management Company (CIMC) to 10 per cent to avoid conflict of interest .

To give this effect, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) has amended CIS regulations. The rules, first notified in 1999, have not been reviewed since then.

However, the scheme may be kept open for subscription for a maximum of another 15 days subject to issuance of a public notice by the CIMC before the expiry of initial 15 days. At present, the limit is for 90 days.

87. Recently NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery launched the National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP). In which year was NDAP conceived?
- A. 2019
  - B. 2018
  - C. 2017
  - D. 2020



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*NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman Suman Bery launched the National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) for public use. The main aim of this platform is to standardise data across government sources and provide flexible analytics.*

*Currently, government data available in the public domain is not standardized.*

*NDAP hosts foundational datasets of various government agencies and presents them coherently for analytics and visualization. At present, it has 203 datasets from 47 central government ministries and agencies.*

*National Data Analytics Platform (NDAP) was conceived in 2020.*

**88. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has partnered with SpiceJet to launch co-branded credit card .**

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

*SpiceJet and Axis Bank have launched co-branded credit card. The card is powered by Visa. It has two variants. They are SpiceJet Axis Bank Voyage and Voyage Black.*

*The credit cards were launched in the presence of Ajay Singh, CMD, SpiceJet and Amitabh Chaudhry, MD & CEO, Axis Bank. Cardholders would get exclusive SpiceClub membership.*

*Axis Bank is the third-largest private bank in India that is headquartered in Mumbai.*

**89. Recently Which of the following regional rural banks has won six national awards in different categories from PFRDA?**

- A. Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank
- B. Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank**
- C. Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank
- D. J&K Grameen Bank

*KVG Bank has won six national awards in different categories from PFRDA. It won the awards for its achievements under the enrolment of Atal Pension Yojana (APY).*

*Supratim Bandyopadhyay, Chairman of PFRDA, gave the awards to P Gopi Krishna, Chairman of KVGB in Chennai. The bank enrolled 58,603 Atal Pension Yojana accounts in FY22 against the target of 39,000.*

*Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) is a regional rural bank sponsored by Canara Bank. Atal Pension Yojana (APY): It was launched on 9 May 2015. It is administered by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA). It is open to all bank account holders in age group of 18 to 40 years. In this scheme, subscribers receive guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 1000 or Rs 2000 or Rs 3000 or Rs 4000 or Rs 5000 at the age of 60 years.*

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90. Recently in May at which of the following places *did Prasar Bharati and ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) recently sign an MOU on Cooperation in broadcasting?*

- A. Antananarivo
- B. Jakarta
- C. Copenhagen
- D. Ottawa

- Prasar Bharati and ORTM (Office de la Radio et de la Television) signed MOU.
- The mou is on cooperation and collaboration in broadcasting between Prasar Bharati and ORTM.
- It was signed in Madagascar's capital Antananarivo on 10 May 2022.
- Madagascar National Television (TVM) will broadcast programs of Prasar Bharati.
- They will both explore co-production opportunities and arrange training for TVM personnel in India.
- Prasar Bharati was formed in November 1997. It is headquartered in New Delhi. Its CEO is Shashi Shekhar Vempati.

91. Recently During the recently held meeting of the *Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila,* \_\_\_\_\_ *has been elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.*

- A. China
- B. India
- C. Nepal
- D. England

*During the recently held meeting of the Executive Board and General Assembly in Manila, India has been elected as the new Chair of the Association of Asian Election Authorities (AAEA) for 2022-2024.*

*The Election Commission of India's three-member delegation headed by Deputy Election Commissioner Nitesh Vyas attend the meeting. ECI has earlier served on the Executive Board of the AAEA as the Vice-Chair during 2011-13 and Chair during 2014-16.*

*Association of Asian Election Authorities: It was established in 1998. The main objective of the Association of Asian Election Authorities is to create a forum for sharing experiences and best practices among election authorities.*

*AAEA is also an Associate Member of the 118 member Association of World Election Bodies (A-WEB).*

92. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ bank-issued *USD 1.04 bn worth of bonds in China's interbank bond market with a maturity of three years.*

- A. BRICS Bank

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- B. World Bank
- C. Asian Development Bank
- D. Exim Bank

- **BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) has issued an RMB-denominated bond of 7 billion yuan (about USD 1.04 billion) in China's interbank bond market with a maturity of three years,**
- **Upon the completion of the issuance, the bank would have a cumulative total of 30 billion yuan bonds issued under its RMB bond programs in the China interbank bond market.**
- **Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB was established by the BRICS nations, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. The bank formally opened in July 2015.**

93. Recently in May which of the following **oil companies has signed a purchase agreement for upcoming ethanol plants?**

- A. Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
- B. Indian Oil Corporation Limited
- C. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
- D. **All of the above**

**Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited have signed a purchase agreement for upcoming ethanol plants.**

**A tripartite agreement has been signed among Oil Marketing Companies and Banks of the respective Ethanol Plant Projects.**

**State Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank signed this agreement with Oil Marketing Companies.**

**According to the agreement, ethanol produced by these dedicated ethanol plants will be sold to Oil Marketing Companies. They will mix it with petrol as per the government's ethanol-blended petrol programme. During the year 2021-22, India has achieved the target of 9.19% of ethanol blending.**

94. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ **becomes first Indian company to cross revenue of USD 100 billion in a year.**

- A. Airtel
- B. **Reliance**
- C. Flipkart
- D. Indian Oil Corporation

- **Reliance becomes the first Indian company to cross revenue of USD 100 billion in a year.**



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- The net profit of Reliance has increased to ₹ 16,203 crores in the quarter ended March 31, 2022.
- Reliance’s profit has increased due rise in broadband subscribers, and new energy investments are giving profits.
- The consolidated revenue of Reliance has risen by 35 percent year on year to ₹2.32 lakh crore.
- Reliance has invested more than USD 1 billion in acquiring assets and building capabilities of Reliance Retail.

95. Recently CPI-based retail inflation increased to \_\_\_\_\_ year high level of 7.79% in April 2022.

- A. 7
- B. 8**
- C. 9
- D. 6

## MARCH IIP SHOWS 1.9% GROWTH

# Retail inflation at 8-year high of 7.79% in April

High price levels of fuel, food items and household services contribute to surge

Glimmer of hope: Pulses, milk prices fall

**AANCHAL MAGAZINE**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 12

RETAIL INFLATION surged to a near 8-year high of 7.79 per cent in April, persisting above the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI’s) inflation target for the fourth straight month, data released by the National Statistical Office (NSO) showed Thursday.

High price levels of fuel and food items, especially of vegetables, spices and oils/fats, along with household services, contributed to the sharp rise in

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

EXPLAINED

**E** Why RBI may act

IN ANTICIPATION of the inflation print, the rupee slipped to a record low, while stocks plummeted 2 per cent amid concerns that runaway prices may force RBI to tighten rates more aggressively. There could be back-to-back rate hikes in the next MPC meet in June.

**EXPLAINED, PAGE 13**

**HARISH DAMODARAN & PARTHASARATHI BISWAS**  
NEW DELHI, PUNE, MAY 12

IS THE worst of food inflation – 8.38 per cent year-on-year in April – over? Some hope is provided by milk, which has the highest weight among food items in the consumer price index after cereals. And also pulses, besides the likes of onion and potato.

International prices of dairy commodities have fallen off a cliff  
**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

*CPI-based retail inflation increased to eight year high level of 7.79% in April 2022.*

*This is eight year high level of retail inflation since May 2014. In May 2014, retail inflation rate reached 8.33%.*

*In April 2022, the gross GST collections were recorded at all-time high level of ₹1.68-lakh crore.*

*In April 2022, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana and Haryana recorded double-digit rural retail inflation.*



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**Appointment News**

96. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has decided to step down as MD and CEO of the Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL).

- A. Kumar Manglam Birla
- B. Adhitya Birla
- C. Ajay Srinivasan
- D. PN Vasudevan

- Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL) Ajay Srinivasan has decided to step down as MD and CEO of the company as he had “expressed his desire to take on a new role within the group”.
- ABCL is the holding company for the financial services businesses of the Aditya Birla group.
- The board of Aditya Birla Capital recently appointed Vishakha Mulye as the next CEO of Aditya Birla Capital.

97. John Lee Ka-Chiu has been appointed as the next chief executive of which of the following country?

- A. Malaysia
- B. Singapore
- C. Hong Kong
- D. Japan

- John Lee Ka-Chiu will be Hong Kong’s next chief executive.
- John Lee will replace Carrie Lam. John Lee was the sole candidate for the 2022 Chief Executive Election of Hong Kong.
- John Lee is a former security minister. Lee resigned from his position to contest the election.
- Lee will assume office on 1 July, the 25th anniversary of Hong Kong’s handover to China from Britain.

**TO TAKE UP NEW ROLE WITHIN GROUP, SAYS CO**  
**Srinivasan quits as MD**  
**of Aditya Birla Capital**

**ENSE ECONOMIC BUREAU**  
 MUMBAI, MAY 16

ADITYA BIRLA Capital Ltd (ABCL) on Monday said Ajay Srinivasan has decided to step down as MD and CEO of the company as he had “expressed his desire to take on a new role within the group”.

According to a media report, serious allegations of corruption and mismanagement, including front-running and insider trading, have been levelled by a whistleblower against ABCL and Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC. In an exchange filing, ABCL said, “The company received a complaint in which certain allegations were made about Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC and its employees. As per the Aditya Birla group policy, an independent Committee was formed to investigate the allegations.”

“The committee did not find any merit in the allegations. There was no allegation whatsoever, made against Ajay Srinivasan, by the said employee,” a company spokesperson said.

“In so far as Srinivasan stepping down is concerned, it is clarified that he had expressed his desire to take on a new role within the group, after having served as chief executive for over 14 years,” the person said, adding, “A role is being crafted at the group level in consultation with him.”

“A story has appeared, this morning, based on insinuations of vested interests. These insinuations/ allegations are bereft of facts,” the company said. The board of ABCL recently appointed Vishakha Mulye as the next CEO. ABCL is the holding company



**Ajay Srinivasan has stepped down amid reported whistle-blower allegations of corruption.** via company

for the financial services businesses of the Aditya Birla group. Its overall AUM across asset management, life insurance and health insurance businesses grew 16 per cent on-year to Rs 3,72,423 crore as of December 2021.

On Monday, ABCL fell 5 per cent to Rs 95.05 while Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC dove 7.44 per cent to Rs 452.30 on the BSE.

ABCL further stated, “There have been no employee exits at Aditya Birla Capital and Aditya Birla Sun Life AMC, as a fallout of these malicious allegations. Girish Patil left the company to pursue better prospects outside the group. Vineet Maloo moved internally within Aditya Birla Group, in line with the group’s policy of career progression.”

“The reference in the article associating his new role with the AMC business is not correct and mischievous. Further, it is also not correct as mentioned in the article that Girish Patil is related to Mahesh Patil. Girish Patil and Mahesh Patil are not related to each other in any manner,” it added.

Full report on [www.indianexpress.com](http://www.indianexpress.com)

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98. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been named as the first Indian-origin woman to be appointed as an external member of the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee.

- A. Stutu Changle
- B. Anjali Pandey
- C. Swati Dhingra
- D. Madhulika Brar

## First Indian origin woman on BoE's monetary panel

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
 London, May 16

**LEADING UK-BASED** academic Dr Swati Dhingra has been named as the first Indian-origin woman to be appointed as an external member of the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee.

Dhingra is an associate professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) having specialisation in international economics and applied microeconomics.

Dhingra, who studied at the University of Delhi and got her Masters from the Delhi School of Economics, will join the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 9 for a three-year term. The Bank of England's independent MPC makes decisions about the operation of monetary policy of the UK. It comprises the governor of the Bank of England, its three deputy governors, one member of the bank with responsibility for monetary policy and four external members who are



UK-based academic  
 Dr Swati Dhingra

appointed by the chancellor.

