

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

**National/State News**

1. Consider the following statements regarding **Breed-Wise Report of Livestock and Poultry based on the 20th Livestock Census**.

1. It is the **first time** that breeds wise data has been collected by **using tablet computers** instead of paper mode.
2. The Livestock and Birds have been counted according to their breeds as recognized by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR).
3. According to this report, the **Exotic and Crossbred animals** contribute to nearly 26.5% in the total cattle population.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Government released the Breed-Wise Report of Livestock and Poultry based on the **20th Livestock Census**.
- It is the first time that breeds wise data has **been collected by using tablet computers** instead of paper mode.
- The Livestock and Birds have been counted according to their breeds as **recognized by the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources (NBAGR)**.
- The main highlights of the Breed-wise Report of Livestock and Poultry are as follows:
- It has covered **184 indigenous/exotic & crossbred breeds of 19 selected species**.
- According to this report, the **Exotic and Crossbred animals** contribute to nearly 26.5% in the total cattle population.
- **Gir, Lakhimi and Sahiwal** breeds are the major contributors to the total indigenous cattle.
- There are **28 indigenous breeds of goats** are found in India. The **Black Bengal** breed is the most common breed.
- **Crossbred pigs and Yorkshire** are the main breeds of exotic/crossbred pigs in India.
- The **Spiti** breed of donkey accounts for about 8.3% of the population while the **Bikaneri** breed of camel contributes about 29.6% to the total population.

2. Recently in May **Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Common Service Centre e-governance India Private Limited** and \_\_\_\_\_ have signed an MoU to engage last-mile buyers, sellers, and service providers in public procurement.

- A. Ministry of Education

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- B. Department of Posts**
- C. NABARD
- D. RBI

*Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Common Service Centre e-governance India Private Limited, and the Department of Posts have signed a MoU.*

*They have signed a MoU to engage last-mile buyers, sellers, and service providers in public procurement.*

*Training will be provided to nearly 4, 50,000 Common Service Centers and around 1, 50,000 Post Offices across the country in order to assist government buyers, sellers, and service providers.*

*GeM will institute a reward and incentive program for top-performing CSCs and post offices.*

*Government e-Marketplace (GeM): GeM is a company created under the administrative jurisdiction of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry's Department of Commerce.*

*It was created for the procurement of goods and services by Central Ministries, State Departments, PSEs and Autonomous Bodies. It was launched on August 9, 2016.*

*CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. (CSC-SPV): It is a company incorporated under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India under the Companies Act 1956 for the implementation and monitoring of the CSC Scheme.*

*Department of Posts (DoP): The Indian Post Office Act, 1898, governs the Department of Posts, which is part of the Ministry of Communications. Its headquarters is in New Delhi. It was founded on 1 October 1854.*

3. Which of the following ministries has signed MoU with **National Research Development Corporation** to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme for Improving Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector?
- A. Ministry of Defence
  - B. Ministry of Culture
  - C. Ministry of Heavy Industries**
  - D. Ministry of education

- The Ministry of Heavy Industries and the National Research Development Corporation has signed a MoU.
- They have signed a MoU to collaborate on various activities to ensure the smooth implementation of the Scheme for Improving Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector.
- According to the MoU signed in New Delhi, the corporation will evaluate and review the scheme, manage intellectual property rights, and commercialization support for the products developed under Capital Goods Scheme Phase-I & II etc on behalf of MHI.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- Ministry of Heavy Industries had notified the *Scheme on Enhancement of Competitiveness in the Indian Capital Goods Sector- Phase-II on January 25, 2022.*
- The government has **allocated a financial outlay of Rs 1207 crores for Phase- II.**
- *National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) was founded in 1953 to assist in the development and promotion of technologies developed at various national R&D institutions.*

4. *According to the joint survey conducted by Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal and the Bhutan-based Royal Society for Protection of Nature, \_\_\_\_\_ has highest number of bird species in India.*
- Maharashtra
  - Uttar Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand**
  - West Bengal

*According to a survey, Uttarakhand has 294 bird species. It is followed by West Bengal with 284 bird species.*

*Arunachal Pradesh with 234 and Maharashtra with 228 bird species are at third and fourth position respectively.*

*The one-day survey has been conducted by Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal and the Bhutan-based Royal Society for Protection of Nature.*

*This survey has been released on 14 May, which is observed as Endemic Bird Day. This will aware people about the bird diversity across Himalayan states. This is the first such coordinated count which can be used as a base figure.*

*Uttarakhand has also the highest number of birdwatchers in the Himalayan region.*

*Jammu & Kashmir has 193 bird species while Ladakh has 104 species of birds.*

5. *Consider the following statements regarding the 3<sup>rd</sup> party assessment of AB-HWCs released by Union Health & Family Welfare Minister on 17 May.*
- It has been done by non-governmental entities, GRAAM and JHPIEGO and AIIMS, New Delhi for the year 2020-21.*

## U'khand has most bird species in India, Bengal at 2nd spot

Shivani.Azad@timesgroup.com

Dehradun: A pan-India one-day bird estimation exercise, Himalayan Bird Count, revealed that Uttarakhand had the highest number of avian species count, at 294, among all states. It was followed by West Bengal which recorded 284 different bird species, and Arunachal Pradesh with 234. Maharashtra, with 228 different avian species, was fourth, followed by Tamil Nadu (221), Karnataka (221) and Himachal Pradesh (217).

The one-day survey was conducted by Bird Count India, Bird Conservation Nepal and Bhutan-based Royal Society for Protection of Nature on May 14, which is also observed as Endemic Bird Day. Conservationists, scientists, and nature enthusiasts were seen sighting the winged creatures through their lenses across the Himalayas.

"This count will sensitise people about bird diversity across Himalayan states, which has not been recorded uniformly till date. This was the first such coordinated count and can be used as a base figure, which will help us understand the impact of



Uttarakhand has 294 species, Bengal 284 and Arunachal 234

climate change and other factors on the avian diversity in the region," said Sanjay Sondhi, a conservationist and founder of Titli Trust.

Uttarakhand also had the highest number of birdwatchers in the Himalayan region. The checklist submission indicated that the number of people involved in birdwatching at the time of the joint national exercise was 175 in the hill state.

Among other Himalayan states, Jammu & Kashmir counted 193 bird species, Ladakh 104, Meghalaya 56, Tripura 77, Sikkim 157, and Arunachal Pradesh counted 234.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**2. The study covered 317 facilities across eighteen states with 117 PHCs/UPHCs and 220 SHCs.**

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

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

**Findings of 3rd party assessment of AB-HWCs in 18 states were released by Union Health & Family Welfare Minister on 17 May.**

**The assessment of Ayushman Bharat – Health and Wellness Centres (AB-HWCs) in 18 states has been done in two phases.**

**It has been done by non-governmental entities, GRAAM and JHPIEGO as well as AIIMS, New Delhi for the year 2020-21.**

**The study covered 317 facilities across eighteen states with 117 PHCs/UPHCs and 220 SHCs.**

**The report finds that the implementation of the AB-HWC scheme is on track in most states.**

**Grassroots Research and Advocacy Movement (GRAAM) is a public policy research initiative in India. JHPIEGO is an international, non-profit health organization.**

**6. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has partnered with Indian School of Business for capacity-building programmes.**

- A. Ministry of Defence**
- B. Ministry of Heavy Industries**
- C. Ministry of Education**
- D. Ministry of Skill Development**

**Ministry of Skill Development partnered with Indian School of Business for capacity-building programmes.**

**Around 120 officers, 30 per batch, will undergo a comprehensive five-day long training in ISB Hyderabad.**

**A first batch of 30 officers has completed training from ISB Mohali campus.**

**An MoU has been also signed between MSDE and ISB. The primary goal of the programme is to strengthen leadership skills.**

**The MSDE and ISB are encouraging officials to inculcate culture of innovation within their respective organizations.**

**7. Consider the following statements regarding World Dairy Summit 2022.**

**1. The annual flagship summit of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit 2022 will be held in India for the first time since 1974 under the theme of “livelihood and nutrition”.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**2. Piercristiano Brazzale, President of IDF announced a new IDF Award in Innovation, which will be handed over on September 12, 2022 in 12 categories.**

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

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

## World Dairy Summit 2022 to showcase success stories of India's women empowerment

**OUR BUREAU**

Ahmedabad, May 18

The annual flagship summit of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) World Dairy Summit 2022 will be held in India for the first time since 1974 under the theme of "livelihood and nutrition".

The first physical event post Covid by the IDF will be organised in New Delhi between September 12 and 15.

During a curtain-raiser event in New Delhi on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sanjeev Kumar Balyan, said, "It is a matter of great delight that India has got the opportunity to host the World Dairy Summit after 48 years."

Dairy industry stakeholders from over 40 countries would

participate in the summit. Caroline Emond, Director-General, IDF, said India's success story of women empowerment will be shared with the world through World Dairy Summit.

Piercristiano Brazzale, President of IDF, announced a new IDF Award in Innovation, which will be handed over on September 12 in 12 categories.

**Nutrition theme**

Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) and the Member Secretary of Indian National Committee of IDF, said the World Dairy Summit is significant to the stakeholders in India.

"Not only the farmers, but even the landless farmers are



linked with dairy," Shah said. Commenting on the theme of the Summit "Livelihood and Nutrition", Shah said, "Milk and milk products play a very important role in providing nutri-

ents to the rural people. And as the theme of the WDS is based on nutrition, we expect that participants from 40-45 countries and a large number of farmers to be part of the event."

Atul Chaturvedi, Secretary, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, informed that India will get the benefit of experience of the International Dairy Federation and "the world leaders on dairy who will come to India and the country will benefit by learning from them what they do for the dairy sector and it will also be a great opportunity for India to showcase its achievements in the dairy sector."

Chaturvedi is also the Chairman of the IDF-Indian National Committee.

**The annual flagship summit of the International Dairy Federation (IDF) - World Dairy Summit 2022 will be held in India first time since 1974 under the theme of "livelihood and nutrition". The first physical event post Covid by the IDF, will be organized in New Delhi-NCR between September 12-15, 2022.**

**Earlier edition of World Dairy Summit 2019 was held in Istanbul, Turkey, while the 2020 Summit scheduled to be held in Cape Town, South Africa was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**During a curtain raiser event in New Delhi on Tuesday, Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying Sanjeev Kumar Balyan said, "It is a matter of great delight that India has got the opportunity to host the World Dairy Summit after 48 years." Piercristiano Brazzale, the President of International Dairy Federation (IDF) announced a new IDF Award in Innovation, which will be handed over on September 12 - the first day of the World Dairy Summit 2022. "We will give the award in 12 categories,"**

**Meenesh Shah, Chairman, National Dairy Development Board (NDDB), Atul Chaturvedi, Chairman of the IDF-Indian National Committee.**

**8. Consider the following statements regarding amendments In National Policy on Bio-fuels.**

**1. The existing National Policy on Bio-fuels was notified in 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**2. It has moved the ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to ESY 2025-26 from 2030. Currently, 8.5% of ethanol is being blended with petrol in India.**

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

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

## Ethanol blend in petrol to be raised to 20% in 3 years

Cabinet advances deadline for fuel firms by 5 years via amendment to National Policy on Biofuels, 2018

**JACOB KOSHY**  
NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, to advance the date by which fuel companies have to increase the percentage of ethanol in petrol to 20%, from 2030 to 2025. The policy to introduce 20% ethanol in petrol will take effect from April 1, 2023.

A statement from the government said the new policy would allow more feed stock for producing biofuel and foster the development of indigenous technologies.

A 2021 report by the NITI Aayog said that "immense



**The green route:** A NITI Aayog report says ethanol-blended petrol will cut emissions and the dependence on imports. •PTI

benefits" could accrue to the country by 20% ethanol blending by 2025, such as saving ₹30,000 crore of foreign exchange per year, in-

creased energy security, lowered carbon emissions, better air quality, self-reliance, better use of damaged foodgrains, increased

farmers' incomes and investment opportunities.

India achieved 9.45% ethanol blending as on March 13, 2022, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. The Centre projects that this will reach 10% by the end of financial year 2022. The government first announced its plans of advancing the 20% blending target in December 2020.

### Impact on vehicles

A 10% blending of petrol does not require major changes to engines but a 20% blend could require some changes and may even drive up the prices of vehicles.

A greater percentage of blending could also mean more land being diverted for water-intensive crops such as sugar cane, which the government currently subsidises.

The NITI Aayog projects an ethanol demand of 10.16 billion litres by 2025. The current ethanol production capacity in India of 4.26 billion litres derives from molasses-based distilleries, and 2.58 billion litres from grain-based distilleries. This is expected to expand to 7.6 billion litres and 7.4 billion litres respectively, and will require six million tonnes of sugar and 16.5 million tonnes of grains per annum by 2025.

CM

- **Cabinet approved amendments in National Policy on Biofuels-2018.**
- **The existing National Policy on Bio-fuels was notified in 2018 by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- **The proposed amendments will encourage the development of indigenous technologies. It will give impetus to the vision of making India 'energy independent' by 2047.**
- **The main amendments approved to the National Policy on Bio-fuels are as follows:**
- **The amendments to the National Policy on Biofuels-2018 will allow more feed stocks for the production of bio-fuels.**
- **It has moved the ethanol blending target of 20% blending of ethanol in petrol to ESY 2025-26 from 2030. Currently, 8.5% of ethanol is being blended with petrol in India.**
- **The amendments will add new members to the National Biofuel Coordination Committee (NBCC). It will also grant permission for exporting bio-fuels in specific cases.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *Under the Make in India program, the production of bio-fuels will be encouraged by the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) / Export Oriented Units (EOUs).*
9. *Consider the following statements regarding incentive scheme for shooting foreign films in India announced by Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur.*
1. *Under this scheme, International film production companies can claim a reimbursement up to 30% on Qualifying Expenditure in India subject to a maximum of INR 2 crore.*
  2. *Government has started the world's largest film restoration project under the National Film Heritage Mission. 2200 movies across languages will be restored under this project.*

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

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

*Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur announced an incentive scheme for shooting foreign films in India.*

*Union Minister Anurag Thakur inaugurated the Indian Pavilion at Cannes Film Festival and also released the poster of the 53rd International Film Festival of India.*

*He also announced an incentive scheme for audio-visual co-production and shooting foreign films in India.*

*Under this scheme, international film production companies can claim a reimbursement of up to 30% on Qualifying Expenditure in India subject to a maximum of INR 2 crore. The government will also additional bonus of up to 65 thousand Dollars for employing 15 percent or more manpower in India.*

*The schemes will promote global collaborations with India and attract investment from foreign filmmakers. Recently, Government has started the world's largest film restoration project under the National Film Heritage Mission. 2200 movies across languages will be restored under this project.*

*India and France are celebrating the 75th year of the Cannes Film Festival.*

***First-ever National Conference of Woman Legislators will be hosted by Kerala Legislative Assembly.***

***The conference will be hosted in Thiruvananthapuram on 26th May 2022.***

***The participants in the conference will include women legislators from the Parliament and State Legislatures, Union Ministers, Speakers, Deputy Speakers, and Members of Parliament.***

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

10. Recently In May the **eight-member Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by the Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma** has agreed on levying \_\_\_\_\_ % GST on casino, online gaming services and race course, according to sources.
- A. 5 %
  - B. 8 %
  - C. 15 %
  - D. 28 %

**The eight-member Group of Ministers (GoM), headed by the Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, has agreed on levying 28% GST on casino, online gaming services and race course, according to sources.**

**The GoM report will be submitted in a day or two to the GST Council. The GoM recommendations are generally accepted by the GST Council, which is likely to hold its meeting later this May or in June first week.**

**Currently, 18% GST is levied on services of casino, horse racing and online gaming.**

**The Centre in May 2021 had formed a committee of eight state ministers to look into the valuation of taxable services provided by online gaming companies and casinos.**

#### ONLINE GAMING, CASINOS, HORSE RACING

## GoM may veer around to levying GST on gaming revenue

Report to be soon submitted to the Finance Minister

SHISHIR SINHA

New Delhi, May 18

A Group of Ministers (GoM) has agreed to recommend 28 per cent Goods & Services Tax on online gaming, casinos and horse racing. Sources said the recommendation is that the GST be levied on the Gross Gaming Revenue (GGR).

The GGR is basically the fee collected and retained by the service provider, such as an online gaming operator, as consideration for providing services and technology.

It is the only source of revenue for the operator. Similar arrangements exist for casinos and horse racing.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, who is also the convener of the GoM, refused to divulge the details of the recommendation citing it has to be submitted to Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman followed by deliberations and decision in the

GST Council, but he did confirm that recommendations have been finalised.

"The Group of Ministers on casinos, race courses and online gaming has come to a consensus. The report of our submissions will be handed over to Hon'ble FM, Smti @nsitharaman Ji in a day or two & the matter will be presented in the next @GST\_Council Meeting," he said in a tweet.

Earlier this month, the GoM arrived at a consensus on a flat 28 per cent GST rate for online gaming as also casinos and racing.

It met again on Wednesday and finalised the method of valuing these services for the purpose of levying the tax. Sangma said recommendations have been made keeping in mind the interests of the industry and the court rulings.

"All the decisions and recommendations we have made are based on existing laws, existing rulings from the Supreme Court and keeping in mind the entire uniformity that needs to be maintained in the sector as a whole. We also looked at growth of the dif-

ferent sectors. We also looked at aspects ensuring that entrepreneur and business has to consider," he said. Further, he said the GoM has to take a consistent view and based on that the recommendations will be submitted.

#### Existing rate

As on date, online gaming has a dual rate of taxation—18 per cent on games of skill (games not involving betting or gambling) and 28 per cent on games of chance (games involving betting and gambling). Most online gaming apps pay GST at the rate of 18 per cent. Both casinos and horse racing attract GST of 28 per cent.

Commenting on the latest development, L Badri Narayanan, Executive Partner, Lakshimkumaran and Sridharan, says it is important for the GST Council to adopt an appropriate rate and valuation mechanism. According to him, the well-established legal precedence prescribing treating a "game of skill" different from a "game of chance" should be taken into account by the Council before determining the GST rate and the valuation mechanism.

11. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ government has announced to **launch Navchetana programme under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR)** to reduce drug abuse among children.

- A. Maharashtra
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Mizoram
- D. Odisha

**As educational institutions have reopened following reduction of Covid cases, Odisha government is set to launch Navchetana programme under National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). The programme will be implemented in 10 selected districts - Puri, Jagatsinghpur, Cuttack, Angul, Khurda, Sundargarh, Ganjam, Balasore, Kalahandi and Kendrapara for the next three years with an aim to reduce adverse consequences of drug abuse**

**District Social Security Officers have been directed to implement the programme as per the State action plan prepared on the line of national action plan. As part of the programme, 10 schools in each of the 10 identified districts will be taken up with a focus on providing education and awareness on drug abuse among school going children in the age group of 11-18 years.**



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

12. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ government has decided to extend budgetary support of Rs 428.95 crore to develop the mega aluminium park at Angul.
- A. Uttar Pradesh
  - B. Andhra Pradesh
  - C. Odisha
  - D. Telangana

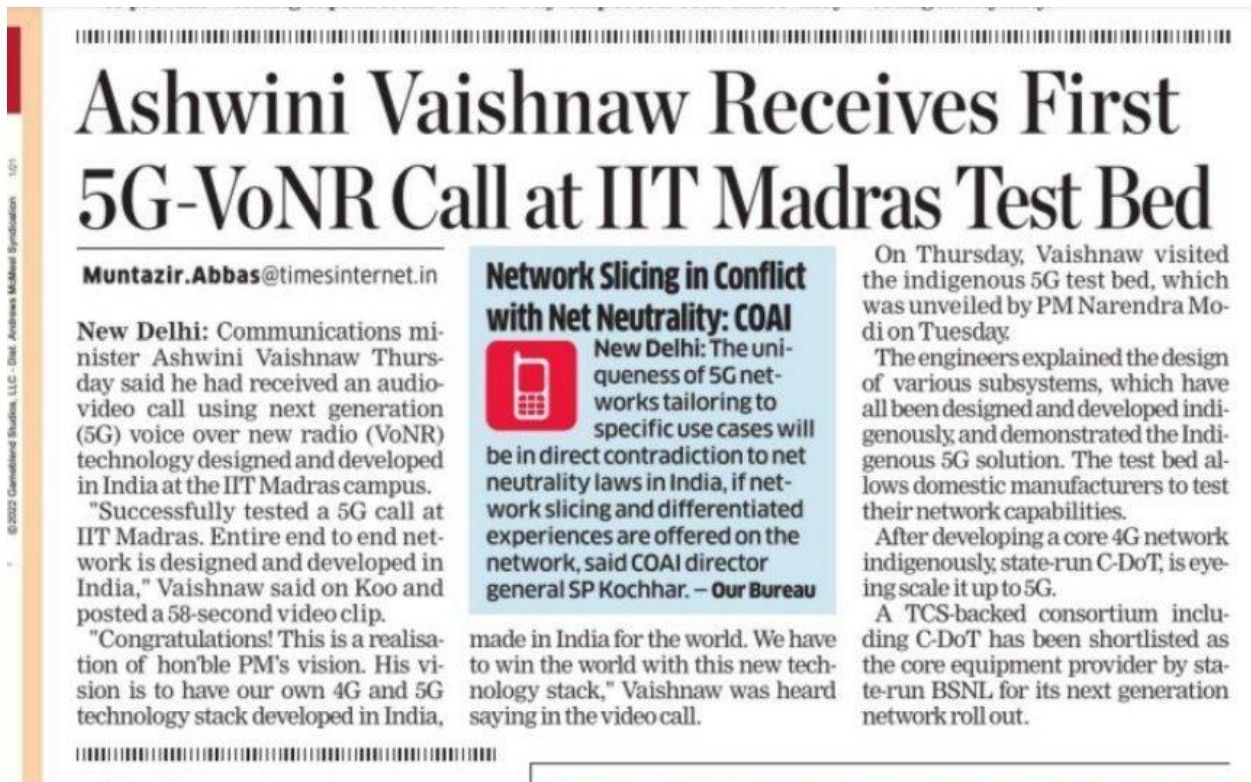
In a bid to boost creation of industrial infrastructure in the State, government has decided to extend budgetary support of Rs 428.95 crore to develop the mega aluminium park at Angul.

The financial support includes compensation to be paid by the government for land acquisition for the project.

The mega aluminium park project to be executed through the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (IDCO) will be completed within three years.

The Cabinet also gave green signal for Mukhya Mantri Adibandha Tiari Yojana (MATY) with an outlay of Rs 811.45 crore. The project to be implemented for three years from 2022-23 to 2024-25 will create irrigation potential of 27,600 hectares.

13. Recently in May 2022, PM Modi addressed an event on *silver jubilee celebrations* of which of the following organizations?
- A. BAARC
  - B. TRAI
  - C. NCLT
  - D. IRDAI



**Ashwini Vaishnaw Receives First 5G-VoNR Call at IIT Madras Test Bed**

Muntazir.Abbas@timesinternet.in

New Delhi: Communications minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Thursday said he had received an audio-video call using next generation (5G) voice over new radio (VoNR) technology designed and developed in India at the IIT Madras campus.

"Successfully tested a 5G call at IIT Madras. Entire end to end network is designed and developed in India," Vaishnaw said on Koo and posted a 58-second video clip.

"Congratulations! This is a realisation of hon'ble PM's vision. His vision is to have our own 4G and 5G technology stack developed in India, made in India for the world. We have to win the world with this new technology stack," Vaishnaw was heard saying in the video call.

**Network Slicing in Conflict with Net Neutrality: COAI**

New Delhi: The uniqueness of 5G networks tailoring to specific use cases will be in direct contradiction to net neutrality laws in India, if network slicing and differentiated experiences are offered on the network, said COAI director general SP Kochhar. – Our Bureau

On Thursday, Vaishnaw visited the indigenous 5G test bed, which was unveiled by PM Narendra Modi on Tuesday.

The engineers explained the design of various subsystems, which have all been designed and developed indigenously, and demonstrated the Indigenous 5G solution. The test bed allows domestic manufacturers to test their network capabilities.

After developing a core 4G network indigenously, state-run C-DoT, is eyeing scale it up to 5G.

A TCS-backed consortium including C-DoT has been shortlisted as the core equipment provider by state-run BSNL for its next generation network roll out.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*PM Modi addressed the event on Silver Jubilee (twenty-fifth anniversaries) celebrations of the TRAI via video conferencing.*

*He also released a postage stamp on the occasion. PM Modi also unveiled a 5G Test Bed.*

*5G Test Bed was developed as a multi-institutional collaboration project led by IIT Madras. It has been developed at a cost of around 230 crore rupees.*

*It will create a supporting ecosystem for Indian industry and start-ups.*

*It will allow them to validate their 5G and next-generation technologies products, prototypes, solutions, and algorithms.*

*Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI): The Government of India had established TRAI under Section 3 of the Telecom Regulator of India Act, 1997.*

*It was formed on 20 February 1997. Its headquarters is in New Delhi. Its chairperson is P. D. Vaghela.*

14. Recently seen in news, **Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary** has been declared as India's \_\_\_\_\_ tiger reserve is located in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 52<sup>nd</sup>, Rajasthan
- B. 53<sup>rd</sup>, Bihar
- C. 56<sup>th</sup>, Chattisgarh
- D. 54<sup>th</sup>, Madhya Pradesh

*Union Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said that Rajasthan's Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary has been notified as the 52nd tiger reserve.*

*It is the fourth tiger reserve of Rajasthan after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra. It will be spread over an area of 1,501.89 sq km.*

*Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary includes the Ranthambore Tiger Reserve in the northeast and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve on the southern side.*

*Last year, National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) had given approval to make Ramgarh Vishdhari Wildlife Sanctuary and adjoining areas a tiger reserve. Indian wolf, leopard, striped hyena, sloth bear, etc. can also be seen in the Ramgarh Vishdhari Tiger Reserve.*

*According to the National Tiger Conservation Authority, there were 2,967 tigers in India in 2019.*

### **RAJASTHAN**

## **Ramgarh sanctuary now a tiger reserve**

*New Delhi:* The Ramgarh Vishdhari Sanctuary in Rajasthan was notified as India's 52nd tiger reserve on Monday, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said. This is Rajasthan's fourth tiger reserve after Ranthambore, Sariska and Mukundra. "It will conserve biodiversity and bring in ecotourism and development to the area," Yadav tweeted. **PTI**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

15. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ *Government has launched Lok Milni (public interaction) programme for on-the-spot redressal of the people's grievances.*
- A. Haryana
  - B. Punjab**
  - C. Madhya Pradesh
  - D. Delhi

*Punjab CM Bhagwant Mann launches Lok Milni (public interaction) programme.*

*Lok Milni is a flagship programme of Punjab government for on-the-spot redressal of the people's grievances.*

*CM said that the programme is aimed to ensure a single window platform for the redressal of people's complaints.*

*The program was earlier named 'Janta Darbar' but it was later renamed.*

*He directed the department of social justice to release the arrears of the 'Shagun Scheme'.*

*Shagun Scheme, also known as Ashirvad Scheme, is a financial assistance scheme under which the state government will provide Rs. 15000 to Rs 21000 for the marriage of daughter belonging to the low income family in Punjab. It will help in reducing the percentage of child marriage in the state.*

16. Consider the following statements regarding *MoUs and Agreements signed between India and Nepal.*
1. *MoU signed on the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies between Indian Council of Cultural Relations and Lumbini Buddhist University.*
  2. *An Agreement between SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority was also signed for development and implementation of Arun 4 Project.*
  3. *Six MoUs and Agreements were signed between India and Nepal.*

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

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

Prime Minister's Office

**List of MoUs/Agreements signed and exchanged during Prime Minister's visit to Lumbini, Nepal**

Posted On: 16 MAY 2022 2:43PM by PIB Delhi

Sr. No.	Name of MoU
1.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Lumbini Buddhist University on the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies
2.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and CNAS, Tribhuvan University on the establishment of ICCR Chair of Indian Studies
3.	Memorandum of Understanding between Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and Kathmandu University (KU) on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies
4.	Memorandum of Understanding in collaboration between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), India
5.	Letter of Agreement (LoA) between Kathmandu University (KU), Nepal and Indian Institute of Technology (IITM), India [ For Joint degree program at Master's level]
6.	Agreement between SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for Development and implementation of Arun 4 Project

# Modi, Deuba move to strengthen ties

India, Nepal sign six pacts in hydro power generation, education, cultural promotion

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 16  
 India and Nepal signed six pacts to boost cooperation in various areas such as hydro power generation, education and culture during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit on Monday.