UK chancellor of the exchequer Rishi Sunak announced her appointment last week, describing her as someone who will bring "valuable new expertise" to the committee, which has the crucial task of setting the country's interest rates.

Dhingra will replace current external member Michael Saunders, who has been on the MPC since August 2016. "The work of the committee is of great importance as the UK faces an exceptional cost of living crisis amid the global challenges of the pandemic and the war," said Dhingra, with reference to her appointment.

## Beijing loyalist John Lee elected as Hong Kong's leader

He will replace current leader Carrie Lam on July 1

ASSOCIATED PRESS  
 HONG KONG

John Lee, a hard-line security chief who oversaw a crackdown on Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement, was elected as the city's next leader on Sunday in a vote cast by a largely pro-Beijing committee.

Mr. Lee was the only candidate and won with over 99% of the vote, in which nearly all 1,500 committee members were carefully vetted by the Central government in Beijing.

He will replace current leader Carrie Lam on July 1. Her five-term was marked by huge pro-democracy protests calling for her resignation, a security crackdown that has quashed virtually all dissent, the recent COVID-19 wave – events that have undermined Hong Kong's reputation as an international business hub with Western-style freedoms.

"I look forward to all of us



John Lee

starting a new chapter together, building a Hong Kong that is caring, open and vibrant, and a Hong Kong that is full of opportunities and harmony," Mr. Lee said in his victory speech.

The election followed major changes to Hong Kong's electoral laws last year to ensure that only "patriots" loyal to Beijing can hold office. The legislature was also reorganised to all but eliminate opposition voices.

The committee members voted in a secret ballot, and Mr. Lee's 1,416 votes were

the highest support ever for the city's top position.

Without opposition, Mr. Lee would likely have easier time governing Hong Kong compared to Ms. Lam, said Ivan Choy, a senior lecturer at the Chinese University of Hong Kong's Department of Government and Public Administration. "A major reason for easier governance is that the electoral system has changed. In the legislature and the election committee, there is almost no political opposition and the political spectrum is concentrated towards the pro-establishment camp," he said.

"With no democrats, it will be easier for the chief executive to govern as there are fewer checks and balances," he added.

The European Union's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said that Mr. Lee's election "violates democratic principles and political pluralism in Hong Kong."



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*Leading UK-based academic Dr Swati Dhingra has been named as the first Indian-origin woman to be appointed as an external member of the Bank of England's interest rate-setting committee.*

*Dhingra is an Associate Professor of Economics at the London School of Economics (LSE) having specialisation in international economics and applied microeconomics.*

*Dhingra, who studied at the University of Delhi and got her Masters from the Delhi School of Economics, will join the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) on August 9 for a three-year term.*

*The Bank of England's independent MPC makes decisions about the operation of monetary policy of the UK.*

*It comprises the Governor of the Bank of England, its three Deputy Governors, one member of the Bank with responsibility for monetary policy and four external members who are appointed by the Chancellor.*

**99. Recently Sanjiv Bajaj assumed the office of CII President for 2022-23. He is Chairman and Managing Director of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Synergy Group
- B. Tata Steel Limited
- C. Hero MotoCorp Limited
- D. Bajaj Finserv Limited**

*Sanjiv Bajaj assumed the office of CII President for 2022-23. Sanjiv Bajaj is Chairman and Managing Director of Bajaj Finserv Limited.*

*He has replaced TV Narendran, who is CEO & Managing Director of Tata Steel Limited.*

*Pawan Munjal has taken over as CII President-Designate. He is Chairman and CEO of Hero MotoCorp Limited.*

*R Dinesh has taken over as Vice President of CII. He is Executive Vice Chairman of TVS Supply Chain Solutions.*

*Confederation of Indian Industry (CII): It is a non-governmental trade association. It was established in 1895.*

**100. Recently in May SEBI has formed an advisory committee on ESG related matters in the securities market Under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. R Mukundan
- B. Sharad Kalghatgi
- C. Amit Tandon
- D. Navneet Munot**

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*SEBI has formed an advisory committee on ESG related matters in the securities market. The SEBI committee on ESG (environment, social and governance) related matters has a total of 19 members.*

*Navneet Munot will head the Committee. Munot is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of HDFC Mutual Fund.*

*The committee also has experts including, R Mukundan, C Siva Kumar, Amit Talgeri, Sharad Kalghtagi, Amit Tandon, J N Gupta and Rama Patel.*

*Improvements in business responsibility and sustainability report (BRSR), ESG ratings and ESG investing are the terms of reference of the committee.*

*SEBI was set up in 1988 and given statutory status in 1992. Its headquarters is located in Mumbai. Ms. Madhabi Puri Buch is the current chairperson of SEBI.*

101. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has been **appointed as CEO & MD of Air India**.

- A. Suresh Dutt Tripathi
- B. Nipun Aggarwal
- C. Campbell Wilson**
- D. Peter Ikeris

*Campbell Wilson appointed as CEO & MD of Air India. Tata Group has appointed Campbell Wilson as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of Air India.*

*The board of Air India has approved the appointment of Campbell Wilson. He will also join Air India's board of directors. The appointment in the top management of an airline has to get security clearance from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). Recently, Tata Group has appointed Nipun Aggarwal as Chief Commercial Officer and Suresh Dutt Tripathi was appointed as Chief Human Resources Officer. Air India was officially handed over to Tata Sons on 27 January 2022. The government sold Air India to Talace Private Limited (a subsidiary of the Tata group's holding company) for ₹18,000 crores.*

## Now, Tatas name SIA veteran to head Air India

Saurabh.Sinha@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Tata Group has selected Campbell Wilson — a veteran from its trusted aviation partner Singapore Airlines (SIA) — as MD and CEO of Air India.

Wilson, 50, is currently CEO of SIA's budget arm Scoot and will bid adieu there on June 15. Tata-SIA JV Vistara's former CEO Leslie Thng will succeed him at Scoot. With full service AI and Vistara and low cost AI Express and AirAsia India in its fold, the Tatas have selected someone who has rich experience of running both these models.

### 2-TERM SCOOT CEO

- **Campbell Wilson**, 50, began as mgmt trainee with SIA in New Zealand in 1996
- Worked for SIA in Canada, HK, Japan before coming to S'pore in 2011 as **founding CEO of SIA offshoot Scoot** till 2016. Returned for 2nd stint as Scoot CEO in April 2020
- **Earlier, Tatas had picked Turkey's Ilker Ayci** as AI chief, but he withdrew



The appointment of Wilson is subject to getting required regulatory approvals.

► **Veteran of 26 yrs, P 21**

102. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ have approved the appointment of T N Manoharan, independent director as part-time chairman.

- A. Bank Of Baroda



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- B. RBL Bank
- C. DBS Bank
- D. IDBI Bank

*The Board of IDBI Bank, on 9 May 2022, has nodded for the appointment of T N Manoharan as a part-time Chairman of the Bank for a tenure of three years.*

*Also, the Bank has announced that M R Kumar will no longer continue to be the non-executive non-whole time Chairman of the bank with effect from 8 May 2022. A point to be noted is that Kumar has completed the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)-approved tenure of three years at the post.*

*As per the IDBI Bank's regulatory filing, the Bank's board of directors have given a green signal to the appointment of T N Manoharan as part-time Chairman of IDBI Bank for a period of 3 years with effect from 9 May 2022,*

## IDBI Bank board nod for part-time chairman

9/18

IDBI BANK ON Monday said its board has approved the appointment of TN Manoharan as the part-time chairman for a period of three years. It also said MR Kumar has ceased to be the non-executive, non-whole time chairman of the bank with effect from May 8, 2022.

102. Recently in May who among the following was sworn in as President of South Korea?

- A. Yoon Suk Yeol
- B. Lee Jae-myun
- C. Moon Jae-in
- D. Ahn Cheol-soo

- Yoon Suk Yeol takes oath as President of South Korea.
- Yoon Suk Yeol is the leader of the country's first conservative government in five years.
- US second gentleman Douglas Emhoff and Japan's Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa attended the oath-taking ceremony.
- Yoon relocated the Presidential office from the Blue House to a building once used by the Defense Ministry.
- Its capital is Seoul. Its Prime Minister is Kim Boo-kyum.

103. Recently Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala have been appointed judges of the Supreme Court under the article \_\_\_\_\_?

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- A. 124
- B. 147
- C. 217
- D. 360

*Gauhati High Court Chief Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia and Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Jamshed Burjor Pardiwala have been appointed judges of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court will have its full sanctioned strength of 34 judges until the retirement of Justice Vineet Saran on May 10.*

*Articles 124(2) and 217 of the Constitution governs the appointment of judges to the Supreme Court and High Courts respectively.*

*Under both provisions, the President has the power to make the appointments “after consultation with such of the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the High Courts in the States as the President may deem necessary”.*

*In three cases — which came to be known as the Judges Cases — in 1981, 1993 and 1998, the Supreme Court evolved the collegium system for appointing judges.*

104. Recently **Rajesh Unni** took charge as **Vice-Chair at Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)**. He is the Founder and CEO of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. Synergy Group
- B. Ambuja Cement
- C. Piramal Foundation
- D. DLF

- **Rajesh Unni** took charge as **Vice-Chair at Maritime Anti-Corruption Network (MACN)**.
- **Rajesh Unni** is the **Founder and CEO of Synergy Group**. Synergy Group is one of the world’s leading ship managers.
- Synergy Group is also one of India’s largest maritime enterprises. Ann Shazell took over as the new chair of MACN.
- MACN is made up of over 165 member companies. They collectively represent 50% of the world’s tonnage.
- MACN was established in 2011. It is based in Denmark. In 2019, it launched a port integrity campaign in India.

105. Recently **Ranil Wickremesinghe** of \_\_\_\_\_ party has become new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.

- A. Labor Party
- B. Srilankan Congress
- C. United National Party
- D. Conservative Party



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- **Ranil Wickremesinghe becomes the new Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.**
- **The Leader of the United National Party Ranil Wickremesinghe will take oath as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka.**
- **He will take place of Mahinda Rajapaksa who has recently stepped down from the Prime Ministerial post.**
- **Ranil Wickremesinghe has served as Prime Minister four times. United National Party is the oldest party in Sri Lanka.**
- **On 17th May, the No-Confidence Motion against President Gotabaya Rajapaksa will be taken up for debate.**
- **Sri Lanka is facing a severe shortage of food, fuel, and other necessities.**

106. On 15th May 2022, **Rajiv Kumar will replace Sushil Chandra as Chief Election Commissioner of India.** Rajiv Kumar is \_\_\_\_\_ Chief Election Commissioner of India.

- A. 24th
- B. 25th**
- C. 26th
- D. 27<sup>th</sup>

**Rajiv Kumar will take charge of the office of Chief Election Commissioner of India from 15th May 2022.**

**President Ram Nath Kovind has cleared Rajiv Kumar's appointment as new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) of India.**

**Rajiv Kumar is senior most Election Commissioner. He will replace CEC Sushil Chandra who will be demitting the office on 14th May 2022.**

**Sushil Chandra is 24th Chief Election Commissioner of India. He is an Indian Revenue Service officer. He assumed office as CEC in April 2021.**

**Chief Election Commissioner: The Election Commission of India consists of a Chief Election Commissioner and two Election Commissioners.**

**They are appointed by the President. Their tenure is for six years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier. The tenure is not specified in the Constitution.**

107. Recently **French luxury brand Louis Vuitton** has named \_\_\_\_\_ as its brand ambassador.

- A. Katrina Kaif
- B. Deepika Podukone**
- C. Kriti Senon
- D. Disha Patani

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- French luxury brand Louis Vuitton named *Deepika Padukone* as its brand ambassador.
- *Deepika Padukone* became the first-ever Indian named by Louis Vuitton as a brand ambassador.
- Chicnutrix, the lifestyle brand, has appointed *Shilpa Shetty Kundra* as its brand ambassador.

108. Recently Dr. *Manik Saha*, a Rajya Sabha MP from BJP, has sworn in as \_\_\_\_\_ new Chief Minister after his predecessor *Biplab Kumar Deb* resigned.