Modi, paid an official visit to Lumbini, Nepal, on Monday, coinciding with the occasion of Buddha Purnima, at the invitation of the Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba.

"Both Prime Ministers held a bilateral meeting, during which they followed up on their discussions held on April 2 in New

Delhi. They discussed specific initiatives and ideas to further strengthen cooperation in various sectors, including culture, economy, trade, connectivity, energy and development partnership," as per a statement issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

**Sister city relations**

The two countries agreed in-principle to establish sister city relations between Lumbini and Kushinagar, that are among the holiest sites of Buddhism and reflects the shared Buddhist heritage between the two countries, the statement ad-

ded. "Given the way things are shaping up in the world, the continuous strengthening of friendship and closeness between India and Nepal will help to serve humanity," Modi tweeted.

**Arun 4 hydel project**

One of the agreements signed on Monday was between SJVN Ltd and Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) for development and implementation of Arun 4 hydro-power project. "PM Modi assured India's support in the development of Nepal's hydro-power sector and in encouraging interested Indian developers to expeditiously explore new projects in this regard," the release said.

The two Prime Ministers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Nepal Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba at the 'Shilanyaas Ceremony' for the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage at the Lumbini Monastic Zone in Lumbini, Nepal

expressed satisfaction at the progress made in bilateral power sector cooperation in recent months, that covers development of generation projects, power transmission infrastructure and

power trade. Deuba invited Indian companies to undertake the development of the West Seti hydropower project in Nepal.

Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Kath-

mandu University also agreed to collaborate and offer joint degree programme at Master's level.

**Pacts in education sector**

Two MoUs were also signed between the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) and CNAS, Tribhuvan University and Kathmandu University on the establishment of the ICCR Chair of Indian Studies.

ICCR also signed an MoU with Lumbini Buddhist University on the establishment of a Dr Ambedkar Chair for Buddhist Studies. "Both Prime Ministers agreed to further expand educational and cultural exchanges to bring the people of the two countries closer," the statement noted.



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- Six MoUs and Agreements were signed between India and Nepal.
- **An International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage will be constructed by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi, on a plot allocated by the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT).**
- International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) signed an agreement in March 2022 for the construction of this center.
- **This center is being constructed with the financial support of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.**
- **This centre will consist of prayer halls, meditation centres, library, exhibition hall, etc. It will provide a world-class facility to pilgrims and tourists from all around the world. The Centre will be a modern building with NetZero compliant in terms of energy, water and waste handling.**

17. Consider the following statements regarding 'Cruise Tourism'.

1. The **eight MoUs have been signed between IWAI and Heritage River Journey Pvt Ltd for a river cruise between Varanasi to Bogibeel.**
2. According to the **Maritime India Vision 2030, 12 ports have been identified for Cruise Tourism.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

**Union Tourism and Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said that the government is working towards creating a comprehensive national tourism policy.**

**He said that Industry stakeholders will prepare a road map for the development of the cruise tourism industry.**

**The Government has started several initiatives to promote river cruise tourism. It includes river front development, increasing the number of cruise ships, and infrastructure development of water parks.**

**The eight MoUs have been signed between IWAI and Heritage River Journey Pvt Ltd for a river cruise between Varanasi to Bogibeel.**

**The Delhi-based Waterways Leisure Tourism Pvt Ltd signed a MoU with Chennai Port Authority for porting cruise ships in Chennai for the upcoming cruising season. According to the Maritime India Vision 2030, 12 ports have been identified for Cruise Tourism. It will focus on using the untapped potential of river cruise across national waterways.**

**In the last few years, the river cruise market has grown at around 5 percent globally.**

18. Consider the following statements regarding President **Ram Nath Kovind visit to two Caribbean nations of Jamaica and St. Vincent & Grenadines.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

1. President is on a historic visit to Jamaica and will inaugurate a *street named after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and a garden dedicated to India-Jamaica friendship.*
2. Jamaica is an island country situated in the *Caribbean Sea, Kingston is the country's capital.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

*President Ram Nath Kovind is on a state visit to two Caribbean nations of Jamaica and St. Vincent & Grenadines.*

*The President, who is on a historic visit to Jamaica will inaugurate a street named after Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and a garden dedicated to India-Jamaica friendship.*

*It is the first-ever visit by an Indian President to Jamaica.*

*India and Jamaica have enjoyed cordial relations based on common linkages of history, a Parliamentary democratic system, membership in the Commonwealth, use of the English language and the love for cricket.*

*Jamaica is an island country situated in the Caribbean Sea. It is the third-largest island of the Greater Antilles and the Caribbean (after Cuba and Hispaniola). Kingston is the country's capital and largest city.*

19. India's *first state-owned OTT platform* \_\_\_\_\_ will be launched by which of the following states?

- A. TSpace , Telangana
- B. CSpace , Kerala
- C. VSpace , Tamil Nadu
- D. KSpace , Kerala

*The first state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform, CSpace, will be launched on November 1.*

*The launch of CSpace will coincide with Kerala's formation day on November 1.*

*The films will be available on CSpace only after their theatrical release.*

*CSpace is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFDC).*

*KSFDC is the first public sector corporation for film development in India.*

20. As per the *Third Advance Estimates for Production of Major Crops 2021-22* released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, the production of Food grains in the country is estimated at record \_\_\_\_\_ million tonnes.

- A. 372.72 million tonnes

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- B. 314.51 million tonnes**
- C. 341.51 million tonnes**
- D. 308.64 million tonnes**

- **The third advance estimates of production of major agricultural crops for the year 2021-22 have been released by the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.**
- **The production of Food grains in the country is estimated at record 314.51 million tonnes which is higher by 3.77 million tonnes than the production of food grains during 2020-21.**
- **The production during 2021-22 is higher by 23.80 million tonnes than the previous five years' (2016-17 to 2020-21) average production of food grains.**
- **Total production of Rice during 2021-22 is estimated at record 129.66 million tonnes.**
- **Production of Wheat during 2021-22 is estimated at 106.41 million tonnes.**

**THIRD ADVANCE ESTIMATES**

## Centre cuts wheat, cotton output

**PRABHUDATTA MISHRA**

New Delhi, May 19

The Centre on Thursday lowered the country's wheat production to 106.41 million tonnes (mt) for this year from the record 111.32 mt estimated in February; while cotton output, too, has been scaled down to 31.54 million bales (of 170 kg each) from the previous 34.06 million bales.

Releasing the third advance estimates of agriculture crops, the Government said the overall foodgrain production will be 314.51 mt during 2021-22 crop year (July-June) and though it is lower by 1.55 mt from what was estimated in February, the revised output is still 1.2 per cent more than a year before, officials said.

As production of rice, pulses and coarse cereals is up from the February estimates, the 5-mt drop in wheat production has not impacted the total foodgrain output much, officials said. Traders and experts are of the view that wheat production this year could be 95-98 mt after early onset of summer and high temperature in March, besides the heatwave, brought down the yield by 10-15 per cent in key growing States of Punjab and Haryana.

Cotton is another crop where

**Revised crop estimates of 2021-22 (million tonnes)**

	Feb estimate	May estimate
<b>Rice</b>	<b>127.93</b>	<b>129.66</b>
<b>Wheat</b>	<b>111.32</b>	<b>106.41</b>
Tur	4.00	4.35
Gram	13.12	13.98
<b>Pulses</b>	<b>26.96</b>	<b>27.75</b>
Mustard	11.46	11.75
Soyabean	13.116	13.83
Groundnut	9.86	10.09
<b>Oilseeds</b>	<b>37.15</b>	<b>38.50</b>
Maize	32.42	33.18
<b>Coarse cereals</b>	<b>49.86</b>	<b>50.70</b>
<b>Cotton*</b>	<b>34.06</b>	<b>31.54</b>
Kharif foodgrain	153.54	154.93
Rabi foodgrain	162.53	159.59
<b>Total foodgrain</b>	<b>316.06</b>	<b>314.51</b>

Source: Agriculture Ministry \*Million bales of 170kg each bale



the government has reduced the production estimate as the textile mills are facing a shortage of the fibre. Cotton production was already estimated lower in February from 35.25 million bales last year and it has seen a further pruning. The crop was affected by unseasonal rainfall in November-December last year.

**Record output**

Rice production has, however, increased to 129.66 mt from 127.93 mt, estimated three months back. Last year, the output was 124.37 mt. Along with rice, record production has

been estimated for maize, pulses, oilseeds, gram, rapeseed, mustard and sugarcane. Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Narendra Singh Tomar said: "this record production of so many crops is the result of the farmer-friendly policies of the government."

Production of nutri/coarse cereals is estimated at 50.70 mt against 51.32 mt last year due to drop in acreage.

Oilseeds production has been estimated at record 38.50 mt (35.95 mt). Total production of sugarcane during 2021-22 is seen at record 430.50 mt, up from 405.4 mt last year.

**21. Recently seen in news *Veer Savarkar International Airport*, located in which State/UT?**

- A. Goa**
- B. Delhi**
- C. Port Blair**
- D. Pune**



Ministry of Civil Aviation

Port Blair Airport to get New Terminal Building by October, 2022

Estimated cost of the project is around Rs.707.73 Crore

Up to 1200 passengers per hour and 40 lakhs passengers annually can be handled after completion of the project

Posted On: 19 MAY 2022 6:08PM by PIB Delhi

- **Gateway to the pristine islands of Andaman & Nicobar, Veer Savarkar International Airport, Port Blair is soon going to have a new terminal building.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *Considering the surge in the passenger traffic, Airports Authority of India has undertaken the work for Construction of **New Integrated Terminal Building at an estimated cost of around Rs.707.73 Crore.***

22. Recently which country's **election body will lead the 'Democracy Cohort on Election Integrity'** in association with 100 democratic countries?

- A. Japan
- B. Sri Lanka
- C. France
- D. India**

*Election Commission of India to lead 'Democracy Cohort on Election Integrity' in association with 100 democratic countries.*

*The Election Commission of India will share its knowledge, technical expertise and experiences with other democratic countries as part of the 'Summit for Democracy', the Election Commission of India will also give training and organize capacity building programmes for election management bodies. Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar explained how the grassroots awareness programmes like Electoral Literacy Clubs, and 'Chunav Pathshalas' have created awareness among the masses about electoral rights. New Zealand, Finland and the European Union have shown interest in joining the Cohort. 'Summit for Democracy' was started as a two-day virtual event in December 2021. It has now become a year-long event for dialogues on different themes related to democracy.*

*Civil society organizations, the private sector, media and others have participated in the Summit for Democracy. It was hosted by United States.*

23. Recently the **Army Training Command signed a MoU with Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU)** to develop a '**Wargame Research and Development Centre**' in \_\_\_\_\_.

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

*The Army Training Command signed a MoU with Gandhinagar-based Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) to develop a 'Wargame Research and Development Centre' in New Delhi.*

*The project, which has been given a prototype name 'WARDEC', will be a first-of-its-kind simulation-based training centre in India that will use artificial intelligence (AI) to design virtual reality war-games. The War-game Research and Development Centre will be used by the Army to train its soldiers and test their strategies through "Metaverse-enabled game play". The war-game models will be designed to prepare for wars as well as counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations. The centre will come up in a military zone in New Delhi. The RRU will join hands with Tech Mahindra to develop the centre in the coming three to four months.*



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

24. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ *has joined hands with the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to advance regional efforts to fight plastic pollution.*
- A. Odisha
  - B. Maharashtra**
  - C. Tamil Nadu
  - D. Andhra Pradesh

*Maharashtra has joined hands with the World Economic Forum's Global Plastic Action Partnership (GPAP) to advance regional efforts to fight plastic pollution.*

*The pact was announced during the WEF Annual Meeting 2022.*

*The partnership will bring together Maharashtra's leading policy-makers, business leaders, civil society organizations and experts to formulate a state-level plan to eradicate plastic pollution.*

*With this, Maharashtra has joined a growing list of global economies that will leverage the GPAP platform to drive localized solutions for the circular economy.*

*The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Maharashtra will work with GPAP to launch a National Plastic Action Partnership (NPAP) in Maharashtra as a platform to tackle plastic waste pollution, according to a statement from the WEF.*

*The GPAP-Maharashtra is the first in India. Maharashtra has an estimated population of 124 million people, larger than countries such as Ethiopia and the Philippines.*

25. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ *becomes the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian state to roll out drone in healthcare.*
- A. Maharashtra
  - B. Uttarakhand**
  - C. Haryana
  - D. Punjab

*.Commercial utilization of drones to bring quality healthcare to Indians in the remotest areas seems to be a reality now. Redcliffe Labs, a unit of Redcliffe Life-tech in the U.S., has come up with its first commercial drone flight in the country's healthcare sector.*

*The company has recently opened its commercial drone corridor between Uttarkashi and Dehradun.*

*Radcliffe Labs founder Dheeraj Jain told that the distance from Uttarkashi to Dehradun by road is 144 km, by road 6-8 hours and during landslides 12 hours*

*The project was part of the Radcliffe and Sky Air tie-up and in the last three months they have conducted 40 successful trials in North India.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

26. Recently, *Vedanta Aluminium* has entered into long-term pact with the National Highways Authority of India to construct greener roads with fly-ash in \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Odisha
  - B. Gujarat
  - C. Punjab
  - D. Haryana

*Vedanta Aluminium* has entered into long-term pact with the National Highways Authority of India to construct greener roads with fly-ash in Odisha.

*Fly-ash* is a by-product of thermal power generation using coal.

The company has utilized nearly 2.8 lakh tonnes of fly-ash in cement production and supplied 2.7 lakh tonnes for brick manufacturing in FY22.

The inherent properties of fly-ash find usage in the cement, construction and infrastructure industries. The company supplies fly ash from its Jharsuguda and Balco plants to cement industry for the production of low-carbon 'green' cement.

27. Recently Government of India announced to celebrate the \_\_\_\_\_ birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy from 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 to 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.
- A. 100<sup>th</sup>
  - B. 500<sup>th</sup>
  - C. 250<sup>th</sup>
  - D. 200<sup>th</sup>

Government to celebrate the 250th birth anniversary of Raja Ram Mohan Roy from 22nd May 2022 to 22nd May 2023. The inaugural ceremony of the 250th Birth Anniversary celebration will take place at Raja Ram Mohan Roy Library Foundation in Kolkata. On 22nd May, a statue of Raja Ram Mohan Roy will be unveiled by the Minister of Culture Shri G. Kishan Reddy.

*Raja Ram Mohan Roy*: He was born on 14 August 1774 in the Radhanagar village of Hoogly district. He is considered as the pioneer of the modern Indian Renaissance.

He founded the Brahmo Samaj at Kolkata in 1828. The title of 'Raja' was given to him by the Mughal Emperor, Akbar II. He set up Hindu College at Calcutta in 1817.

28. Recently with the spirit of "One Nation, One Portal" Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh launched Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and Start-Ups named as \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Biological Research Regulatory Ayurveda Portal
  - B. Biological Research Regulatory Amend Portal

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- C. *Biological Reform Regulatory Approval Portal*  
D. *Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal*

- *In keeping with the spirit of "One Nation, One Portal", Union Minister of State (IC) Ministry of Science and Technology Dr Jitendra Singh launched Single National Portal for Biotech researchers and Start-ups.*
- *The Portal "Biological Research Regulatory Approval Portal (BioRRAP) "will cater to all those seeking regulatory approval for biological research & development activity in the country and thus offer a huge relief for "Ease of Science as well as Ease of Business.*
- *India is poised to become a Global Bio-manufacturing Hub and will figure among the top 5 countries of the world by 2025.*
- *The contribution of the Indian biotechnology industry in the global biotechnology market to grow to 19% from a mere 3% in 2017 by 2025:*
- *Government of India has developed a web system under which each research, requiring regulatory oversight, will be identified by a unique ID called "BioRRAP ID".*

29. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ becomes the 17<sup>th</sup> state to have its own MyGov state instance.
- A. *Tamil Nadu*  
B. *Karnataka*  
C. *Uttar Pradesh*  
D. *Bihar*

*MyGov Karnataka was launched by Chief Minister Shri Basavaraj Bommai on 17th May 2022.*

*Karnataka becomes the 17th state to have its own MyGov state instance.*

*MyGov is the world's largest and most successful citizen engagement program, launched by the Hon PM on 26 July, 2014.*

*MyGov Karnataka will work as an idea crowd-sourcing platform and aims to promote active citizen participation and engagement in governance and policymaking. The government of Karnataka has urged its citizens to participate in this revolutionary platform, and participate in good governance.*

30. Consider the following statements *regarding aviation sector in India.*
1. *India has set a target of doubling its air passenger traffic in the next two to three years by catering to at least 200 million passengers.*
  2. *To achieve this target, the government has planned to construct 200 airports, water-drones and heliports across the country in the upcoming four years.*
  3. *Recently, SpiceJet became the first airline in the country to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

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

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

- **India has set a target of doubling its air passenger traffic in the next two to three years by catering to at least 200 million passengers.**
- **To achieve this target, the government has planned to construct 200 airports, water-drones and heliports across the country in the upcoming four years.**
- **The Minister appreciated the innovative capabilities of Indian scientists and engineers for developing the GAGAN Navigation System. Recently, Indigo became the first airline in the country to land aircraft using the indigenous navigation system GAGAN.**

May 18, 2022, 7:31PM

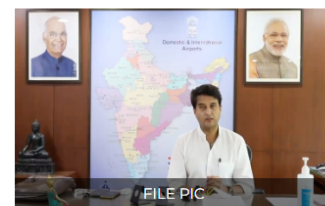
**Govt plans to construct 200 airports, waterdromes, and heliports across country in 4 years: Aviation Minister**

India has set a target of doubling its air passenger traffic in the next two to three years by catering to at least 200 million passengers. To achieve this target, the government has planned to construct 200 airports, waterdromes and heliports across the country in the upcoming four years.

In an exclusive interview with AIR News, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia said, the government is focusing on developing infrastructure and increasing the fleet size by putting in place a suitable ecosystem for civil aviation. He said, 67 new airports, waterdromes and heliports have been built in the last eight years as compared to only 74 airports that were built in the 70 years before that.

Speaking about India's indigenous Navigation System, GAGAN, the Minister observed that increased air connectivity creates congestion which results in tremendous amount of air traffic. This in turn puts pressure on air navigation system and air traffic management system.

He said, these two systems are critical in ensuring the safety of aircraft and the GAGAN Navigation System will help these systems to ensure smooth navigation of aircrafts. He said, safety parameters need to be put in place before the rollout of this system on an incremental basis.



**31. Recently in May in a bid to create a safer online environment, Meta, formerly known as Facebook has partnered with \_\_\_\_\_ Police to launch a digital literacy and awareness programme "We Think Digital" for adolescents and youths.**

- A. Assam**
- B. Odisha**
- C. Tamil Nadu**
- D. Bihar**

## Assam Police, Meta launch digital literacy scheme

META (THE PARENT company of Facebook) has partnered with Assam Police to launch a digital literacy and awareness programme for adolescents and youth in Assam. Called 'We Think Digital', with this programme Meta aims to promote safe online behaviour by spreading awareness around increasing cybercrimes and to equip adolescents with tools to tackle the online harm.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

*In a bid to create a safer online environment, Meta, formerly known as Facebook, has partnered with Assam Police to launch a digital literacy and awareness programme for adolescents and youths, at the Royal Global University.*

*The programme, “We Think Digital”, will focus on digital safety best practices and provide youth easy access to digital literacy awareness sessions, training resources, knowledge repository, including child and adult safety self-help material*

- *Meta aims to promote safe online behaviour by spreading awareness around increasing cyber crimes and equipping adolescents with tools and resources to tackle the online harm.*

32. India will introduce a newly approved “made in India” TB infection skin test called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. a- TB
- B. b- TB
- C. c- TB
- D. d- TB

*India will introduce a newly approved “made in India” TB infection skin test called ‘c-TB’, said Health Minister Mansukh Mandaviya adding that this cost-effective tool will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well.*

*He also informed that a new initiative, “Adopt people with TB” will be launched this year, based on Indian values of collectivism, which will call upon corporate, industries, organizations, political parties and individuals to come forward and adopt TB-infected people and family and provide them with nutritional and social support.*

## ‘Made in India’ skin test for TB to be launched

NEW DELHI

India will introduce a newly approved “made in India” TB infection skin test called ‘c-TB’, said Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya on Thursday, adding that this cost-effective tool will be of immense benefit to other high burden countries as well. He added that a new initiative, “Adopt people with TB” will be launched this year.

33. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ government inducted two robots in fire-fighting fleet to douse fires in narrow streets.

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*The Arvind Kejriwal Government has undertaken a unique initiative of using robots for extinguishing fires in the city. Initially, the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government inducted two robots into Delhi's firefighting fleet that will be able to douse fires in narrow streets, warehouses, basements, stairs, forests and enter places like oil and chemical tankers and factories*

*This comes days after a massive fire that broke out last week in a factory in Mundka.*

*These remote-controlled fire fighting robots will have greater accessibility to places and will be able to navigate narrow lanes, reach spaces inaccessible to humans*

*These robots will also be capable of releasing high water pressure at the rate of 2,400 litres per minute.*

*The robots were bought from an Austrian company. This machine can be operated remotely from a distance of 300 metres*

**Robots will now help put out fires in capital: Remote controlled, will save lives, says CM**

**GAYATHRI MANI**  
NEW DELHI, MAY 20

IN A bid to make it safer for firefighters, the Delhi government has procured remote-controlled robots to douse massive fires in the city. Officials said the machines can be operated remotely from a distance of 100 metres and can be deployed to douse fires in narrow streets, basements, chemical tanks and factories. They can even go up the stairs and break through windows.

"Our government has procured remote-controlled fire-fighting machines. Our brave firemen can now fight fires from a safe distance of up to 100 metres. This will help reduce damage and save lives," tweeted Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal. Currently, the government has purchased two robots from an Austrian firm on a trial basis. After monitoring the results, officials said more such machines will be purchased.

Explaining the features, officials said the robot is built using material similar to an Army tank and can resist fire, smoke, and heat. It is also equipped with a crawler belt above its tires, allowing it to move easily into congested places and gain access to hard-to-reach spots. A ventilation fan keeps the machine cool.

Delhi Fire Service director Atul Garg said, "Every robot is equipped with water pipes, and

**Firefighting, with help**

**FEATURES**

- Army tank-like body equipped with a sensor, camera, tracking system, and a cooling fan to help resist fire, smoke, heat, or other adverse conditions
- Like tanks, it is equipped with a crawler belt at the bottom, just above the tires
- Can reach high-rises, factories, basements, narrow congested lanes
- Equipment such as a hammer or a sharp object can also be installed on the robot to break windows or doors



The Delhi government has purchased two robots from an Austrian firm on a trial basis, said officials. Express



- According to DFS chief Atul Garg, every robot is equipped with water pipes and is controlled using a wireless remote
- On reaching the fire site, it can then extract the smoke caused by the fire in the building through its ventilation system
- These robots make use of high water pressure to douse the fire, spraying 2,400 litres in a minute
- The spray divides the water into small droplets and scatters it up to an area of 100 metres

is controlled using a wireless remote. On reaching the site, the robot can extract smoke caused by the fire built up in the building through its ventilation system. These robots make use of high water pressure to douse the fire,

spraying 2,400 litres in a minute. The spray installed in them emits small droplets and scatters it up to an area of 100 metres."

The machines are also equipped with high-resolution cameras to show clear pictures

of the fire. The government has also provided special training to firefighters to operate the robot. A separate SOP has also been prepared on how, when, and under which circumstances the fire can be controlled.

"For the first time, such robots have been introduced in the country with the ability to control fires remotely. These will prove to be major trouble-shooters for firefighters," said Home Minister Satyendar Jain.

34. Recently in May Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT) and \_\_\_\_\_ signed a MoU to simplify IoT solutions deployment and bring standardization among devices and applications as per oneM2M standard in the country.

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*Centre for Development of Telematics(C-DOT), the premier R&D centre of the Department of Telecommunications, and Vodafone Idea Limited, one of the major telecom operators of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 17th of May, 2022 on the occasion of “World Telecommunication and Information Society Day (WTISD)”.*

*The signing of MOU will help both the organizations leverage each other’s expertise in their respective domains to develop and deploy IoT/M2M solutions in India. IoT adoption has become critical for any organization’s digital transformation journey.*

*C-DOT has been the flag bearer of IoT/M2M standardization and has been contributing significantly to oneM2M - the global IoT/M2M standard.*

*Vodafone Idea Limited is an Aditya Birla Group and Vodafone Group partnership. It is India’s leading telecom service provider. The Company provides pan India Voice and Data services across 2G, 3G, 4G and has a 5G ready platform.*

*Export of sugar in current sugar season 2021-22 is 15 times of export as compared to export in sugar season 2017-18.*

*About Rs 14,456 Cr released to sugar mills in past 5 years to facilitate export of sugar & Rs. 2000 cr as carrying cost for maintaining buffer stock contracts for export of about 90 LMT have been signed to export sugar in current sugar season 2021-22 & that too without announcement of any export subsidy; out of which 75 LMT have been exported till 18.05.2022.*

*In the current ESY 2021-22, about 186 cr liters ethanol have been blended with petrol till 08.05.2022 thereby achieving 9.90% blending. It is expected that in current ethanol supply year 2021-22, we will be achieving 10% blending target.*

**35. Recently in May Bhupendra Yadav participated in the 8th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting held under the theme \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development**
- B. Build The New World Under BRICS For New Global Development**
- C. Nourishing The Global Development Under BRICS**
- D. New Era Of Global Development Under BRICS**

*Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupendra Yadav participated in the 8th BRICS Environment Ministers Meeting. The meeting was held virtually under Presidency of People’s Republic of China.*

*The theme of the Meeting was “Foster High-Quality BRICS Partnership, Usher in a New Era for Global Development”. Ministers and delegates from Brazil, Russia and South Africa also participated in the Meeting.*

*BRICS is an acronym for Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa. Goldman Sachs economist Jim O'Neill coined the term BRIC (without South Africa) in 2001, claiming that by 2050 the four BRIC economies would come to dominate the global economy by 2050. South Africa was added to the list in 2010.*

**36. Consider the following statements regarding State of Inequality in India Report.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

1. The *labour force participation rate (LFPR)* has increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 53.5% in 2019-20.
2. According to *Rural Health Statistics 2019-20*, there are 155404 Sub Centres (SC), 24918 Primary Health Centres (PHC), and 5183 Community Health Centres (CHC) in rural India.