- A. Sikkim
- B. Manipur
- C. Tripura
- D. Mizoram

*Dr. Manik Saha*, a Rajya Sabha MP from BJP, has sworn in as Tripura's new Chief Minister a day after his predecessor *Biplab Kumar Deb* resigned.

Governor *Satyadeo Narain Arya* administered the oath of secrecy to *Dr. Saha*.

11 councils of Ministers were sworn-in in his cabinet. *Biplab Kumar Deb* was the first BJP Chief Minister of Tripura.

Article 164 states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister.

109. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been elected the President of the UAE in place of *Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan*.

- A. *Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan*
- B. *Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan*.
- C. *Sheikh Amir bin Sultan Al Nahyan*.
- D. *Sheikh Khalifa bin Sultan Al Nahyan*.

- *Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan* has been elected the President of the UAE in place of *Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan*.
- *Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahyan* died recently at age of 73.
- He was unanimously chosen as President by a council of the rulers of the seven emirates.
- *Abu Dhabi* is the capital and *UAE Dirham* is the currency of UAE.
- *Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum* is the Prime Minister of the UAE.

110. *Rodrigo Chaves*, has recently been appointed as new president of \_\_\_\_\_ .

- A. Cameron
- B. Kenya

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- C. Costa Rica  
D. Brazil

- Costa Rica's new President Rodrigo Chaves was sworn in on May 8, promising to fight corruption and revive the economy.
- The former World Bank economist won a four-year term last month in a runoff with former President Jose María Figueres, himself tainted by a corruption scandal.
- The party of Chaves' predecessor Carlos Alvarado was almost obliterated during the first-round election in February, receiving no seats in the new Legislative Assembly.
- Capital - San José, Currency – colón.

### Days and Obituary News

111. Recently which of the following northeastern state celebrated its 47th statehood day on 16th May?
- A. Mizoram  
B. Manipur  
C. Sikkim  
D. Arunachal Pradesh

The 47th statehood day of Sikkim was celebrated with great fanfare .

It was on this day in 1975 that Sikkim had become a state of the Union of India following the 36th amendment of the Constitution.

While addressing an official function held at Manan Kendra on the occasion, Tamang announced the renaming of the Government Degree College in West Sikkim's Gyalshing after former chief minister Sanchaman Limboo.

He also announced the renaming of the Government Senior Secondary School at Gelling after Dr B R Ambedkar.

Sikkim has become the first state in the world that is 100% organic & is the perfect example where development and sustainability can go hand in hand.

112. Every Year International Day of Argania is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise international awareness around the tree, its ecosystem, and the important position it holds in Moroccan culture and heritage.
- A. 9<sup>th</sup> May  
B. 10<sup>th</sup> May  
C. 11<sup>th</sup> May  
D. 12<sup>th</sup> May



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*Morocco is preparing to celebrate the International Day of Argania in its second edition this year, in partnership with the United Nations, on May 10.*

*The day will be celebrated this year under the slogan “The Argan tree, symbol of resilience” and will serve to raise international awareness around the tree, its ecosystem, and the important position it holds in Moroccan culture and heritage.*

**113. Recently *Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan* passed away at an age of 73. He was the second President of which country?**

- A. UAE**
- B. Iran
- C. Saudi Arabia
- D. Afghanistan

*UAE President Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan passed away at an age of 73.*

*He served as the President of the UAE and Ruler of Abu Dhabi since November 3, 2004.*

*He was the second President of the UAE and the 16th Ruler of the Emirate of Abu Dhabi.*

*The Ministry of Presidential Affairs has announced 40 days of mourning after the passing of Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.*

**114. *World Migratory Bird Day* is commemorated every year on the second \_\_\_\_\_ in May and the second Saturday in October to draw attention to the problems faced by migratory birds worldwide.**

- A. Monday
- B. Tuesday
- C. Friday
- D. Saturday**

- *World Migratory Bird Day* is commemorated every year on the second Saturday in May and the second Saturday in October.**
- *It is observed to draw attention to the problems faced by migratory birds worldwide. Loss of habitat, climate change, poisoning, and illegal killing are the main threats to Migratory Birds.***
- *The day highlights the need for international collaboration for the conservation of migratory birds and their habitats.***
- *The theme of this year’s World Migratory Bird Day is ‘Impact of Light Pollution on Migratory Birds’. Artificial lighting is increasing globally by 2 percent per annum.***
- *World Migratory Bird Day* was first observed in 2006. It is now celebrated in more than 100 countries. Around 229 species of birds arrive in India every year. Sparrow-Hawk, Harriers, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, etc. are common Migratory Bird in India.**

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115. **Leonid Kravchuk** who recently passed away was the first president of which of the following country?

- A. Sweden
- B. Somalia
- C. **Ukraine**
- D. Russia

- **Ukraine's first President Leonid Kravchuk passed away at the age of 88 years.**
- **He was a leader of Ukraine's Communist Party. He is also known as the "wily fox".**
- **In December 1991, he signed the Belovezha accords with Russia, which triggered the collapse of the Soviet Union.**
- **In 1993, Kravchuk agreed to transfer all Ukraine-based nuclear weapons to Russia in exchange for compensation for each nuclear warhead.**

116. **International Day of Plant Health** is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise awareness about protecting plant health and boost economic development.

- A. 11<sup>th</sup> May
- B. **12<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 13<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 10<sup>th</sup> May

**International Day of Plant Health is observed every year on 12 May. It is observed to raise awareness about protecting plant health and boost economic development.**

**Our health and the health of our planet depend on plants. The plant creates 80% of the food we eat and 98 % of the Oxygen we breathe.**

**The day was proposed by Zambia in the UN General Assembly. The aim of this year's International Day of Plant Health is to prevent diseases from food crops.**

**The International Day of Plant Health will help the United Nations in achieving several sustainable development goals.**

117. The **International Day of Families** is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to raise awareness about the issues related to families.

- A. 12<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 13<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 14<sup>th</sup> May
- D. **15<sup>th</sup> May**

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- *The International Day of Families is observed every year on 15 May.*
- *It is observed to raise awareness about the issues related to families. In 1993, UNGA (United Nations General Assembly) adopted 15 May as the International day of families.*
- *“Families and Urbanization” is the theme of this year’s International day of families.*

118. *International Mother's Day* is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ in more than 152 countries to commemorate the efforts of mothers and honor their value in our lives and our society.

- A. 6<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 7<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 8<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 9<sup>th</sup> May

- *International Mother's Day 2022: 8 May* International Mother's Day is celebrated every year in more than 152 countries.
- *It is celebrated every year on the second Sunday of May. This year it has been celebrated on 8th May.*
- *Mother’s Day was first celebrated in 1908 in America by Anna Jarvis.*
- *It is observed to commemorate the efforts of mothers and honor their value in our lives and our society.*

119. Every year on \_\_\_\_\_ *World Thalassaemia Day* is celebrated to create awareness regarding this disease and to encourage those who struggle to live with this disease.

- A. 7<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 8<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 9<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 10<sup>th</sup> May

- *Every year on 8 May World Thalassaemia Day is celebrated to create awareness regarding this disease and to encourage those who struggle to live with this disease.*
- *Thalassemia is a genetic disease that passes from parents to their offspring. Its symptoms start appearing 3-4 months after the birth of the child.*
- *The day came into existence in 1994.*
- *Theme 2022: “Be Aware. Share, Care: Working with the global community to improve thalassemia knowledge”*



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120. **World Red Cross Day** is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to celebrate the good work that Red Cross Movement does around the world.

- A. 7<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 8<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 9<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 10<sup>th</sup> May

- *World Red Cross Day is observed every year on 08 May. The day is observed to celebrate the good work that Red Cross Movement does around the world.*
- *The objective of the day is to pay tribute to the volunteers for their contribution to the people in need.*
- *The day marks the birth anniversary of Henri Dunant. Henri Dunant founded the International Committee of the Red Cross.*
- *World Red Cross Day was officially named World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day in 1984.*
- *The theme for World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day 2022 is “Be Human Kind”.*

121. Recently **Pandit Shivkumar Sharma** passed away. He was famous for playing which instrument?

- A. Sitar
- B. Santoor**
- C. Tabla
- D. Guitar

- *Indian music composer and santoor player Pandit Shivkumar Sharma passed away at the age of 84 in Mumbai.*
- *Pandit Shivkumar Sharma played a key role in giving classical status to santoor.*
- *He had composed music for many films such as Silsila, Lamhe, Chandni, etc.*
- *He composed music for many Hindi films in association with Hariprasad Chaurasia.*

122. **National Technology Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ in India to celebrate the achievements of innovations and technological excellence in the country.

- A. 9<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 10<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 11<sup>th</sup> May**
- D. 12<sup>th</sup> May

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- *National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11 May in India.*
- *“Integrated Approach in Science and technology for sustainable future” is the theme for National Technology Day 2022.*
- *National Technology Day is celebrated to celebrate the achievements of innovations and technological excellence in the country.*
- *First National Technology Day was observed on 11 May 1999. Pokharan nuclear test was done on this day in 1998, in honor of which every year since the year 1999, National Technology Day is celebrated.*
- *The first indigenous aircraft ‘Hansa-3’ was successfully tested and also Trishul missile was test-fired on this day by DRDO.*

123. Every year, \_\_\_\_\_ is observed as an **International Nurses Day** around the world to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

- A. 11<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 12<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 13<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 14<sup>th</sup> May

- *Every year, May 12 is observed as an International Nurses Day around the world.*
- *It is observed to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale. She is considered the founder of Modern Nursing.*
- *The International Council of Nurses declared 12 May as International Nurses day in 1974.*
- *On this occasion, the International Council of Nurses distributes kits to Nurses.*
- *This year, the theme for International Nurses Day is “Nurses: A Voice to Lead – Invest in Nursing and respect rights to secure global health”.*
- *Florence Nightingale was a British nurse and social reformer who dedicated her life to the improvement of the health sector.*

123. What is the name of a **former Australian cricketer who died in a car accident in May 2022?**

- A. Rod Marsh
- B. Andrew Symonds**
- C. Shane Warne
- D. Allan Border

- *Australian Cricketer Andrew Symonds died in a car accident. He was a two-time World Cup winner for Australia.*

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- He was the third former Australian cricketer who passed away in 2022.

124. Every Year on \_\_\_\_\_ marks *International Day of Families* across the world for the well-being of families worldwide.

- A. 14<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 15<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 16<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 17<sup>th</sup> May

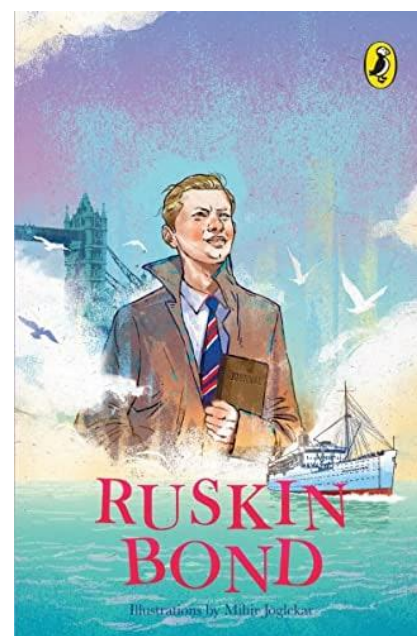
- May 15 marks the International Day of Families across the world. The significance of families is highlighted on this day. The United Nations works on topics that are critical to the well-being of families worldwide, such as health, education, children’s rights, gender equality, work-family balance, and social inclusion, among others.
- On December 9, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly declared the International Year of Families in a resolution. In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly declared May 15 to be the International Day of Families.
- The theme for this year ‘Families and Urbanization’ aims to raise awareness about the necessity of family-friendly urban policy.