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

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

*Dr Bibek Debroy released the State of Inequality in India Report. This report has compiled information on inequities related to health, education, household characteristics and the labour market.*

*Inequities in these sectors make the population more vulnerable.*

*The report has been released during a webinar organized by the EAC-PM and the Institute for Competitiveness on 18th May 2022.*

*According to this report, earnings have increased over the years but the benefits of growth remained concentrated in only a few parts of the population.*

*The number of Sub-Centres, Primary Health Centres, and Community Health Centres has increased.*

*According to Rural Health Statistics 2019-20, there are 155404 Sub Centres (SC), 24918 Primary Health Centres (PHC), and 5183 Community Health Centres (CHC) in rural India.*

*The condition of education infrastructure has improved. About 95% of the schools have toilet facilities and 97.5% of schools have the facility of safe drinking water.*

*The labour force participation rate (LFPR) has increased from 49.8% in 2017-18 to 53.5% in 2019-20.*

37. Recently *Kanheri Caves* was seen in news. It is located in which of the following states?

- A. **Maharashtra**
- B. Gujarat
- C. Punjab
- D. Odisha



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*Union Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER inaugurate amenities at ancient Kanheri Caves on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.*

*The Kanheri Caves are a group of caves and rock-cut monuments cut into a massive basalt outcrop in the forests of the Sanjay Gandhi National Park, on the former island of Salsette in the western outskirts of Mumbai.*

*The Kanheri caves comprise more than 110 different rock-cut monolithic excavations and are one of the largest single excavations in the country.*

*The name Kanheri is derived from 'Kanhagiri' in Prakrit and occurs in the Nasik inscription of the Satavahana ruler Vasisthiputra Pulumavi.*

38. Recently the **Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C-CAMP)** has inked a MoU with the \_\_\_\_\_ to promote innovation in agriculture, food technology and allied areas.

- A. **Centre for Food Technological Research Institute**
- B. **United Nations Development Programme**
- C. **United Nations Environment Programme**
- D. **United Nations Population Fund's**

*The Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms (C CAMP) has inked a MoU with the Centre for Food Technological Research Institute, (CFTRI).*

*The main objective of the MoU is to promote innovation in agriculture, food technology and allied areas.*

*This MoU will help in promoting agriculture entrepreneurship for sustainability and food security in India's Agriculture sector.*

*Central Food Technological Research Institute is a laboratory under the aegis of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR). Centre for Cellular and Molecular Platforms: It is an initiative supported by the Department of Biotechnology.*

39. Consider the following statements regarding National Start-up Advisory Council (NSAC) held in New Delhi.

1. Piyush Goyal chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of National Start-up Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi.
2. NITI Aayog had constituted the National Start-up Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*The Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal chaired the 4th meeting of National Startup Advisory Council (NSAC) in New Delhi.*

*Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) had constituted the National Startup Advisory Council to advise the Government on measures needed to build a strong ecosystem for nurturing innovation and startups in the country.*

*The Minister also launched NavIC Grand Challenge which aims at promoting adoption of NavIC as geo-positioning solution, a key proponent for digital Aatma nirbharta.*

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

- 1. The newly released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) re-confirms that a large number of Indians have a preference for sons. NFHS-5 covers the period 2019-21.**
- 2. Amongst the states and UTs, men in Mizoram (37%), Lakshadweep (34%) and Manipur (33%) while women in Bihar (31%) show the strongest preference for more sons than daughters.**

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

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

*The newly released National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) reconfirms that a large number of Indians have a preference for sons. NFHS-5 covers the period 2019-21.*

*The number of married people (age 15-49) who want more sons than daughters is several times the number who want more daughters than sons. In spite of these preferences, most Indians still believe an ideal family should include at least one daughter.*

*Among the states and UTs, men in Mizoram (37%), Lakshadweep (34%) and Manipur (33%), and women in Bihar (31%) show the strongest preference for more sons than daughters.*

*The only exception is women in Meghalaya, among whom the preference for more daughters than sons is more prevalent than the preference for more sons than daughters.*

**41. *Sela Tunnel project* was recently seen in new. It is located in which of the following states?**

- Arunachal Pradesh***
- Himachal Pradesh*
- Ladakh*
- Nagaland*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*The strategically-significant Sela Tunnel project in Arunachal Pradesh is nearing completion.*

*Located in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, the tunnel project will provide an alternate axis to the Sela pass, which is at 13,700 feet.*

*The project, being executed by the Border Roads Organization, includes two tunnels and a link road.*

*While Tunnel 1 will be 980 metres long single-tube, Tunnel 2 will be 1,555 metres with one bi-lane tube for traffic and one escape tube for emergencies running alongside.*

*Upon completion, which is likely by the end of this year, the Sela Tunnel above 13,000-ft will boost all-weather connectivity to the Line of Actual Control with China.*

**42. Consider the following statements regarding North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO).**

- 1. Finland and Sweden submitted a joint application to join NATO.**
- 2. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European states, the United States, and Canada.**
- 3. It headquartered in Brussels, implements the North Atlantic Treaty signed on 4 April 1949.**

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

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

## Finland, Sweden apply to join NATO

We all agree this is a historic moment which must be seized, says alliance chief

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
BRUSSELS

Finland and Sweden on Wednesday submitted a joint application to join NATO as Russia's invasion of Ukraine forces a dramatic reappraisal of security in Europe.

The reversal of the Nordic countries' long-standing policy of non-alignment came as Ukraine opened the first war crimes trial of a Russian soldier since the invasion began. At NATO headquarters in Brussels, alliance chief Jens Stoltenberg formally received the applications from the Finnish and Swedish Ambassadors, calling them "an historic step".

"All allies agree on the importance of NATO enlargement. We all agree that we must stand together and we all agree that this is a historic moment which we must seize," he said.

The membership push could represent the most sig-



**Heralding change:** Finland Prime Minister Sanna Marin shaking hands with Italian Premier Mario Draghi at the end of their joint press conference at Chigi palace in Rome on Wednesday. **AP**

nificant expansion of NATO in decades, doubling its border with Russia. But the applications face resistance from NATO member Turkey, which accuses the Nordic neighbours of harbouring anti-Turkish extremists.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the Nordic

applications would not have been expected a short time ago, "but Putin's appalling ambitions have transformed the geopolitical contours of our continent".

Meanwhile, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov accused Kyiv of a "complete lack of will" towards peace

talks, after Ukrainian negotiator Mykhaylo Podolyak said stop-start dialogue was "on hold", having failed to yield any breakthroughs.

Despite their last-ditch resistance in places such as Mariupol, Ukrainian forces are retreating across swathes of the eastern front.

## Russian soldier pleads guilty in trial

REUTERS  
KYIV

A Russian soldier accused of war crimes in Ukraine pleaded guilty on Wednesday to killing an elderly unarmed civilian.

Vadim Shishimarin, a 21-year-old Russian tank commander, entered his plea in a Kyiv district court hearing its first war crimes trial against a Russian soldier who took part in Moscow's February 24 invasion.

In the trial, Mr. Shishimarin is charged with murdering a 62-year-old civilian in the Ukrainian village of Chupakhiv.

He was charged on February 28. If found guilty, he faces up to 15/18 years in prison. Ukraine has accused Russia of atrocities and brutality against civilians.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*Finland and Sweden submitted a joint application to join NATO as Russia's invasion of Ukraine forces a dramatic reappraisal of security in Europe.*

*The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is an intergovernmental military alliance between 30 member states – 28 European states, the United States, and Canada.*

*The organization, headquartered in Brussels, implements the North Atlantic Treaty, which was signed on 4 April 1949.*

*The reversal of the Nordic countries' long-standing policy of non-alignment came amidst the Ukraine-Russia conflict. The membership push could represent the most significant expansion of NATO in decades, doubling its border with Russia.*

*But the applications face resistance from NATO member Turkey, which accuses the Nordic neighbours of harbouring anti-Turkish extremists.*

43. The main event of \_\_\_\_\_ **International Day of Yoga (IDY-2022)** demonstration will be held in \_\_\_\_\_, on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2022.

- A. 6<sup>th</sup>, Jaipur
- B. 7<sup>th</sup>, Indore
- C. 8<sup>th</sup>, Mysore**
- D. 9<sup>th</sup>, Pune

*The main event of 8th International Day of Yoga (IDY-2022) demonstration will be held at Mysuru in Karnataka on 21st June 2022.*

*Minister of Ayush Shri Sarbananda Sonowal announced that Mysuru has been selected as the venue for Mass Yoga Demonstration (Main Event) of 8th IDY.*

*As this IDY is falling in the "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" year, the Ministry has also planned to observe IDY at 75 iconic locations across the country and is focusing on branding India on a global scale.*

**International / Report News**

44. Recently in May India hosted **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (SCO RATS)** at \_\_\_\_\_.

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**Counter-terrorism experts of the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) took part in the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) meeting in New Delhi.**

**The meeting took place under the framework of the SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure.**

**The main focus of this meeting was on the situation in Afghanistan and the threat from terrorist groups active in the Taliban-ruled country.**

**India assumed the chairmanship of the Council of Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure of SCO (RATS SCO) on 28 October 2021.**

**Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan are the members of SCO. Afghanistan is an observer state of the SCO.**

# SCO terror meet starts, officials from China, Pak., Russia in Delhi

India flays Organisation for Islamic Cooperation statement on delimitation in J&K

SUHASINI HAIDAR  
NEW DELHI

Counter-terror officials of Pakistan, Russia, China and four Central Asian countries met in Delhi on Monday at the start of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's Regional Anti-Terror Structure (SCO-RATS) talks, the first such event in India since Russia's invasion of Ukraine and China's transgressions at the Line of Actual Control (LAC).

The meeting, which was closed to the press, is one of a number of events planned this year as India assumed its role as Chairperson of the SCO-RATS mechanism.

In October this year, all member countries will send security forces personnel for joint anti-terror exercises expected to be held at the National Security Guard facility in Manesar. While India and Pakistan have close to no bilateral engagement, both



**Crucial meet:** PM Narendra Modi meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping during BRICS summit in Brazil in 2019. +PTI

countries make a point of attending the nine-nation SCO meetings, and last year, India had sent a delegation to Pakistan to take part in the 2021 edition of the SCO-RATS exercises. And all eyes will be on 2023, when India is due to host the SCO summit, which could see leaders of Pakistan and China participate, despite the tensions in bilateral ties.

The National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS)

under National Security Adviser (NSA) Ajit Doval, which organised the meeting that included officials from the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), declined to comment on the agenda and expected outcome of the meetings from May 16 to 19.

Meanwhile, India reacted sharply to a statement by the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), of which

at least six of the countries participating in Monday's SCO-RATS meetings are members, which had criticised the government's proposed moves on delimitation of electoral constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir.

"We are dismayed that the OIC Secretariat has once again made unwarranted comments on the internal affairs of India," said the MEA spokesperson in a statement, "categorically rejecting" the 57-member grouping's assertions.

"OIC should refrain from carrying out its communal agenda vis-à-vis India at the behest of one country," the spokesperson added, in a veiled reference to Pakistan.

Earlier in the day, the OIC General Secretariat issued a statement of "deep concern" over what it called India's attempts to redraw the electoral boundaries in Jammu & Kashmir.

45. Recently India Signed an **Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA)** with \_\_\_\_\_ to enhanced investment support development finance institution in a wide range of sectors.

- A. Japan
- B. USA**
- C. Singapore
- D. UAE

- India and the USA signed the Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA) that is expected to lead to enhanced investment support from America's development finance institution in a wide range of sectors.
- The IIA was signed in Tokyo by foreign secretary Vinay Kwatra and Scott Nathan, the chief executive officer of the US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC).
- The agreement supersedes another similar pact signed between the governments of India and the US in 1997.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- **DFC or its predecessor agencies have been active in India since 1974 and have provided investment support worth \$5.8 billion, of which \$2.9 billion is still outstanding.**
- **Proposals worth \$4 billion for providing investment support in India are being considered by DFC.**
- **The Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development (BUILD) Act of 2018 reformed and strengthened American development finance capabilities into the DFC to help address development challenges and foreign policy priorities of the US.**

**46. Recently in May India has signed a MoU on 'Refurbishment of old Calder Community project' with which country?**

- A. Iran**
- B. Australia**
- C. UAE**
- D. Saint Vincent and Grenadines**

**India and Saint Vincent and Grenadines signed a MoU on 'Refurbishment of old Calder Community project'.**

**The MoU has been signed during President Ramnath Kovind's visit to Saint Vincent and Grenadines.**

**Both countries also signed a MoU for the exchange of information and assistance in the collection of taxes.**

**India and Saint Vincent and Grenadines also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Health and Medicine.**

**President Ramnath Kovind also addressed the Parliament of Saint Vincent and Grenadines.**

**47. Consider the following statements regarding World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos.**

- 1. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal leads the Indian delegation in the five-day annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.**
- 2. The theme of the summit is 'history at a turning point'.**

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

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2**

## **India, US sign new investment incentive pact**

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 23

India and the US on Monday signed an Investment Incentive Agreement (IIA). It will supersede one signed 25 years back.

Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra signed the agreement in Tokyo on behalf of India while Chief Executive Officer of US International Development Finance Corporation (DFC), Scott Nathan did the same for US.

A statement issued by the Finance Ministry here noted significant developments have taken place since the signing of the earlier IIA in 1997 including the creation of a new agency called DFC, a development finance agency of Government of USA, as a successor agency of the erstwhile Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) after the enactment of a recent legislation of USA, the BUILD Act 2018.

"The agreement is the legal requirement for DFC, to continue providing investment support in India," the statement said. "It is expected that signing of IIA would lead to enhanced investment support provided by DFC in India, which shall further help in India's development," the statement said.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**C. Both 1 & 2**

**D. None of the above**

**Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal leads the Indian delegation in the five-day annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Switzerland.**

**Health and Family Welfare Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri, and Chief Ministers and Senior Ministers of six states are also part of the Indian delegation.**

**The theme of the summit is ‘history at a turning point’.**

**Ukraine crisis and climate change will be the main focus of the meeting. The leaders will also discuss government policies and business strategies after the global pandemic.**

**More than 2,500 leaders are attending the annual meeting. The annual meeting of 2021 could not take place physically.**

**The Maharashtra government launched its pavilion at the World Economic Forum meeting.**

**World Economic Forum (WEF) is a non-governmental organization founded in 1971. Its headquarters is located in Cologny, Switzerland.**

**48. Consider the following statements regarding the latest Migration and Development report.**

- 1. Officially recorded remittance flows to low and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2 percent in 2022 to reach \$630 billion.**
- 2. India topped the list in the world receiving USD 89 billion in remittance followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion and China at USD 53 billion last year.**

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

**A. Only 1**

# Piyush Goyal to lead Indian delegation at WEF in Davos

Post-Davos, the commerce and industry minister will travel to UK for trade talks

SHREYA NANDI  
New Delhi, 20 May

Commerce and Industry, Textiles, and Food and Public Distribution Minister Piyush Goyal will be leading the team from India at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos from May 22 to 26, 2022.

The annual meet of the WEF, a Geneva-based international organisation working towards an array of global issues, will take place in a physical form for the first time since January 2020. Last year, the event took place virtually given the pandemic situation. The WEF, which was to be held earlier this year, was delayed to May due to the spread of the Omicron variant.

The Indian government's delegation will include Mansukh Mandaviya, minister of health and family welfare, chemicals and fertilisers, and Hardeep Singh Puri, minister for petroleum and natural gas, housing and urban affairs. Chief ministers and senior ministers of six states — Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Telangana — will also be part of the delegation along with senior officials.

A number of senior industry leaders such as Sunil Mittal, founder and chairman of Bharti Enterprises, Mukesh Ambani, chairman, Reliance Industries, Gautam Adani, chairman and founder of the Adani Group, Kumaramangalam Birla, chairman of the Aditya Birla Group, Roshni Nadar Malhotra, chairperson, HCL Technologies, Pawan Munjal, chief executive officer of Hero Group, would be among those



File photo of Piyush Goyal at the 50th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland, in 2020

## INDIA'S WEF AGENDA

- Ease of doing business reforms
- Energy transition
- Digital economy
- Opportunities in National Monetisation Pipeline
- India as an entrepreneurial destination shaping the unicorn story
- Growing talent in the digital space
- Innovation & research in the healthcare ecosystem

who will participate in the WEF deliberations.

“This event would further help reinforce India's position as an important and relevant stakeholder in shaping the global narrative, particularly as India assumes the presidency of the G-20 in 2023. The WEF will also be a platform to project India as an attractive investment destination in view of its robust economic growth and stable macroeco-

nommic indicators,” an official statement said.

At Davos, sessions will be organised at the India Lounge keeping in mind the country's strategic advantage, existing and upcoming incentive architecture, industry investment potential and market opportunity.

The key topics that would be addressed during the sessions will include policy and ease of doing business reforms, energy transition, digital economy, opportunities in National Monetisation Pipeline, India as an entrepreneurial destination shaping the unicorn story, growing talents in the digital space, emphasis on innovation and research in the healthcare ecosystem.

As many as 2,500 delegates, including over 50 heads of states, are expected to attend the four-day event.

Goyal will also be visiting the UK on May 26 and 27 May to meet British government officials and businesses on the progress made in free trade deal negotiations and the way forward.

Both nations aim to sign a trade deal by Diwali.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

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

*Officially recorded remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) are expected to increase by 4.2 percent in 2022 to reach \$630 billion.*

*This follows an almost record recovery of 8.6 percent in 2021, according to the World Bank's latest Migration and Development Brief released today.*

*Remittances to Ukraine, which is the largest recipient in Europe and Central Asia, are expected to rise by over 20 percent in 2022.*

*The top five recipient countries for remittances in 2021 were India, Mexico (replacing China), China, the Philippines, and Egypt.*

*India topped the list in the world receiving USD 89 billion in remittance followed by Mexico at USD 54 billion and China at USD 53 billion last year.*

*Among economies where remittance inflows stand at very high shares of GDP are Lebanon (54 percent), Tonga (44 percent), Tajikistan (34 percent), Kyrgyz Republic (33 percent), and Samoa (32 percent).*

**49. Consider the following statements regarding agreements signed *between India - Jordan*.**

- 1. A *high level delegation led by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya* visited Jordan with the objective of securing fertilizers and raw materials, both for short and long term.**
- 2. MOUs were signed with *Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC)* for supplies of 30 LMT Rock Phosphate.**

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

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

*In a first of its kind initiative, a high level delegation led by Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya visited Jordan from 13th to 15th May, 2022 with the objective of securing fertilizers and raw materials, both for short and long term.*

*MOUs were signed with Jordan Phosphate Mining Company (JPMC) for supplies of 30 LMT Rock Phosphate, 2.50 LMT DAP, 1 LMT phosphoric acid for the current year with the Indian public, cooperative and private sector companies.*

*India has also signed a long term MOU for 5 years with Jordan for annual supplies of 2.75 LMT of MoP which will uniformly increase every year up to 3.25 LMT, It was mentioned Jordan is allocating almost 25% of their production of MOP to India. Capital - Amman, dinar (JOD) has been the national currency of Jordan*



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

50. **Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant** was seen in news recently is located in which of the following countries?

- A. Nepal
- B. Japan
- C. **Bangladesh**
- D. Sri Lanka

*The India-Bangladesh joint committee meeting on peaceful uses of nuclear energy was held in Dhaka on 11-12 May 2022.*

*Both sides stated their desire for collaboration in societal applications of radiation technologies in areas such as cancer care, nuclear medicine and food preservation.*

*The Bangladesh side expressed appreciation for the services being rendered by the Indian experts currently deployed at the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.*

*Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant will be a 2.4 GWe nuclear power plant in Bangladesh. The nuclear power plant is being constructed at Rooppur on the bank of the river Padma.*

*In 2018, India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement to allow Indian firms in construction and installation works in the “non-critical” category for the Rooppur nuclear power plant project in northwest Bangladesh.*

51. Consider the following statements regarding **Drought in Numbers 2022 report presented by the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)**.

1. According to the report, the number and duration of droughts around the world has increased by an alarming 29% since 2000 while droughts between 1998 and 2017 caused economic losses of approximately \$124 billion.
2. **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts in the country.**
3. **Africa was the worst hit, with 134 droughts, of which 70 occurred in East Africa.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- A United Nations report has revealed that many parts of India fall under the list of regions that are vulnerable to drought globally. The report also stated that **India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts in the country. Globally, droughts in the same period caused economic losses of approximately \$124 billion.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *The Drought in Numbers report is a collection of data on the effects of droughts on our ecosystem and how they can be mitigated through efficient planning for the future.*
- *The report has revealed that many parts of India fall under the list of regions that are vulnerable to drought globally. It also stated that India's GDP reduced by 2 to 5% between 1998 and 2017 due to severe droughts*
- *The report also helps inform negotiations surrounding key decisions by the UNCCD's 197 member parties at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15), currently underway in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire. Drought, land restoration, and related aspects such as land rights, gender equality and youth empowerment are among the top considerations at COP15 in the country.*
- *According to a 2017 report by the Food and Agriculture Organisation, the percentage of plants affected by drought has more than doubled in the last 40 years.*
- *The number and duration of droughts around the world has increased by an alarming 29% since 2000.*
- *More than a billion people around the world were affected by drought in 2000-19, making it the second-worst disaster after flooding. Africa was the worst hit, with 134 droughts, of which 70 occurred in East Africa. The World Health Organization has noted that globally, approximately 55 million people are directly affected by droughts annually.*
- *In 2022, over 2.3 billion people are facing water stress. Almost 160 million children are exposed to severe and prolonged droughts.*
- *According to the report, if predictions are correct and global warming reaches 3°C by 2100, drought losses could be five times higher than today's levels. The largest increase in drought losses is projected in the Mediterranean and the Atlantic regions of Europe.*

52. Consider the following statement regarding “world of work” report published by the *International Labour Organisation (ILO)*.

1. The “world of work” is being buffeted by multiple crises, says the *ninth edition* of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor
2. *About 11.2 crore jobs might have lost between this period, according to the report.*
3. *12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report, in contrast, for every 100 men, the equivalent figure would have been 7.5.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 1 & 2
- C. Only 2 & 3

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**D. All of the above**

*The “world of work” is being buffeted by multiple crises, says the ninth edition of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Monitor.*

*The report says that after significant gains during the last quarter of 2021, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8% below the employment situation before the pandemic.*

*About 11.2 crore jobs might have lost between this period, according to the report.*

*For every 100 women at work prior to the pandemic, 12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report. In contrast, for every 100 men, the equivalent figure would have been 7.5.*

## Banking / Economy News

**53. Recently in May the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2021-22.**

- A. 25,508 crore
- B. 30,307 crore**
- C. 36,568 crore
- D. 39,638 crore

**The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has approved the transfer of 30,307 crore rupees as surplus to the Central Government for the accounting year 2021-22.**

**The decision was taken after deciding to maintain the contingency risk buffer at 5.50 per cent of its balance sheet.**

**According to the Bimal Jalan committee’s report, the RBI, at all times, has to maintain a minimum contingency risk buffer of 5.5 percent. This year’s transfer is sharply lower than what the central bank had did in the previous financial year — Rs 99,126 crore.**

# World may have lost 11.2 crore jobs: ILO

## Gender gap in India’s data finds mention in report

**A.M. JIGEESH**  
NEW DELHI

The “world of work” is being buffeted by multiple crises, says the ninth edition of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Monitor. The report says that after significant gains during the last quarter of 2021, the number of hours worked globally dropped in the first quarter of 2022, to 3.8% below the employment situation before the pandemic. About 11.2 crore jobs might have lost between this period, according to the report.

The gender gap in India’s employment scenario is mentioned in the report on the “world of work”. The report said both India and lower-middle-income countries excluding India experienced a deterioration of the gender gap in work hours in the second quarter of 2020. “However, because the initial level of hours worked by women in India was very low, the reduction

THE BENCH SAID IT HAD DE- ARE ASSAULTED. THERE IS NO

in hours worked by women in India has only a weak influence on the aggregate for lower-middle-income countries. In contrast, the reduction in hours worked by men in India has a large impact on the aggregates,” the report mentions.

Explaining the data, an ILO official told *The Hindu* that for every 100 women at work prior to the pandemic, 12.3 women would have lost their job as an average through the entire period considered by the report. The official added that, in contrast, for every 100 men, the equivalent figure would have been 7.5. “Hence, the pandemic seems to have exacerbated the already substantial gender imbalances in employment participation in the country,” the official said.

### Global factors

The fresh lockdowns in China, the conflict between Ukraine and Russia, and the global rise in the prices of food and fuel are cited as the main reasons for the findings.

**CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 10**



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

54. Recently the Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate surged to a record high of \_\_\_\_\_ in April 2022.

A. 14.69 %  
 B. 15.08 %  
 C. 14.58 %  
 D. 13.51 %

**AT 15.08% IN APRIL**  
**WPI inflation hits 30-yr high**

Signals retail price pressures may not have peaked yet, rate hike near-certain in June

**BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK**  
 New Delhi, May 17

WHOLESALE PRICE INFLATION hit 15.08% in April, the highest since September 1991, official data showed on Tuesday. The wholesale price index (WPI) grew at double digit rates for the 13th month in a row.

The latest WPI print strengthens the notion that retail inflation trajectory may not be on a downward slope yet. Data released last Thursday showed inflation based on consumer price index scaling an 8-year high of 7.79% in April, on a broad-based rise in price pressures across food, fuel and core segments.

Analysts have been attributing the sustained high WPI inflation partly to an unfavourable base, but the upward movement for more than a year signals inherent, sticky price pressures.

Gloomier demand outlook in Covid-hit China and a moderation in the pace of global commodity price rise could, however, offset the risks to the WPI inflation emanating from a weakening rupee in May, analysts said. Nevertheless, any substantial moderation of WPI in May is unlikely, although it is set to drop below 15%, they added.



Given the sustained rise in costs of raw materials and intermediate goods (these products dominate the WPI), producers in a larger number of sectors may be forced to pass on the increase in prices to consumers, despite relative slackness in aggregate private demand.

Continued on Page 13

**RBI surplus transfer to govt sharply down at ₹30,307 cr**

Lowest transfer in a decade because of absorbing liquidity from banks via reverse repo

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, May 20

The Reserve Bank of India Board approved a sharply lower surplus transfer of ₹30,307 crore to the government for the accounting year 2021-22, the lowest in 10 years. This is in sharp contrast to the surplus transfer of ₹99,122 crore for nine months ended March 31, 2021 (July 2020-March 2021).

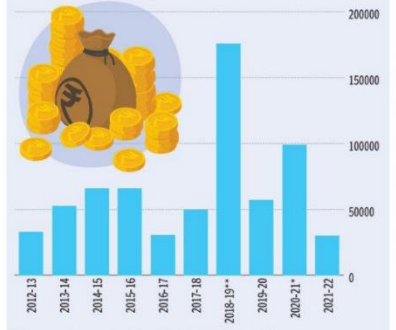
The lower surplus transfer is due to the RBI's absorption of huge amounts of liquidity from banks under the reverse repo window and paying interest to them.