### Sports Award Books News

125. Who is the author of the new book titled "*Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure*"?

- A. Stephen King
- B. Ruskin Bond**
- C. Julia Assange
- D. Elizabeth Borne

- A new book titled "*Listen to Your Heart: The London Adventure*" authored by Ruskin Bond, was published by Penguin Random House India (PRHI) on Ruskin Bond’s 88th birthday (19th May 2022)
- **Ruskin Bond, India’s famous Children’s book author, was born in Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) and grew up in Jamnagar (Gujarat), Dehradun (Uttarakhand), New Delhi, and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh).**





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126. Recently in May Anna Qabale Duba from \_\_\_\_\_ won the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award for her work in helping to protect vulnerable women and children in Africa.
- A. Zambia
  - B. Kenya**
  - C. South Africa
  - D. Zimbabwe

*A nurse celebrated for her dedication to helping people outside the bounds of her normal duties walked home with \$250,000.*

*Anna Qabale Duba from Kenya won the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award after a panel of judges championed her work in helping to protect vulnerable women and children in Africa.*

*The mother-of-two, 31, who is the only graduate from her village in Kenya, beat off the competition from nine other nurses who were nominated for the prize. The awards ceremony took place in Dubai.*

*She is the founder of the Qabale Duba Foundation in Kenya, which opposes harmful cultural practices against women and children and advocates girls' education.*

127. Consider the following statement regarding Thomas Cup.

1. Indian Men's Badminton team has won Thomas Cup for the first time.
2. It has defeated 14-time Champions Indonesia in Bangkok
3. It has become the 6th nation to win the Thomas Cup title after China, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, and Malaysia.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

*Indian Men's Badminton team has won Thomas Cup for the first time ever. It has defeated 14 time Champions Indonesia in Bangkok on 15 May 2022.*

*India had never reached the Thomas and Uber Cup final before now. It has become 6th nation to win the Thomas Cup title after China, Indonesia, Japan, Denmark, and Malaysia.*

*Thomas Cup (World Men's Team Championships): It is an international badminton competition. It is currently held every two years.*

*It was first held in 1949 in Preston, England. The 2022 edition of Thomas Cup was 32nd edition of the Thomas Cup.*

*It was hosted in Bangkok, Thailand from 8 to 15 May 2022.*

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**Liverpool Football Club defeated Chelsea Football Club and won FA Cup title.**

**Liverpool Football Club has won the English FA Cup for the eighth time. Liverpool won by 6-5 in a penalty shootout at the Wembley stadium, London. Liverpool is now the most successful club in the world.**

**The Football Association Challenge Cup is commonly known as the FA Cup. It is an annual knockout football competition in men's domestic English football.**

**128. Consider the following statement regarding Archery World Cup Stage 2.**

- 1. The Indian men's compound team, featuring Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, and Aman Saini, defeated France to win the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 stage 2 in Gwangju.**
- 2. women's compound team comprising Avneet Kaur, Muskan Kirar, and Priya Gurjar and the women's recurve team of Ridhi, Komalika Bari, and Ankita Bhakat had won a bronze each**

**Which of the following statement is correct?**

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

**Indian women win recurve bronze**

**ARCHERY**

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian recurve women's team bagged a bronze and Mohan Bhardwaj reached the semifinals of the compound men's event at the Archery World Cup Stage 2 in Gwangju, South Korea, on Thursday.

The fifth-ranked Indian women's side – comprising Ridhi Phor, Komalika Bari and Ankita Bhakat – defeated Brazil 5-4 and Mexico 6-2 but went down to South Korea 6-2 in the semifinals.

The trio defeated second-ranked Chinese Taipei – including World Cup bronze medallist Kuo Tzu Ying, Olympic Games medallist Lei Chien-Ying and Worlds medallist Chiu Yi-Ching – 6-2 (56-52, 54-51, 54-55, 55-54) to take the bronze.

The men's recurve team of Tarundeep Rai, Neeraj



**Creditable show:** Komalika, Ankita and Ridhi with coach Purnima Mahato, second from right. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Chauhan and Jayanta Talukdar got a first-round bye, beat Turkey 5-4 (shoot-off 28-27) before losing to France 2-6 in quarterfinals.

In compound men's individual, Mohan got the better of Australians Patrick Coghlan 146-144 and Scott Brice 146-143, Slovakian Jozef Bosansky 149-145 and Korean Yang Jaewon 147-140 to reach the last-four.

Aman Saini lost to Den-

mark's Mathias Fullerton 147-149 in the pre-quarterfinals. Also, Abhishek Verma was stunned in the second round, while Rajat Chauhan fell in the opening round.

In compound women's individual, Muskan Kirar lost to Korean Yunhee Kim 143-142 in the pre-quarterfinals, Priya Gurjar and Avneet Kaur exited in the second round, and Raginee Marko lost in the first round.

**Indian men clinch gold**

Finish on top in compound team event; silver for Bhardwaj

**ARCHERY**

SPORTS BUREAU

The Indian men's team picked up its second gold medal this year, while the mixed team collected the bronze and Mohan Bhardwaj secured his maiden World Cup medal – a silver – in the compound section of the Archery World Cup Stage-2 in Gwangju, Korea, on Saturday.

In a repeat of the World Cup Stage-1 final in Antalya in April, the fourth-ranked Indian men's team of Abhishek Verma, Aman Saini and Rajat Chauhan defeated sixth-placed France (Adrien Gontier, Jean Philippe Boulch and Quentin Baraer) 232-230.

India, which trailed by a point after two ends, emerged the better side in the last two ends to claim the gold.

Abhishek combined with Avneet Kaur to beat Turkey's Ayse Bera Suzer and Emir-



**Maiden medal:** Mohan Bhardwaj in action in the men's compound final. •GETTY IMAGES

can Haney 156-155 to take the mixed team bronze. The Indians scored a perfect 40 to overtake the Turks in the last end. Bhardwaj rallied to shoot a perfect 30 in the final end and shock reigning World champion Nico Wiener of Austria 143-141 in the semifinals.

However, he lost to the

Netherlands' former World champion Mike Schloesser 149-141 in the final. Schloesser recorded perfect 30s in the last four ends.

Earlier, the Indian women had bagged bronze medals in compound and recurve team events for India to finish with five medals in the second stage.

- The Indian men's compound team, featuring Abhishek Verma, Rajat Chauhan, and Aman Saini, defeated France to win the gold medal at the Archery World Cup 2022 stage 2 in Gwangju**



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- This was the Indian trio's second straight World Cup gold after clinching the top spot in Stage 1 in Antalya, Turkey.
- Former Asian champion Abhishek Verma also won the compound mixed team bronze with Avneet Kaur.
- Earlier, the women's compound team comprised Avneet Kaur, Muskan Kirar, and Priya Gurjar and the women's recurve team of Ridhi, Komalika Bari, and Ankita Bhakat had won a bronze each.
- The three medals took India's final tally at stage 2 of the Archery World Cup 2022 to five.

129. Recently Legendary former world champion boxer Amir Khan announced his retirement hails from which of the following country?

- A. USA
- B. Kenya
- C. Brazil
- D. England**

- **Legendary British and former world champion boxer Amir Khan announced his retirement from the sporty.**
- **Khan unified world titles at super-lightweight and faced pound-for-pound stars Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez and Terence Crawford during a 40-fight career. He ends his glittering career with 34 wins and six defeats.**
- **Khan won an Olympic silver medal at the 2004 Athens Games before going pro in 2005. He became a world champion in July 2009, defeating Andriy Kotelnik on points to secure the WBA super-lightweight title.**

### Amir Khan hangs up his gloves

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
LONDON

Former World champion Amir Khan announced on Friday he was retiring from boxing after a 17-year professional career. The 35-year-old British fighter, who became the unified World champion in the light-welterweight category, hangs up his gloves with a record of 34 wins from 40 fights. The 2004 Olympic silver medallist won the first 18 contests of his pro career, becoming one of the finest British boxers of his era.

Amir's career ended in defeat when he was stopped in the sixth round of his grudge match against long-time rival and compatriot Kell Brook in Manchester in



Amir Khan. • REUTERS

February.

Brook announced his own retirement last week.

"It's time to hang up my gloves. I feel blessed to have had such an amazing career that has spanned over 27 years," Amir wrote on his Twitter account. "I want to

say a heartfelt thanks to the incredible teams I have worked with and to my family, friends and fans for the love and support they have shown me."

Amir became World champion in 2009, defeating Ukraine's Andriy Kotelnik in a WBA super-lightweight bout and saw off US opponent Zab Judah to add the IBF belt two years later.

A controversial points loss to American Lamont Peterson later in 2011 brought Amir's reign to a frustrating end. Amir, who also challenged for world titles at welterweight and middleweight, lost to Mexico's Saul Alvarez in 2016 and was also stopped by American Terence Crawford in 2019.

130. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded the Templeton Prize 2022, the world's largest individual lifetime achievement award, valued at over USD 1.3 million.

- A. Neena Gupta
- B. David Klop
- C. Frank Wilczek**



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D. Anthony Bilkins

- Nobel Prize-winning theoretical physicist Frank Wilczek has been honored with this year's Templeton Prize. The award recognizes individuals whose life's work brings together science and spirituality.
- The late Sir John Templeton created the prize in 1972. It is one of the most highly valued prizes at more than \$1.3 million. Past winners include Jane Goodall, Mother Teresa, the Dalai Lama, and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.
- Over a long career, Wilczek had many successes. He won the 2004 Nobel Prize along with David J. Gross, and H. David Politzer for their 1973 research explaining the unusual properties of the strong force.

131. Recently How many traditional games feature in the 4th edition of Khelo India Youth Games?

- A. 4
- B. 5**
- C. 6
- D. 7

- Five indigenous sporting disciplines like Gatka, Kalaripayattu, and three others are set to make their debut at the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games starting June 4 across a host of venues in Haryana and Chandigarh.
- More than 8,500 students from across the country are expected to take part in 25 disciplines, including the traditional disciplines Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba, and Yogasana, which will feature as demonstration sports.
- Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur, who was in the city to unveil the KIYG logo and mascot named 'Dhakkad'.

132. What is the name of the mascot of the Khelo India Youth Games?

- A. Himmat
- B. Dhakad**
- C. Veerta
- D. All of the above

### Five traditional games feature in 4th edition of KIYG

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

**Panchkula:** Five indigenous disciplines Gatka, Kalaripayattu, Thang-Ta, Mallakhamba and Yogasana others are set to make their debut at the 4th edition of the Khelo India Youth Games starting June 4 across a host of venues in Haryana and Chandigarh. More than 8,500 students from across the country are expected to take part in 25 disciplines, including the traditional disciplines, which will feature as demonstration sports.

The Tau Devi Lal Stadium will be hub of all the action while some of the competitions will be held in Shahbad, Ambala, Chandigarh and Delhi.

- Union Sports Minister launched mascot, Logo, and Official jersey of fourth Khelo India Youth Games.
- The mascot named 'Dhakad' has been launched by Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur in the presence of Haryana Chief Minister ML Khattar.
- Khelo India Youth Games will be organized in Panchkula and other cities from June 4 to June 13.