**Slippage fears**

Madan Sabnavis, Chief Economist, Bank of Baroda, observed that in FY22, due to the RBI's heavy investment in reverse repo auctions, averaging ₹6-7-lakh crore a day at an average cost of 3.5 per cent, would mean an outgo of ₹21,000-24,500 crore.

Had the outgo on account of the reverse repo auction been less, the surplus declared to the government would have been higher.

What the RBI has given



\*RBI's accounting year transitioned to April-March from July-June; accounting period July 2020-March 2021

\*\*comprising ₹1.23,414 crore of surplus and ₹52,637 crore of excess provisions

Sabnavis noted that for FY23, the government is targeting about ₹74,000 crore as dividend/surplus from the RBI, public sector banks (PSBs) and other public financial institutions (FIs).

"This (the RBI's surplus transfer to the government) will mean that a large part of profits of PSBs and FIs will have to be transferred to make good this number or else there will be a slippage," he said.

**Contingency risk buffer**

The contingency risk buffer (CRB) has been maintained at 5.50 per cent (of the RBI's balance-sheet), according to an RBI statement.

The CRB is the country's savings for the 'rainy day' (a financial stability crisis) which has been consciously maintained with the RBI in view of its role as the lender of last resort.

The Board, at its meeting held in Mumbai on Friday, reviewed the current economic situation, global and domestic challenges and the impact of recent geopolitical developments. It also approved the RBI's annual report and accounts for the accounting year 2021-22.

In FY21, the RBI had transitioned to the April-March accounting year from July-June earlier.

**The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation rate surged to a record high of 15.08 per cent in April, with rise in prices of vegetables, fruits, milk and fuel, government data released showed.**

**The core-WPI inflation rose to a four-month high of 11.1% in April, with producers forced to pass on the input price pressures. Fuel inflation rose to 38.66 per cent, while inflation for manufactured products rose to 10.85 per cent.**

**WPI inflation has been in double digits for the thirteenth months in a row now.**

**The numbers are released by the Office of the Economic Advisor, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**

**Provisional figures of Wholesale Price Index (WPI) are released on 14th of every month (or next working day) with a time lag of two weeks of the reference month.**

**The current series of WPI - with base year of 2011-12 - was the seventh revision of WPI and implemented from 2017 onwards**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**55. Consider the following statements regarding ATM operators to provide card-less cash withdrawal facilities at all ATMs.**

- 1. All banks, automated teller machine (ATM) networks and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) to provide the option of ICCW at their ATMs.**
- 2. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.**
- 3. UPI would be used for customer authorization in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) and ATM networks.**

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

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

- Reserve Bank of India has directed banks and ATM operators to provide card-less cash withdrawal facilities at all ATMs.
- In a circular, the RBI said, all banks, automated teller machine (ATM) networks, and White Label ATM Operators (WLAOs) may provide the option of ICCW at their ATMs.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks.
- The RBI said, while UPI would be used for customer authorization in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) and ATM networks.

## Banks, ATM networks, WLA players can provide interoperable cardless cash withdrawal, says RBI

**NPCI told to facilitate UPI integration**

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, May 19

The Reserve Bank of India has said all banks, ATM networks and white label ATM operators may provide the option of interoperable cardless cash withdrawal at their ATMs.

“National Payments Corporation of India has been advised to facilitate Unified Payments Interface (UPI) integration with all banks and ATM networks,” the RBI



said on Thursday. While UPI would be used for customer authorisation in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) or ATM networks.

The on-us / off-us interoperable cardless cash withdrawal

While UPI would be used for customer authorisation in such transactions, settlement would be through the National Financial Switch (NFS) or ATM networks

transactions will be processed without levy of any charges other than those prescribed under the circular on interchange fee and customer fee.

**Withdrawal limits**

The withdrawal limits for such transactions will be in

line with that for regular ATM withdrawals.

The RBI had in its Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies in April this year announced the introduction of interoperable cash withdrawal.

At present, the facility of card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is limited only to a few banks.

The move is expected to enhance customer convenience and improve safety and also give a further push to digital payments as UPI is the preferred payment mode for many individuals.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- The on-us and off-us ICCW transactions shall be processed without levy of any charges other than those prescribed under the circular on Interchange Fee and Customer Charges,
- In a bid to check fraud, RBI last month said, it has been decided to permit all banks to introduce card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs. According to the central bank, currently, card-less cash withdrawal through ATMs is offered by a few banks.
- A transaction carried out at an ATM of the card-issuing bank is called an On-Us transaction. A transaction carried out at any other ATM is called an Off-Us transaction.

56. Recently, **India** has become the \_\_\_\_\_ largest automotive market in terms of vehicle sales worldwide while \_\_\_\_\_ continues to remain the biggest automotive market.
- A. Third , Japan
  - B. Second , Germany
  - C. First , US
  - D. Fourth , China

India has become the fourth largest automotive market in terms of vehicle sales worldwide. It has overtaken Germany. 2,973,319 vehicles were sold in Germany in 2021.

3,759,398 vehicles were sold in India in 2021 as per OICA data.

Japan recorded sales of 4,448,340 vehicles in 2021. It is the third-largest automotive market.

India was the only country to report double-digit growth (28%) among the top five worldwide markets. China continues to remain the biggest automotive market.

Organization Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles (OICA) is the international trade association of 39 national automotive industry trade associations. It is headquartered in Paris, France.

57. Recently in May, RBI has imposed Rs 59 lakh penalty on KEB Hana Bank. It is a bank of which country?
- A. China
  - B. America
  - C. South Korea
  - D. Malaysia

- Rs 59 lakh penalty imposed by RBI on KEB Hana Bank.
- RBI imposed the penalty for non-compliance with "Reserve Bank of India (Interest Rate on Deposits) Directions, 2016".

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- *RBI carried out statutory inspection for supervisory evaluation of KEB Hana Bank with respect to its financial position as on March 31, 2020.*
- *KEB Hana Bank is a South Korean Bank. It is headquartered in Seoul, South Korea.*

58. Consider the following statements regarding *Forbes Global 2000 list, 2022.*

1. *RIL's ranking has increased by two places to 53rd rank.*
2. *Berkshire Hathaway reached the No. 1 rank for the first time since Forbes started publishing the Global 2000 in 2003. It replaced Industrial and Commercial Bank of China now ranked at No. 2.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- *Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) is ranked at first place among the Indian companies on Forbes Global 2000 list of 2022.*
- *RIL's ranking has increased by two places to 53rd rank on Forbes' latest Global 2000 list of public companies worldwide.*
- *Other firms on the list are State Bank of India (105 rank), HDFC Bank (153 rank) and ICICI Bank (204 rank).*
- *Energy and banking sector corporations were among the highest-ranking Indian companies in the list this year.*
- *Reliance became the first Indian company to generate over USD 100 billion in annual revenue.*
- *Berkshire Hathaway reached the No. 1 rank for the first time since Forbes started publishing the Global 2000 in 2003.*
- *It replaced Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, now ranked at No. 2.*
- *In the Forbes Global 2000, largest companies in the world are ranked using four metrics. They are sales, profits, assets and market value.*

59. Recently, which of the following banks has planned to monetise *IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (IFLIC)*?

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**Bank of Baroda is planning to monetize IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (IFLIC). The bank is planning to monetize IFLIC via the initial public offer route (IPO).**

**IFLIC is life insurance subsidiary of Bank of Baroda. The Bank has increased its stake in IFLIC from 44% to 66.5% in fourth quarter of FY22.**

**The Bank increased stake from joint venture partner Union Bank of India (UBI). UBI has 9% stake in the life insurance company. The second largest shareholder in IFLIC is Carmel Point Investments India Pvt Ltd is with 26% stake.**

**Out of private sector life insurance companies, ICICI Prudential Life, SBI Life and HDFC Life are listed. Public sector life insurance company, Life Insurance Corporation of India, will be listed soon.**

**60. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ has launched India's first insurance plan that provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health.**

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Bharti AXA Life Insurance
- C. **PNB MetLife**
- D. HDFC Ergo

**PNB MetLife India Insurance Co launched a dental health insurance plan recently. It is India's first such insurance plan.**

**The company said that the plan covers fixed-benefit outpatient expenses and provides financial assistance with costs related to overall dental health.**

**This launch reinforces PNB MetLife's leadership in the industry with this one-of-a-kind, standalone, a dental insurance plan that covers major dental procedures without the hassles of hospitalization.**

**PNB MetLife India Insurance Company Limited established in 2001 is one of the leading life insurance companies in India, Headquarters: Mumbai**

**61. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ has become the first Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.**

- A. BPCL
- B. **ONGC**
- C. IOCL
- D. HPCL

**BoB plans to monetise life insurance arm in FY23**



Sanjiv Chadha, MD & CEO

**KRAMKUMAR**  
Mumbai, May 16

Bank of Baroda (BoB) is planning to monetise its life insurance subsidiary - IndiaFirst Life Insurance Co. Ltd. (IFLIC) - via the initial public offer route (IPO) in FY23 as its business is "fairly mature". BoB had upped its stake in IFLIC from 44 per cent to 65 per cent in the fourth quarter of FY22 by acquiring 21 per cent stake from joint venture partner Union Bank of India.

Carmel Point Investments India Pvt Ltd is the second largest shareholder in IFLIC with 26 per cent stake.

**UBI's stake in IFLIC**

UBI sold 21 per cent stake in IFLIC to BoB for ₹766.30 crore. Now, UBI has 9 per cent stake in the life insurance company.

"Of our subsidiary businesses, there is one - IndiaFirst Life Insurance Company - which is fairly mature. 7/12

"To my mind this is something which we cannot monetise. So, that is something which we have guided earlier also," Sanjiv Chadha, MD & CEO, BoB, said in an interaction with *BusinessLine*. He observed that this seems to be a good year for undertaking monetisation of IFLIC.

Chadha underscored that currently, IFLIC is among the fastest growing life insurance companies in the private sector in the country.

"So, if the opportunity and timing is right, I think, that (monetisation) is something which could happen," he said.

BoB has 16 subsidiaries including IFLIC, The Nainital Bank, BOB Financial Solution, BOB Capital Markets, Baroda BNP Paribas Asset Management, and six subsidiary Banks overseas.

IFLIC recorded 50 per cent year-on-year (y-o-y) growth in Individual New Business APE (annual premium equivalent) and 47 per cent yoy growth on Total New Business APE for FY 22, according to BoB's investor presentation.

**Life insurer's AUM**

The life insurer's assets under management as of March 31, 2022 stood at ₹18,932 crore, recording 11 per cent y-o-y growth.



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

### Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) has become the first Exploration and Production (E&P) company in India to trade domestic gas on Indian Gas Exchange.**
- **The first online trade was made on 23 May 2022 by ONGC Director (Onshore) In-charge Marketing Anurag Sharma on India's first automated national level Gas Exchange, IGX.**
- **The gas traded is from ONGC Krishna Godavari 98/2 block.**
- **It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Government of India. Its headquarters is situated in New Delhi.**

62. Recently in May Gautam Adani's company has signed an agreement to buy a majority stake in Holcim Ltd's Indian assets for \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. USD 30.5 billion
- B. USD 40.5 billion
- C. USD 10.5 billion**
- D. USD 20.5 billion

**Gautam Adani's company announced on Sunday that it has reached an agreement to buy a majority stake in Holcim Ltd's Indian assets for USD 10.5 billion, marking the ports-to-energy conglomerate's foray into the cement industry. Last year, the group formed two cement subsidiaries: Adani Cementation Ltd, which planned to build two cement plants in Gujarat and Maharashtra, and Adani Cement Ltd.**

**The deal will make billionaire Gautam Adani's conglomerate the second-largest player in the domestic cement sector by acquiring the joint control of Holcim's two Indian step-down firms ACC Ltd and Ambuja Cement. With this, the Adani Group became the second largest cement producer in the country after the Aditya Birla Group owned Ultra-Tech Cement.**

**Forbes named Adani Asia's richest man after he signed definitive agreements to buy Holcim Ltd's full stake in Ambuja and ACC via an offshore special purpose entity.**

## Adani acquires Holcim India assets for \$10.5 b

Ambuja Cement-ACC buy positions Adani as second-largest cement maker



Gautam Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group

**SURESH P IYENGAR**  
Mumbai, May 15

Adani Group has acquired a controlling stake in Swiss major Holcim's India business, the Ambuja Cement-ACC combine, for \$10.5 billion in a fiercely-battled bidding process that saw participation from large players, including Sajjan Jindal-backed JSW Cement and Aditya Birla Group's UltraTech Cement.

Holcim, through its subsidiaries, holds 63.19 per cent in Ambuja Cement and 54.53 per cent in ACC (of which 50.05 per cent is held through Ambuja Cement). Adani Cement has to make a mandatory open offer to acquire an additional 20 per cent stake in Ambuja Cement. The value makes it the largest ever acquisition by Adani, and India's largest ever M&A transaction in the infrastructure and materials space.

#### Beyond core business

The acquisition is part of Adani Group's plans to move beyond its core business of operating ports, power plants and coal mines and into areas like data centres, airports, new energy, digital services and retail.

The deal with Holcim will catapult the Adani Cement, a new entrant into the cement business, to the second-largest cement maker in one shot. Gautam

Adani, Chairman of the Adani Group, said, "Not only is India expected to remain one of the world's largest demand-driven economies for several decades, but also continues to be the world's second largest cement market, and yet, has less than half of the global average per capita cement consumption."

"In statistical comparison, China's cement consumption is over 7x that of India's. When these factors are combined with the several adjacencies of our existing businesses that include the Adani Group's ports and logistics business, energy business, and real estate business, we believe that we will be able to build a uniquely integrated and differentiated business model and set ourselves up for significant capacity expansion."