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- *Khelo India Games is the brainchild of PM Narendra Modi and his vision of making India a pioneer in sports.*
- *More than 8,500 players will participate in the fourth edition of the Khelo India Youth Games.*
- *Traditional games like gatka, thang-ta, kalarippayattu, mallakhamb, and yogasana have also been included in Khelo India Youth Games.*

*Balkrishna Doshi is the only Indian to win both the Royal Gold Medal and the Pritzker Architecture Prize.*

*Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) president Simon Allford presented the award to Balkrishna Doshi in Ahmedabad.*

*Balkrishna Doshi had worked with Louis Kahn as an associate to build the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Ahmedabad.*

*Balkrishna Doshi founded his own practice, Vastushilpa, in 1956 with two architects. Royal Gold Medal award: It is the world's highest award given in the field of architecture. It is given by the Royal Institute of British Architects.*

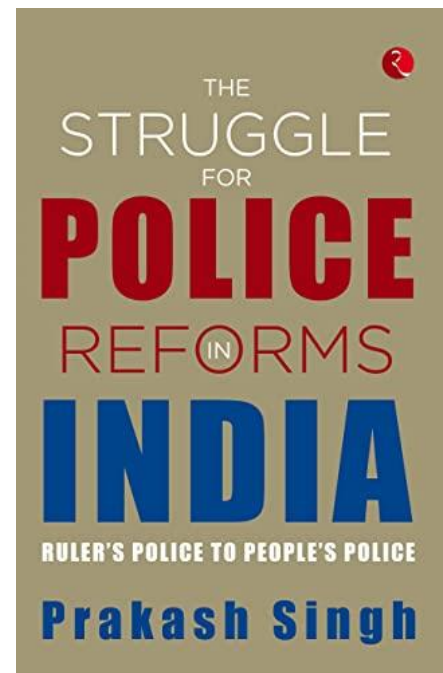
133. Recently Vice President released the book titled “The Struggle for Police Reforms in India” is authored by \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. **Prakash Singh**
- B. Ramesh Singh
- C. Ajit Pratap Singh
- D. Kiran Bedi

- *VP released a book titled “The Struggle for Police Reforms in India”.*
- *It is written by former IPS Officer Prakash Singh.*
- *It is published by Rupa Publications India Pvt Ltd. This book highlights the efforts made to bring police reforms to India.*
- *Vice President said that there is a need to upgrade the skills of our policemen to tackle the challenges of the 21st century.*

134. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ won the first-ever Miami Grand Prix.

- A. **Max Verstappen**
- B. Charles Leclerc
- C. Carlos Sainz
- D. Lewis Hamilton



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- *Red Bull’s driver Max Verstappen won the first-ever Miami Grand Prix.*
- *Charles Leclerc ended the race in the second position while Carlos Sainz Jr. got the third spot.*
- *Charles Leclerc and Carlos Sainz Jr have represented Ferraari in the race.*
- *Miami Grand Prix is part of the 2022 Formula One World Championship. It started on 8th May 2022.*

135. Recently **Activist Cécile Ndjebet** from \_\_\_\_\_ **won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award** in recognition of her outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them.

- A. Bhutan
- B. Nepal
- C. Cameroon**
- D. Bangladesh

Cameroonian activist wins Wangari Maathai Forest Champions’ Award 2022

Sixth winner of the award announced at the XV World Forestry Congress

- *Activist Cécile Ndjebet, of Cameroon, today won the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award in recognition of her outstanding contribution to preserving forests and improving the lives of people who depend on them.*



Cécile Ndjebet, of Cameroon, winner of the 2022 Wangari Maathai Forest Champions Award

©FAO/Pilar Valbuena

- *Presented by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF), which is chaired by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the award was conferred at a ceremony during the XV World Forestry Congress in Seoul, the Republic of Korea.*



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- *“This award celebrates Cécile Ndjebet’s energy and dedication over three decades in promoting women’s rights to land and forests. She has actively shown that women’s participation in forest governance and preservation is fundamental to achieving sustainable forest management,”*
- *Established by the CPF in 2012 in memory of Kenyan environmentalist and Nobel Peace Prize winner Wangari Maathai, the Forest Champions Award recognizes inspiring individuals who have helped preserve, restore and sustainably manage forests.*

136. Recently *Fifth Romain Rolland Book Prize* has been won by \_\_\_\_\_ translation of the French novel, *Meursault, contre-enquête*.

- A. Tamil
- B. Hindi
- C. English
- D. Bengali

- *Fifth Romain Rolland Book Prize has been won by Bengali translation of Meursault, contre-enquête.*
- *“Meursault, contre-enquête” (The Meursault Investigation) is a French novel. The award was announced on 07 May 2022 during the French latest 2022.*
- *The award was given to translator Trinanjan Chakraborty and publisher Patra Bharati. Kamel Daoud is the author of the novel, which is a retelling of Albert Camus’ 1942 novel, “The Stranger”.*
- *Hindi translation of Marjane Satrapi’s cult comic “Persepolis” was also shortlisted for the prize.*
- *Tamil translation of the French novel “Le Mariage de Plaisir” won the prize last year.*
- *French litfest 2022 was part of ‘Bonjour India’. Bonjour India is an art and culture summer festival. It celebrates the relationship India and France share.*
- *Romain Rolland Book Prize was started in 2017. It aims to reward the best translation of a French book in any Indian language, including English.*

137. Recently In May 2022, *Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui has won the Pulitzer Prize*. He had earlier won Pulitzer Prize in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 2018
- B. 2019
- C. 2020
- D. 2021

- *Photojournalist Danish Siddiqui won the Pulitzer Prize for ‘images of COVID’s toll in India’.*

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- He is one of the four Indians honored with the Pulitzer Prize 2022 in the feature photography category.
- His colleagues Adnan Abidi, Sanna Irshad Mattoo, and Amit Dave are the other three Indians honored with the Pulitzer Prize 2022.
- Danish Siddiqui and his colleagues are from the Reuters news agency. Siddiqui died last year when he was on an assignment in Afghanistan.
- He has won the Pulitzer Prize for the second time. He won the prize in 2018 as part of the Reuters team for their coverage of the Rohingya crisis.
- Pulitzer Board awarded a special citation to the journalists of Ukraine.
- Pulitzer Prizes were started by Joseph Pulitzer, a Hungarian-American journalist. They were first awarded in 1917.

138. Recently **Carlos Alcaraz won the Madrid Open title by defeating Alexander Zverev**. Carlos Alcaraz is a \_\_\_\_\_ tennis player.

- A. German
- B. Spanish**
- C. Tunisian
- D. French

- Carlos Alcaraz won the Madrid Open title by defeating Alexander Zverev.
- Carlos Alcaraz defeated Alexander Zverev in the men's singles final.
- With this win, Carlos moved up to sixth in the world rankings.
- Alcaraz defeated Rafael Nadal and world No. 1 Novak Djokovic before reaching the final.
- Earlier, **Ons Jabeur of Tunisia won the women's singles title and became the first African player to win a WTA 1000 event.**
- She was the first Arab player, male or female, to reach the world's top 10.

139. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has **won the Chessable Sunway Formentera International chess tournament**.

- A. Nihil Saran
- B. D Gukesh**
- C. Vidit Gujarati
- D. Magnus Carlson

- D. Gukesh wins three back-to-back titles in recent weeks. Earlier, he won the La Roda tournament and the Menorca Open.

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- He draws the match with Armenian GM Haik M Martirosyan in the final round and wins the title with eight points.
- For his final tally of eight points, D. Gukesh made six victories and four draws. He has now moved to 64<sup>th</sup> rank in the world rankings.
- Sasikiran ended the tournament in the ninth spot with 5.5 points.

140. Recently In May which of the following sports event has been recognized as events of national importance?

- A. Olympics Games
- B. Commonwealth Games
- C. Asian Games
- D. All of the above

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has given several sporting events status of national importance under the Sports Broadcasting Signals (Mandatory Sharing with Prasar Bharati) Act.

All official One-Day, Twenty-20 and Test matches played by the Indian men's and women's cricket teams are also on the list of national importance events.

All semi-finals and finals of the ICC Champions Trophy and semi-finals and finals of ICC Men's and Women's Asia Cup will be considered as events of national importance.

Davis Cup, Grand Slam tournaments, Hockey India sub-junior national championship and Hockey India Academy National Championship, etc. Have been recognized as events of national importance.

In the football category, Santosh Trophy - semi-finals and finals, Asian Women's Football Cup, etc. Have been recognized as events of national importance.

In Badminton, England Open Badminton Championship - all matches featuring Indian players, semi-finals and finals, Badminton World Federation World Cup Championship matches will be considered as events of national importance.

The other events including International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup, Commonwealth Shooting Championship, etc. Have been recognized by the Central government as events of national importance.

141. Recently Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** launched a book "INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors" it is being edited by?

- A. Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh
- B. Captain Shailendra Mohan.
- C. Chief Marshal PC Lal
- D. Both A & B



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- Defence Minister released a book titled “INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors”. Defense Ministry Rajnath Singh launched the book “INDO-PAK WAR 1971- Reminiscences of Air Warriors”. He released the book at the 37th Air Chief Marshal PC Lal Memorial Lecture.
- The book has been edited by Air Marshal Jagjeet Singh and Group Captain Shailendra Mohan.
- The book contains 50 Swarnim articles written in detailed narrations by veterans.
- PC Lal was commissioned in the IAF in 1939. He was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1966 and Padma Vibhushan in 1972. He also served as the CMD of Indian Airlines and Chairman of Air India.

142. Recently Union Minister of Power confers \_\_\_\_\_ with the first prize of 'Rajbhasha Shield' for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2018-19 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha.

- A. NHPC Ltd
- B. NTPC
- C. IOCL
- D. BPCL

Union Minister of Power confers NHPC Limited with first prize of 'Rajbhasha Shield'

Posted On: 12 MAY 2022 7:51PM by PIB Delhi



- Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh conferred NHPC Limited with the first prize for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2018-19 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha

Union Minister of Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh conferred NHPC Limited with the first prize for the year 2020-21 and the second prize for the year 2018-19 for excellent implementation of Rajbhasha during the meeting of Hindi Salahkar Samiti chaired by Shri Singh here today. Shri A.K. Singh, CMD, NHPC Limited received these awards from the Union Minister of Power during the meeting. Shri Krishna Pal Gurjar, Minister of State for Power and Heavy Industries, Shri Alok Kumar, Secretary (Power), Ministry of Power and senior officers from Department of Official Language, Ministry of Home Affairs and members of the committee were also present. During the meeting, Shri R.K. Singh also released the latest issue of 'Rajbhasha Jyoti', NHPC's official language magazine and the book 'Bharatiya Sanskriti

- During the meeting, Shri R.K. Singh also released the latest issue of 'Rajbhasha Jyoti', NHPC's official language magazine, and the book 'Bharatiya Sanskriti Mein Prabandhan' written by Dr. Rajbir Singh, Group General Manager (Rajbhasha), NHPC.
- NHPC has also been awarded "Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar" nine times by the Government of India for its excellent work in the field of implementation of Rajbhasha.

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143. Recently *West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has been awarded the first Bangla Academy award for the relentless literary pursuit of her book \_\_\_\_\_.*

- A. Amar Bangla
- B. **Kabita Bitan**
- C. Kavi Pranam
- D. Khela Hobe

*West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee has been awarded the first Bangla Academy award for her 'relentless literary pursuit'. The award was introduced this year and CM Mamata has been given the first award for her book 'Kabita Bitan'.*

*The award to Mamata Banerjee was presented at the 'Kavi Pranam' event organised by the West Bengal government's Information and Culture Department on the occasion of the birth anniversary of legendary poet Rabindranath Tagore.*

*The award was received by state education minister Bratya Basu on the CM's behalf.*

*The minister stated that Mamata's name was chosen for the award by a panel of some of the best writers of the state.*

*Kabita Bitan' which was launched at the Kolkata Book Fair that year. The book contains 946 poems written by the chief minister herself.*

## Literary award for Mamata draws protest from writers

'The move by Bangla Academy has set a dangerous precedent'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
KOLKATA

Two Bengali literary figures have taken action in protest over West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee being feted recently for her contribution to Bengali literature.

On May 9, on the 161st birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore, the West Bengal government announced it was instituting a new award, to be given once in three years, to honour those enriching Bengali literature, and that Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, as the author of a poetry collection titled *Kobita Bitan*, would be its first recipient.

While the announcement – made by the State's Education Minister and Bangla Academy president Bratya Basu at a public event – came as a surprise to many, no prominent figure reacted publicly. Soon afterwards, writer-researcher Ratna Rashid Bandopadhyay said, in Bengali, that she was returning the Annada Shankar Ray Memorial Award that she had received from the Bangla Academy in 2019.

"The Bangla Academy, by giving the award to the Chief Minister, has not only set a dangerous precedent but also insulted all those who are actively involved in enriching Bengali literature. In this

context, the award conferred on me in 2019 is now akin to a crown of thorns and I am returning it," said the Burdwan-based writer who has authored over 30 books.

Editor-publisher Anadranjan Biswas, a member of the Bengali advisory board of the Sahitya Akademi, also announced that he was quitting the body, though he did not name the Chief Minister. "I always hold the poems of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore in high esteem since [they sustain me]. But on his 161st birth anniversary, sheer insult was caused to Bengali poetry in Kolkata," he said in a statement.

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**Science Technology And Environment**

144. Recently **Kenton Cool** climbed Mount Everest and becomes the first non-Nepalese person to scale Mount Everest for the 16th time. He Hails from which of the following country?

- A. America
- B. England**
- C. Bhutan
- D. Srilanka

- **Kenton Cool, a 48-year-old British national, becomes the first non-Nepalese person to scale Mount Everest for the 16th time.**
- **Kenton Cool hails from South West England. He has previously climbed Everest with other mountaineers.**
- **This year, the Nepali government has issued 316 permits to climb Mount Everest.**
- **Recently, Kami Rita climbed Mount Everest for the 26th time at the age of 52.**
- **Mt. Everest (known as Sagarmatha in Nepal) is the highest peak in the world. It is located in Nepal. Its most recent elevation is 8,848.86 m.**

145. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ inked an MoU with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in the United States to implement a smart energy shift.

- A. IIT Kanpur**
- B. IIT Bombay
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Ropar

- **The Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur has taken a big step toward the goal of the energy transition, against the backdrop of blatant coal shortage in the country.**
- **The premier institute inked an MoU with the Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in the United States to implement a smart energy shift.**

**NEPAL**

**In a first, Britisher scales Everest for 16th time**

*Kathmandu:* Kenton Cool, a 48-year-old British national, has scaled the world's highest peak Mount Everest for the 16th time, becoming the first non-Nepalese to do so, a media report said on Monday. Cool, who hails from Gloucestershire, a county in South West England, reached the top of Mount Everest for the 16th time early on Sunday morning, *The Guardian* reported, citing the Instagram page of Cool. PTI

epaper.indianexpress.co



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- *On the national front, the association will power through Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, and Telangana.*
- *An agreement has been signed between the Just Transition Research Centre (JTRC) at IIT-K and the Energy Security and Climate Change (ESCC) program of the CSIS to leap toward the process of shifting to an improved and efficient energy system.*

146. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ broke *his record by climbing Mount Everest for the 26th time.*

- A. *Autar Singh Cheema*
- B. *Kami Rita Sherpa***
- C. *Bachendri Pal*
- D. *Monika Sarpate*

*Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa breaks his own record by climbing Mount Everest for the 26th time.*

*Nepali mountaineer Kami Rita Sherpa has climbed Mount Everest for the 26th time. He has taken the old traditional southeast ridge route to climb Mount Everest. Kami Rita Sherpa climbed Mount Everest for the first time in 1994.*

*New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Nepal's Sherpa Tenzing Norgay climbed Mount Everest for the first time by using this route in 1953.*

*This year Nepal has issued 316 permits to climb Everest in the peak season.*

147. Consider the following statement regarding HS200 solid rocket booster.

1. *DRDO successfully tested a human-rated HS200 solid rocket booster for the Gaganyaan mission.*
2. *The HS200 is the human-rated version of the S200 rocket booster of satellite launch vehicle GSLV Mk III.*
3. *It is 20-meter long and has a 3.2-meter diameter. It is the world's second-largest operational booster with solid propellant.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *ISRO successfully tested a human-rated HS200 solid rocket booster for the Gaganyaan mission. The test of a human-rated solid rocket booster HS-200 is a key component of the Gaganyaan manned mission program.*
- *HS-200 booster loaded with 203 tonnes of solid propellant was tested for 135 seconds at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.*

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- *During the test, around 700 parameters were monitored and the performance of all systems are found normal.*
- *The HS200 is the human-rated version of the S200 rocket booster of satellite launch vehicle GSLV Mk III.*
- *The design and development of the HS200 booster were completed at Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram, and propellant casting was completed at SHAR, Sriharikota.*
- *It is 20-meter long and has a 3.2-meter diameter. It is the world's second-largest operational booster with solid propellant.*
- *It has been developed indigenously by ISRO in participation with various industries.*

**148. Recently in May which of the following has developed a wire electro-hydraulic braking system for the first time in India for civil aircraft?**

- A. National Aerospace Laboratories**
- B. Defense Research and Development Organisation
- C. Indian Space Research Organisation
- D. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

- *National Aerospace Laboratories approved the Digital anti-skid brake management system developed for SARAS Mark 2.*
- *National Aerospace Laboratories has developed a wire electro-hydraulic braking system for the first time in India for civil aircraft.*
- *The trials of the anti-skid brake system were conducted at a speed of about 30 knots.*
- *Digital Anti-Skid Braking System integration on SARAS Mark 2 will help in the operation of aircraft with short runways.*
- *SARAS Mark 2 is a 19-seater Light Transport aircraft. It is developed by National Aerospace Laboratories.*
- *It is the most versatile aircraft of its class for connecting remotely located Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities.*
- *The government approved the SARAS-Mk2-19 seat Light Transport project to NAL in June 2019.*
- *Indian Air Force has already announced that it will induct 15 SARAS Mk 2 aircraft.*
- *The first flight of SARAS Mk 2 is scheduled to take place in December 2024.*

**149. Recently Scientists have for the first time successfully grown plants in lunar soil. This soil was brought to Earth by astronauts in which of the following missions?**

- A. Explorer Missions
- B. Ranger Missions
- C. Zhurong Missions
- D. Apollo Missions**

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- **Scientists have for the first time successfully grown plants in lunar soil.**
- **This soil was brought to Earth by astronauts in the Apollo Missions.**
- **This is the first step toward growing food and creating oxygen on the Moon and during future space missions.**
- **The researchers at the University of Florida in the US have grown the plants in lunar soil. The researchers also planted Arabidopsis in JSC-1A, a terrestrial substance that mimics real lunar soil.**
- **Moon's soil is also called lunar regolith. It is very different from the soil found on Earth. Apollo program or Project Apollo was the third US human spaceflight program.**
- **It was conducted by NASA from 1968 to 1972. Apollo 11 for the first time landed humans on the Moon in 1969.**

150. Recently **Khadi and Village Industries Commission** has collaborated with \_\_\_\_\_ to set up **Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK)** to introduce the latest designs and adopt processes of international standards.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Delhi
- C. NIFT**
- D. IIM Ahemdabad

- **Khadi and Village Industries Commission has collaborated with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) to set up the Centre of Excellence for Khadi (CoEK).**
- **The CoEK hub in New Delhi and its spokes in Gandhinagar, Shillong, Kolkata, and Bengaluru was inaugurated by the Union Minister of MSME, Shri Narayan Rane, at NIFT Campus in New Delhi.**
- **An MoU, for setting up of CoEK, was signed between KVIC and NIFT last year and the project will be implemented for 3 years.**
- **The CoEK will work to introduce the latest designs and adopt processes of international standards to create new fabrics and clothing as per the needs of domestic and global buyers.**
- **The CoEK will also contribute to branding and publicity, visual merchandising, and packaging for new Khadi products and increase the global reach of Khadi by organizing Khadi Fashion shows and exhibitions in India and abroad.**

151. Consider the following statement regarding the **world's first airport for flying cars and drones.**

1. **The world's first airport for electric drones and flying cars just opened in the center of a city in the United Kingdom.**
2. **The project is the result of a partnership between Coventry City Council and the U.K. start-up Urban-Air Port Ltd.**



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Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The world's first airport for **electric drones and flying cars just opened in the center of a city in the United Kingdom.** If it's a success, it will be the blueprint for hundreds more around the world.
- **The pop-up Air-One has been built in the city of Coventry.** It's designed for zero-emission electric drones and air taxis and the airport itself is powered by hydrogen fuel cells.
- **The project is the result of a partnership between Coventry City Council and U.K. start-up Urban-Air Port Ltd to demonstrate the potential of urban air mobility to cut congestion and air pollution.**
- **Air-One is designed to be fully autonomous and to integrate with electric vehicles to create a completely sustainable public transport network.**

152. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ **successfully conducted a static fire test of its Kalam-100 rocket that will power the Vikran-1 launch vehicle.**

- A. Sadana Aerospace
- B. Skyroot Aerospace
- C. Air Mobility
- D. ISRO

- **Hyderabad-based space technology startup Skyroot Aerospace successfully conducted a static fire test of its Kalam-100 rocket that will power the Vikran-1 launch vehicle. The third stage, named Kalam-100 after former President APJ Abdul Kalam, was fired for 108 seconds.**
- **During the test, the rocket produced a peak vacuum thrust of 100 kN (about 10 tons) showing its structure built with a high-strength carbon-fiber structure, solid fuel, Ethylene-Propylene-Diene terpolymers (EPDM) thermal protection system, and carbon ablative nozzle.**

153. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ **-based Bellatrix Aerospace has tested an eco-friendly propulsion system for satellites that cuts a new path from the hydrazine-dependent fuel systems.**

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- A. Hyderabad
- B. **Banglore**
- C. Pune
- D. Delhi

- Bengaluru-based **Bellatrix Aerospace** has tested an eco-friendly propulsion system for satellites that cuts a new path from the hydrazine-dependent fuel systems
- Satellite thrusters run on toxic compound hydrazine known to have a severe environmental impact, pushing space researchers to scout for eco-friendlier alternatives.
- **Isro** has said the union government has approved two unmanned missions and one crewed expedition as part of the Rs 9,023-crore **Gaganyaan** mission, according to a release.
- The IISc-founded startup received pre-series A in June 2019 led by IDFC Parampara. Bellatrix belongs to the crop populated by the likes of Agnikul Cosmos, Pixxel, Skyroot Aerospace, and others drawing investor interest in the nascent field.

154. Consider the following statement regarding **Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT-2)**.

1. Indian Navy is looking to acquire a dedicated earth imaging satellite — **Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT-2)** to enhance the navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
2. The central government allotted Rs 45,250 crores for modernization of the Indian Navy under budget estimates for 2022-23.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- In this financial year 2022, the Indian Navy is looking to acquire a dedicated earth imaging satellite — **Geo Imaging Satellite-2 (GISAT-2)** to enhance the navy's operational capabilities in the Indian Ocean region (IOR).
- This is as part of its modernization and network-centric warfare and communications program.
- The central government allotted Rs 45,250 crores for modernization of the Indian Navy under budget estimates for 2022-23. By the year 2026-27, the budget will be allotted more than Rs 2.7-lakh-crores for modernization.
- The GISAT-2 will be designed to operate in a geostationary orbit (GEO) to provide near real-time images of large areas of the region of interest at frequent intervals under cloud-free conditions.

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155. Recently in May Skanda Aerospace Technology Pvt Ltd (SATPL), a joint venture between Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools and US-based Rave Gears, is gearing up to invest Rs 250 crore as India's first private player to set up a manufacturing facility for helicopter gears and gearboxes in \_\_\_\_\_.

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

- In a first for a private company in India, Skanda Aerospace Technology Pvt Ltd (SATPL) announced its plan to invest Rs 250 crore to set up a gearbox manufacturing facility in Hyderabad.
- SATPL is a joint venture (JV) between the Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools (RMVT) and Texas-based Rave Gears LLC.
- This production facility will be India's first private company with the capability to manufacture helicopter gears and gearboxes. Given the growing demand for helicopters manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), there is likely to be a significant demand for gearboxes and drive trains.
- Rave Gears, which will function as the technology provider, will hold 55 percent of SATPL, while RVMT & Investors will hold the remaining 45 percent. The JV company will invest Rs 250 crore and employ 1,000 workers in the next 3-5 years.

## Skanda Aerospace first private firm to build helicopter gears

AJAI SHUKLA  
New Delhi, 12 May

In a first for a private company in India, Skanda Aerospace Technology Pvt Ltd (SATPL) on Thursday announced its plan to invest ₹250 crore to set up a gearbox manufacturing facility at Hyderabad.

SATPL is a joint venture (JV) between the Hyderabad-based Raghu Vamsi Machine Tools (RMVT) and Texas-based Rave Gears LLC.

This production facility will be India's first private company with the capability to manufacture helicopter gears and gearboxes. Given the growing demand for helicopters manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), there is likely to be a significant demand for gearboxes and drive trains.

Rave Gears, which will function as technology provider, will hold 55 per cent of SATPL, while RVMT & Investors will hold the remaining 45 per cent. The JV company will invest ₹250 crore and provide employment to 1,000 workers in the next 3-5 years.

Rave Gears has also committed to provide Skanda Aerospace with assured annual orders

to the tune of \$9 million.

Rave Gears is a designer, manufacturer and system integrator of gears and precision drive trains catering to aerospace, defence, Formula 1 racing and industrial customers worldwide. Among Rave Gears' customers are major original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) such as Boeing, Bell, Collins, BAE Systems, Rolls-Royce, McLaren and Nascar.

**Given the growing demand for helicopters manufactured by HAL, there is likely to be a significant demand for gearboxes and drive trains**

Raghu Vamsi is a supplier of high-precision products and sub-assemblies to OEMs such as Boeing, GE Aviation, Eaton and Honeywell. It has been in the precision manufacturing business for the last 15 years and is eyeing a predicted market size of \$937 million.

According to its Managing Director Vamsi Vikas Ganesula, Raghu Vamsi has almost doubled its turnover during each of the last three years. The total turnover amounted to about ₹150 crore last year.

Like most companies in the precision manufacturing business, Raghu Vamsi has found growth to be a capital-intensive business, with each precision manufacturing machine costing in the region of \$3 million.



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# Adani group becomes 4th Indian co to buy UAE's T20 League franchise

VIVEAT SUSAN PINTO  
Mumbai, 9 May

Adani Sportsline, a subsidiary of the Adani group, has acquired the rights to own and operate a franchise in the six-member UAE T20 League, it said on Monday. Adani became the fourth Indian group after Reliance Industries (RIL), GMR group and Capri Global, a non-banking financial company (NBFC), to own teams in the Indian Premier League (IPL)-style tournament that is likely to commence in June. RIL subsidiary Reliance Strategic Business Ventures had acquired the UAE

T20 League franchise rights in November 2021. GMR and Capri Global had bagged the team rights in February and March, respectively.

RIL owns the Mumbai Indians IPL franchise, while GMR co-owns Delhi Capitals. "The UAE is an amazing amalgamation of several cricket-loving nations. It provides an excellent platform for enhancing the visibility of cricket as the sport goes increasingly global," said Pranav Adani, managing director, agro, oil and gas, and director, Adani Enterprises. He added, "We are excited to be a part of the UAE T20 league." Adani will be the fifth franchise owner of the UAE T20 league, marking its first

major foray into cricket overseas. Last year, the group had bid for the Lucknow and Ahmedabad franchises at IPL. But it lost out to the RP Sanjiv Goenka group and CVC Capital Partners, respectively. RP Sanjiv Goenka group had bagged the Lucknow team for ₹1,100 crore, while CVC Capital had acquired the Ahmedabad franchise for ₹5,166 crore. Licensed by the Emirates Cricket Board, the UAE T20 league has Lancer Capital, the owners of Manchester United Football Club, as its fourth franchise owner. "We are extremely pleased to have one of Asia's leading corporates as our franchise team owner," Mubashshir Usmani, general secretary of the Emirates Cricket Board, said.

# Shah Rukh Khan's KKR acquires franchise in UAE T20 League



The Knight Riders Group, co-owned by Bollywood actors Shah Rukh Khan, Juhi Chawla and her husband Jay Mehta, has acquired the rights to operate a franchise at the UAE T20 League, becoming the

fifth Indian firm to do so. So far, the Adani group, Reliance Industries, GMR and Capri Global have invested in the Indian Premier League-(IPL)-style tournament, which is licensed by the Emirates Cricket Board, and likely to start next month. Lancer Capital, the owners of Manchester United Football Club, is one of the franchise owners in the six-member UAE T20 league, which will have 34 matches. The Knight Riders Group operates the Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL and has invested in the Major League Cricket in the USA. It also owns a franchise in the Caribbean Premier League.

**BS REPORTER**

# SBI posts record quarterly profit of ₹9,114 crore

Misses Street estimates; yearly profit too highest ever

ABHIJIT LELE  
Mumbai, 13 May

State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, on Friday reported its highest-ever quarterly net profit of ₹9,114 crore for the January-March quarter (Q4FY22), rising 41.28 per cent compared with the same period last year. The bank's profit growth was mainly due to improvement in its net interest margins and a sharp decline in loan loss provisions. The net profit, however, missed analyst estimates of ₹10,183 crore, according to Bloomberg. The bank also reported its highest-ever yearly net profit of ₹31,676 crore in FY22, which was up 55 per cent from FY21. The board of directors recommended a dividend of ₹7.1 per equity share (710 per cent) for 2021-22. The SBI stock closed 3.8 per cent lower at ₹445 per share on the BSE.

The lender's net interest income (NII) expanded by 15.26 per cent to ₹31,198 crore in Q4FY22 from ₹27,067 crore in Q4FY21.

**"WE HAVE CREATED SUFFICIENT CONTINGENCY PROVISIONS AGAINST RESTRUCTURED BOOK TO INSULATE OUR BALANCE SHEET FROM ANY FUTURE SHOCKS"**

**Dinesh Kumar Khara**, chairman, SBI

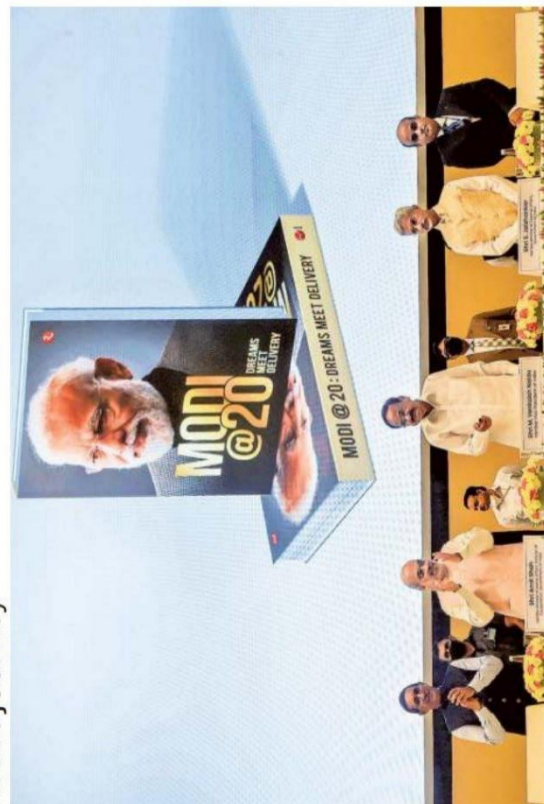


## FINANCIAL METRICS

Standalone figures in ₹ cr

	Q4FY21	Q3FY22	Q4FY22
NII	27,067	30,687	31,198
Other income	16,225	8,673	11,880
Operating profit	19,700	18,522	19,717
Provisions & contingencies	11,051	6,974	7,237
Net profit	6,451	8,432	9,114
Gross NPA	126,389	120,029	112,023
Gross NPA (%)	5.0	4.5	4.0

NII: Net Interest Income; NPA: Non-performing assets  
Source: Bloomberg/Capitaline



A PM's journey

Vice-President M Venkaiah Naidu launching the book "Modi@20: Dreams Meet Delivery" in the presence of Home Minister Amit Shah and External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, in New Delhi, on Wednesday. The book, a compilation of chapters contributed by domain experts and eminent critics, covers the experiential journey of Modi since he left home at 17 on a mission of knowing himself and his country. **PI**



# Droughts reduced India GDP by 2-5% over 20 years: UN

## Suggests Land Restoration, Other Remedies

**Viswa.Mohan**  
@timesgroup.com

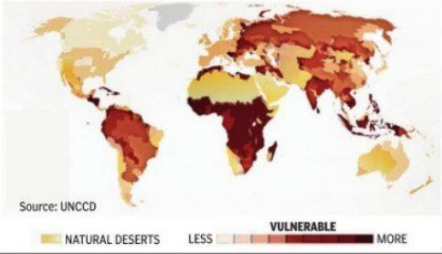
**New Delhi:** The number and duration of droughts has risen 29% globally since 2000 and the effect of severe droughts is estimated to have reduced India's gross domestic product (GDP) by 2-5% over the 20 years from 1998 to 2017, said a new report from the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) released on Wednesday.

While calling for multiple actions, including land restoration to reduce the risk, the report released on the sidelines of the ongoing 15th session of the UNCCD conference (COP15) at Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, also flagged that the droughts represent 15% of natural disasters globally but took the largest human toll — approximately 6,50,000 deaths in 50 years (1970-2019). Globally, droughts caused economic losses of roughly \$124 billion during that period.

Though severe drought affected Africa more than any

### 6.5L DEATHS FROM 1970 TO 2019

- ▶ Number and duration of droughts have risen 29% since 2000
- ▶ Over 1.4 billion people were affected by drought from 2000 to 2019
- ▶ From 1970 to 2019, weather, climate and water hazards accounted for 50% of disasters and 45% of disaster-related deaths, mostly in developing countries
- ▶ Droughts represented 15% of natural disasters but took the largest human toll, approximately 650,000 deaths from 1970 to 2019
- ▶ From 1998 to 2017, droughts caused global economic losses of roughly \$124 billion
- ▶ In 2022, more than 2.3 billion people face water stress; almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts
- ▶ More than 10 million people died due to major drought events in the past century (1900-2022)



other continent with over 300 events recorded in the past 100 years, accounting for 44% of the global total, the highest total number of humans affected by drought were in Asia.

“We are at a crossroads when it comes to managing

drought. We need to steer toward the solutions rather than continuing with destructive actions, believing that marginal change can heal systemic failure,” said Ibrahim Thiaw, executive secretary of the UNCCD, while calling for

making a full global commitment to drought preparedness and resilience in all regions a top priority.

He said, “One of the best, most comprehensive solutions is land restoration, which addresses many of the underlying factors of degraded water cycles and the loss of soil fertility. We must build and rebuild our landscapes better, mimicking nature wherever possible and creating functional ecological systems”.

The report comes against the backdrop of the UNCCD's earlier report on 'global land outlook' that flagged in April

#### ▶ Related reports, P8

how up to 40% of all ice-free land is already degraded globally, affecting 50% of humanity. It also noted that the current scale of degradation threatens half of global GDP (US\$44 trillion).

The UNCCD report notes that 128 countries, including India, have already expressed willingness to achieve or exceed 'Land Degradation Neutrality' and nearly 70 countries participated in the Convention's global drought initiative, which aims to shift from reactive approaches to drought to a proactive and risk-reducing approach.

## AROUND THE WORLD



**ADRENALINE RUSH:** A suspension bridge that is the longest such construction in the world has opened at a mountain resort in the Czech Republic. The 2,365-foot-long 'Sky Bridge 721' is built at an altitude of over 3,610ft above sea level. It connects two ridges of the mountains and hangs up to 312 feet above the valley below

## Nigeria becomes first nation to ground flights as fuel costs rise

Nigeria will become the first nation to ground flights on Monday as surging prices of aviation fuel make business unprofitable. Airline operators “will discontinue operations nationwide” until further notice, their union said. This is the latest sign of the widespread impact that the Russia-Ukraine war is having. The war has caused massive disruption to energy markets with Russian feedstocks used to produce jet fuel and diesel becoming untouchable for people in many parts of the world. China has also cut its oil product export quota, limiting supplies. The loss of 3.2 million barrels a day of refining capacity in the pandemic years also does not help. Nigeria's 23 airlines say they have been “subsidizing” flights for the past four months and can no longer absorb the costs after the price of aviation fuel more than tripled to 700 naira (\$1.68) per litre.

**BLOOMBERG**





**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Second Week of May (8<sup>th</sup> May –15<sup>th</sup> May 2022)**

# Ujjwala LPG scheme: 90-lakh beneficiaries don't take refills

Over 1 crore customers got refills only once, shows RTI reply

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI**

In the financial year 2021-22, 90-lakh beneficiaries of the Narendra Modi government's flagship welfare scheme, Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY), did not take refill gas cylinders. And over one crore beneficiaries got their refills only once.

These revelations come against the backdrop of the much-feted *labharthi*, or beneficiary, class which reportedly voted in good numbers for the BJP in the recent elections, especially to the Uttar Pradesh Assembly. This was revealed in reply to a Right to Information (RTI) application filed by activist Chandrashekhar Gaur with the three oil marketing firms Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. (IOCL), Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (HPCL) and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL).

The scheme was originally launched on May 1, 2016, in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh by Prime Minister Narendra Modi with a target of releasing eight crore connections by March 2020. So far, over nine crore connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana has been released. The PMUY 2.0 was launched in 2021-22, making a provision for release of additional one crore connections.

According to the RTI replies, the IOCL, for the connections released by them till March 2021, 65 lakh customers have not refilled their connections during the

**Low usage** | The chart lists the States where LPG coverage was at least 98% but the share of households that used clean fuel (LPG/natural gas, biogas) for cooking was less than 80%

State	Clean fuel usage (%)	State	Clean fuel usage (%)
West Bengal	40.2	Manipur	70.4
Rajasthan	41.4	Kerala	72.1
Assam	42.1	Punjab	76.7
U.P.	49.5	Sikkim	78.4
Himachal	51.7	Karnataka	79.7
Uttarakhand	59.2	Maharashtra	79.7
Haryana	59.5		

SOURCE: NFHS 5 (2019-20)

past financial year. The figures for the HPCL and the BPCL are 9.1 lakh and 15.96 lakh, respectively.

The BPCL specified that the figure of 15.96 lakh is only for the connections released up to September 2019, which was the first round of the Ujjwala Yojana. The number of customers who got refill cylinders only once for the IOCL was 52 lakh, for HPCL 27.58 lakh and BPCL 28.56 lakh.

As per a reply filed by the government in the Lok Sabha in March this year, the LPG consumption under the Ujjwala Yojana remains 3.66 refills per connection annually.

**COVID effect**

These figures should also take into account the fact that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the government provided up to three free of cost LPG refills to PMUY beneficiaries from April 1, 2020, and this was extended up to December 31, 2020.

PMUY beneficiaries have availed themselves of 14.17 crore free refills under the scheme, across the country, as per the same reply filed by the Union Petroleum Ministry in the Lok Sabha.

Congress leader Pradyut Bordoloi, a member of standing committee on Petroleum, told *The Hindu* that while the scheme was started with a good intent, it had inherent flaws which the government had failed to address. "The people are shocked to realise that they have to pay the full amount even under the scheme for the subsequent cylinders. The subsidy is transferred into their accounts by the oil marketing firms. While the firms claim that they have disbursed the subsidy, we don't know whether it reaches the beneficiaries on time. The cylinders end up being used as showpiece in their homes," he said.

He said he had requested the committee to do a detailed study on the yojana.

# India has space to attract \$90 bn debt flows: RBI

**GEORGE MATHEW  
MUMBAI, MAY 22**

INDIA HAS the space to attract debt flows of another \$90 billion (around Rs 693,000 crore), given the threshold level of the country's external debt, says a Reserve Bank of India study.

"The empirical results suggest that as against India's current external debt to GDP ratio of 20 per cent, the estimated threshold level is higher in the range between 23 per cent and 24 per cent of GDP, indicating space for attracting more debt flows of the order of \$90 billion," says the RBI study on 'Growth maximising external debt of India'. Given the risk of amplifying external vulnerabilities because of higher exposure to external debt, the estimated space may be used carefully balancing the objective of growth and macro-stability, it said.

India's debt market is being progressively opened up to the foreign capital in a careful and calibrated manner.

According to estimates, India's external debt stood at \$614.9 billion as at end-December 2022. Commercial borrowings (CBs) at \$226.4 billion, NRI deposits at \$141.9 billion and short-term trade credit at \$110.5 billion, together account for about 78 per cent of the total external debt. The external debt to GDP ratio as at end-December 2021 was 20.0 per cent.

The total external debt, which fell below the pre-crisis levels in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic lockdown, crossed the pre-pandemic levels as at end-December 2020 and consolidated further helped by NRI deposits crossing pre-pandemic levels as at end-June 2020, commercial borrowings crossing the pre-pandemic levels as at end-September 2021 and short-term trade credit crossing the pre-pandemic levels as at end-December 2021, the RBI said.

In contrast, India's external debt remained relatively immune to the global finan-

**NRI deposits down \$2.87 bn**

*Mumbai:* Outstanding non-resident Indian (NRI) deposits in India fell by \$2.875 billion to \$139.020 billion in the financial year ended March 2022 as against \$141.895 billion a year ago, according to the latest RBI data.

India attracted only \$3.23 billion NRI deposits in FY22 as against \$7.36 billion a year ago. Non-resident external rupee account (NRE)RA witnessed a growth of \$3.33 billion in FY22 as against \$8.84 billion last year. FCNR (B) deposits declined by \$3.55 billion in FY22. **ENS**

cial crisis (GFC) reflecting the resilience of commercial borrowings, the most growth-sensitive and the largest component of India's external debt. "The resilience of commercial borrowings in the wake of the GFC stemmed largely from the relatively muted impact of GFC on growth in sharp contrast to that during GLD," the study said.

At present, a rule-based dynamic limit for outstanding stock of ECBs at 6.5 per cent of GDP is in place. As India aims at higher, sustainable and inclusive growth, the need for attracting larger external debt flows within the estimated threshold may be assessed along with other external vulnerability parameters so that the growth objective is pursued while preserving overall macro-stability, the RBI study said.

External debt, by supplementing domestic savings, can help countries grow faster. But a large stock of external debt can potentially create vulnerabilities and dent growth prospects. Since the onset of the pandemic, many countries have expanded public spending to support the recovery, which has led to a build-up of their external debt, the IMF says.



# Forex kitty will cover 10 mths' imports: RBI

## Sold \$20Bn In March, Global Outlook Grim, Says Central Bank In 'State Of Eco' Report

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said in its 'State of the economy' report that forex reserves of \$596 billion, as on May 6 this year, were equivalent to about 10 months of projected imports for FY23. The central bank also released data showing it sold \$20 billion of its reserves in March 2022.

The report, released by the RBI on Tuesday, said that the global growth outlook was grim as geopolitical tensions lingered, and commodity prices remained elevated, even as withdrawal of monetary accommodation gathers speed worldwide. "Emerging economies face risks of capital outflows and higher commodity prices feeding into inflation prints. Meanwhile, the pandemic impinges on near-term economic prospects," the RBI said in its report.

### TRADE SHOCK

<p><b>Net sale of foreign currency by RBI</b></p> <p><b>\$20.1bn</b> March 2022</p> <p><b>\$5.7bn</b> March 2021</p> <p>Source: RBI</p>	<p><b>&gt; The increase in global commodity prices</b> imparts net terms of trade shock that is <b>widening India's trade and current account deficits</b>, the 'State of the eco' report said</p>	<p><b>Where do \$596bn forex reserves stand?</b></p> <p><b>\$1.8bn</b> down compared to the previous week</p> <p><b>\$11.4bn</b> down compared to March-end</p> <p><b>\$6.5bn</b> more than May 2021 figure</p>
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Since the RBI announced its policy in April, inflation risks have become more accentuated in recent months. The increase in international commodity prices also imparts net terms of trade shock that is widening the trade and current account deficits.

"To achieve a higher growth path on a sustainable basis, private investment needs to be encouraged through higher capital expenditure by government, which crowds in private investment," the report said. It added that impro-

ving infrastructure, ensuring low and stable inflation and maintaining macroeconomic stability is critical for reviving animal spirits and spurring growth.

The RBI, which had maintained a status quo position in its April policy, said that inflation pressures became increasingly generalised across commodity groups in the April print of the consumer price index (CPI), resulting in a sharp spike in headline inflation to 7.8% — well above the upper tolerance band.

# 10-year-old girl from Maha summits Everest base camp

Bella.Jaisinghani  
@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: A 10-year-old champion skater from Worli, Rhythm Mamania, has become one of the youngest Indian mountaineers to summit the Everest base camp (EBC) in the Himalayan ranges in Nepal. Rhythm had no coach or formal training, and would practise by running up and down a long flight of steps.

Neither the perils of low oxygen at a height of 5,364m above sea level nor spells of nausea nor blisters on the feet halted the determined girl in her tracks. Around 1.00pm on May 6, the class five student summited the Everest base camp (EBC) with her proud parents Urmi and Harshal by her side. Rhythm said, "It was my aim to reach the EBC summit so I did not bother about the cold. I enjoy sports."

Urmi said, "Rhythm is a national level skater so her thigh muscles are strong. But it is her will and her moral conscience that is worth mentioning. She opted to climb down while others were engaging helicopter rides to descend. And she collected all her litter and brought it back to Kathmandu rather than leave it lying in the mountains where it will not decompose for years."

The 11-day expedition was organised by Rishi Bhandari of Satori Adventures, Nepal. He said by phone, "Most people from India, especially Mumbai and Maharashtra, go through my company, and Rhythm is certainly the youngest in this respect. I was inspired to see that she did not complain despite being nauseous and tired by the arduous climb."

Urmi laughed and recalled how several admiring climbers stopped to take pictures with Rhythm.



Rhythm, who is a national level skater, had no coach or formal training. She practised for the climb by running up and down a long flight of steps

## Doc scales Everest, another peak in 24 hrs

It's difficult to climb the tallest mountain on Earth, but a doctor from Gujarat's Jamkhambhaliya not just climbed the 8,849m-tall Mt Everest, but got down and climbed another peak at 8,516m — all within 24 hours! Dr Somat Chetariya, a urologist who achieved this feat, is probably the fastest Indian to do so, reports **Parth Shastri**.

Dr Chetariya summited Mt Everest on May 13. He got down and immediately started to climb Mt Lhotse, the world's fourth highest mountain, and reached the peak the next morning, climbing both summits in just 23 hours. "One needs to tackle mountain fatigue and factor in the time needed to rest between climbs in order to restore oxygen at high altitudes. Keval Kakka from Mumbai had earlier scaled both the mountains in six days. So, I along with another mountaineer from our team got down to Camp 4 after our summit on Mt Everest, and started climb Mt Lhotse," said Chetariya. Dr Leuva told **TOI** that Camp 4 is at a Y-fork from where one path leads to Mt Everest and the other to Mt Lhotse. "So, one has to reach Camp 4 to get to either of the mountains," he said.

## Three 8,000m peaks conquered in 24 days

A 27-year-old woman mountaineer from Himachal Pradesh on Saturday scaled Mount Everest, her third 8000-metre peak in a row within 24 days. Taking the Southeast ridge route, Baljeet Kaur, who belongs to Solan in Himachal Pradesh, reached the top of the world's highest mountain on Saturday morning at 04:30 am local time, reports **Rohit Mullick**. Pasang Sherpa, the director of Peak Promotion, a Kathmandu-based mountaineering agency, said Kaur conquered Everest with her guide Mingma Sherpa under favorable weather conditions.

In 2016, she had to cancel her summit push, just around 300 metres shy of the top, after her oxygen mask malfunctioned. According to information, Kaur was all set to attempt summiting her next peak — Mount Lhotse — that stands at 8,516 metres next to Mount Everest. "Kaur was safely back at Lhotse camp 4 by 11 am Saturday and resting. She will start climbing Mount Lhotse on Saturday evening only and is expected to make her summit push in the early hours of Sunday," said Pasang.