#### Expansion plans

Ambuja Cement has a grinding capacity of 31 mtpa and plans to expand it to 40 mtpa in the next two years. About 42 per cent of its grinding capacities are in the north, followed by 28 per cent, 26 per cent and 5 per cent in the

west, east and central regions, respectively.

Similarly, ACC has a grinding capacity of 35 mtpa, which is being expanded to 40 mtpa by the first half of 2023. Post-completion of the ongoing expansion, ACC will have 23-27 per cent grinding capacities in the east, south and central regions, and 15 per cent and 10 per cent capacity in the north and western regions, respectively.

"Both Ambuja and ACC will benefit from synergies with the integrated Adani infrastructure platform, especially in the areas of raw material, renewable power and logistics, where Adani portfolio companies have vast experience and deep expertise. This will enable higher margins and return on capital employed for the two companies," said a press statement.

#### 'Next era of growth'

Holcim, which has a presence in 90 countries, entered the Indian market 17 years ago by buying stake in these two companies. Despite facing challenges, Ambuja Cement and ACC have been sought after by investors for being the second and third largest players in the cement sector and paying liberal dividends on a regular basis.

"I am delighted that the Adani Group is acquiring our business in India to lead its next era of growth," said Jan Jenisch, CEO of Holcim Limited. "I am confident that the Adani Group is the perfect home for them as well as our customers to continue to thrive," he added.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

63. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has picked JC Flowers ARC as JV partner to offload distressed loans worth Rs 51,000 crore.

- A. SBI
- B. PNB
- C. HDFC
- D. Yes Bank

**BID TO OFFLOAD NEARLY ₹51,000-CRORE DISTRESSED LOANS**

## Yes Picks JC Flowers ARC as JV Partner

**Story so Far**

- NOV 2020** Yes Bank proposes to set up an ARC
- MAR 2021** RBI rejects Yes Bank's plan
- JULY 2021** Yes Bank decides to pick minority stake in ARC
- AUG 2021** Lender receives 12 EoIs for ARC joint venture
- FEB 22** It invites non-binding bids; Cerberus makes highest offer
- MAY 22** Invites binding bids; JC Flowers ARC highest bidder



Move will make Yes Bank nearly a zero-NPA lender, help it raise capital

**Sangita Mehta**  
@timesgroup.com

**Mumbai:** Yes Bank has picked JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) as its joint venture partner to offload nearly ₹51,000 crore of distressed loans – a move that the private sector bank believes could improve its valuation and help attract equity investors it badly needs, said two people aware of the development.

Yes Bank invited bids for its distressed loans portfolio, amounting to ₹51,000 crore, soon after the Reserve Bank of India in March 2021 rejected its plan to set up an ARC as its subsidiary. The transaction, once completed, will be India's largest sale of distressed assets that will result in Yes Bank becoming nearly a zero non-performing as-

set (NPA) bank, making it easier for the bank to raise capital.

Last week, Yes Bank declared JC Flowers ARC as the highest bidder with Cerberus Assets Management, one of the largest distressed assets investors, coming a close second. JC Flowers offered ₹12,000 crore while Cerberus made a marginally lower offer, said the people cited above. Yes Bank will soon hold a Swiss challenge auction wherein it would invite counter bids with JC Flowers ARC's offer as an anchor bid, the people said. If

Yes receives a higher offer, JC Flowers will have the right to match it. Rahul Gupta, chairman and CEO of JC Flowers ARC, could not be reached for comment. Cerberus and Yes Bank did not respond to ET's request for comment.

Of JC Flowers ARC's ₹12,000 crore offer, 15% will be paid upfront in cash while the balance would be in the form of security receipts to be redeemed as the ARC recovers money from defaulting borrowers.

**Terms of the Proposal** >> 14

**'OPEN TO GIVING UP A BOARD SEAT IF VALUATIONS ATTRACTIVE'**

### Plan to Raise \$1b in FY23: Yes MD

Yes Bank is firming up plans to raise around \$1 billion (₹7,500 crore) in FY23 as it looks to strengthen its capital ratios, managing director Prashant Kumar tells **Saloni Shukla**. >> 14

**Yes Bank has shortlisted JC Flowers Asset Reconstruction Company (ARC) as its joint venture partner to offload nearly Rs 50,000 crore of bad loans,**

**JC Flowers has bid for the ARC valuing the Rs 50,000 crore bad loan at around Rs 12,000 crore.**

**Of JC Flowers ARC's Rs 12,000 crore offer, 15% will be paid upfront in cash while the balance would be in the form of security receipts to be redeemed as the ARC recovers money from defaulting borrowers,**

**This two-pronged deal structure of carving out bad loan and getting capital infusion with top PE players as shareholders is likely to provide a complete resolution to the bank which was bailed out by the State Bank of India under the supervision of the RBI.**

64. Consider the following statements regarding Account Aggregator (AA) framework.

1. 41 financial information providers and users adopt Account Aggregator (AA) framework.
2. Union Bank of India is the first public sector bank (PSB), which has gone live on the AA platform.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*41 financial information providers and users adopt Account Aggregator (AA) framework.*

*Union Bank of India is the first public sector bank (PSB), which has gone live on the AA platform.*

*PSBs, including SBI, Bank of Baroda and PNB are in various stages of preparation and are yet to go live on the platform. SBI is in testing phase. Bank of Baroda is in development phase. Bank of India, Central Bank of India and Punjab National Bank are evaluating the step.*

*NBFCs like Piramal Capital and Housing Finance and U GRO Capital are also live on the AA platform. Insurers like Bajaj Allianz General Insurance are also live on AA platform. Account Aggregator (AA) framework went live in September 2021. It helps to share consent-based financial data between regulated entities.*

65. Recently, **Swiss Re Global Business Solutions (GBS)** India opened a new centre in \_\_\_\_\_.

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

*Swiss Re Global Business Solutions (GBS) India will open a new centre in Hyderabad.*

*The centre will be opened in September 2022. Swiss Re GBS India is the analytical and innovation hub of Swiss Re Group. Swiss Re GBS India is also having a hub at Bangalore.*

*Swiss Re Group comes among the world's leading providers of reinsurance, insurance etc. It is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland.*

66. Recently as per **Kantar** report, the number of internet users in India will be \_\_\_\_\_ by 2025.

- A. 400 Million
- B. 500 Million
- C. **900 Million**
- D. 700 Million

*Over 87% of Indian households will have at least one internet user by 2025 as per Kantar report. The report estimates that the number of internet users in India will be 900 million by 2025. As per the report, online fashion category will have highest number of users by 2025.*

*The report says that Health Tech will have the second highest number of users.*

*Half of all students will undertake some form of online education by 2025. By 2025, 1 in every 2 ed-tech users will be female Agri-Tech will be defined by Drone technology, Public-Private partnerships, and Digital Agriculture apps.*

*Kantar is a brand consulting and data analytics company. It is based in London, England.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

67. Consider the following statements regarding Banks Board Bureau (BBB).

1. BBB was formed in 2016 to recommend appointment of whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs) as well as of state-owned financial institutions.
2. B.P. Sharma headed BBB since April 2018.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

The government may soon reconstitute the Banks Board Bureau (BBB). The extended two year term of Banks Board Bureau (BBB) ended on April 10.

B P Sharma headed BBB since April 2018. He is former Secretary in the Department of Personnel and Training. It has three part time members. They are given below. Vedika Bhandarkar, former MD of Credit Suisse, Pradeep Kumar, former MD of State Bank of India (SBI), Pradip P Shah, founder MD of rating agency CRISIL.

Department of Financial Services Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises Secretary and a Deputy Governor of RBI are the permanent or ex-officio members of BBB.

BBB was formed in 2016. It was formed to recommend appointment of whole-time directors and non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs) as well as of state-owned financial institutions.

68. Recently, IDBI Bank has sold its entire holding of \_\_\_\_\_ percent of the total equity share capital of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (ARCIL) to Avenue India Resurgence Pte. Ltd.

- A. 19.18 %
- B. 9.99 %
- C. 9.45 %
- D. 4.99 %

## Govt to soon clear BBB recast

FE BUREAU  
New Delhi, May 15

THE GOVERNMENT WOULD soon restructure the Banks Board Bureau (BBB), which was set up to recommend names of top executives of state-run banks and financial institutions, as the extended term of its members ended on April 10, a source said.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) would take a final call on whether to retain the board members or bring in new ones. Also, the government will soon decide on whether to expand the BBB's scope or not.

In April 2020, the ACC had approved the extension of the term of the BBB's part-time chairman BP Sharma (former secretary of the department of personnel and training) and other members for a period of two years. Other part-time members are Vedika Bhandarkar, former managing director (MD) of Credit Suisse; Panja Pradeep Kumar, former MD of SBI; and Pradip P Shah, founder MD of rating agency CRISIL.

Sharma had been heading the BBB since 2018 after the tenure of its first chairman and former controller and auditor general of India Vinod Rai got over. The government set up the BBB in 2016 with an aim to "search and select appropriate personages" for the boards of public-sector banks, financial institutions and insurance companies and "recommend measures to improve corporate governance in these institutions.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*IDBI Bank has sold its entire holding of 6,23,23,800 fully paid-up equity shares constituting 19.18 percent of the total equity share capital of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (ARCIL) on May 18, 2022 to Avenue India Resurgence Pte. Ltd. Incorporated in 2002, Arcil is the first and most well recognized ARC in India who is owned by banks like SBI, IDBI, ICICI, PNB and strategic foreign investors.*

*Avenue India Resurgence Pte. Ltd. is an arm of the New York-headquartered global investment firm, Avenue Capital Group.*

**IDBI Bank divests entire 19.18% stake in ARCIL to Avenue India**



**New Delhi:** IDBI Bank on Wednesday said it has divested its entire stake of over 19% in ARCIL to Avenue India Resurgence Pte. The lender, however, did not disclose the deal value. "...IDBI Bank has sold its entire holding of 62,323,800 fully paid-up equity shares constituting 19.18% of the total equity share capital of Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd. (ARCIL) on 18 May, 2022 to Avenue India Resurgence Pte. Ltd.," IDBI Bank said in a regulatory filing. With this, the LIC-controlled lender said it ceases to be a sponsor shareholder of ARCIL. Stock of IDBI Bank closed 0.39% down at ₹38.10 apiece on BSE. **PTI**

**69. Recently in May Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and \_\_\_\_\_ inked MoU to enable engagement of last-mile women-led enterprises as sellers and service providers on GeM.**

- A. SEWA**
- B. SARTHAQ**
- C. NAARI**
- D. SANYUKTA**

*Government eMarketplace [GeM] and Self Employed Women's Association [SEWA] inked a Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] for the advocacy, outreach, mobilization and capacity-building of last-mile women-led micro and small enterprises, women entrepreneurs, SHGs, Associations, Cooperatives, and Collective.*

*GeM will train SEWA members to assist and enable women-led micro and small enterprises, women entrepreneurs, SHGs among others, with GeM processes related to seller registration and on-boarding on the platform.*

*GeM is a Section 8 company setup under the administrative control of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for procurement of goods and services by Central Ministries, State Departments, PSEs and Autonomous Bodies.*

*SEWA is the premier Women's organization in India that aligns women organizations with Government programs, facilitating market linkages for informal women workers to develop their livelihoods and strengthening collective bargaining power of women workers.*

**70. Recently in May Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the 7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of New Development Bank . This year's theme for the Annual Meeting was \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. NDB: Optimising Development Impact**
- B. NDB: Covid Development Impact**
- C. NDB: Return Development Impact**
- D. NDB: Reforming Development Impact**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs and India's Governor for the New Development Bank (NDB), Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman chaired **the 7th Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of NDB through video-conference in New Delhi**
- The meeting was also attended by Governors/Alternate Governors of Brazil, China, Russia, South Africa and the newly joined members Bangladesh and United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Due to ongoing pandemic, this Annual Meeting of NDB which was hosted/chaired by India this year was organised in virtual mode. **This year's theme for the Annual Meeting was "NDB: Optimising Development Impact", which is particularly important and relevant in the current global economic scenario.**
- NDB is a multilateral development bank set up by the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) in 2014 with the objective of mobilizing resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in the BRICS as well as other EMDCs of the world.
- The Bank was operationalized in 2015, with its Headquarters in Shanghai, China.
- Last year, NDB has expanded its membership to include four countries namely, Bangladesh, UEA, Egypt and Uruguay. NDB has so far approved 21 projects of India for an amount of \$7.1 billion.

71. As per recent report **World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP)** by UN India is projected to grow by \_\_\_\_\_ percent in 2022.

- A. 6.2 %
- B. 6.4 %**
- C. 9.2 %
- D. 8.3 %

The UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs said in its World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) report India is projected to grow by 6.4 per cent in 2022, slower than the last year's 8.8 per cent but still the fastest-growing major economy,

The global economy is now projected to grow by only 3.1 per cent in 2022, down from the 4.0 per cent growth forecast released in January 2022.

Global inflation is projected to increase to 6.7 per cent in 2022, twice the average of 2.9 per cent during 2010–2020, with sharp rises in food and energy prices

## UN: India growth to slow to 6.4%, still fastest-growing major economy

India is projected to grow by 6.4% in 2022, slower than last year's 8.8%, but will still be the fastest-growing major economy, according to a United Nations report

### Factors that may curb private consumption and investment:

- Higher inflationary pressures
- Uneven recovery of labour market

**Global economy** is projected to grow by only 3.1% in 2022, down from the 4.0% growth forecast released in January 2022

**Global inflation** is projected to increase to 6.7% in 2022, twice the



average of 2.9% during 2010–2020

Source: United Nations/PTI

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

72. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ Government signed a MoU with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for the development of new and renewable energy projects in the state.

- A. Uttarakhand
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Haryana

*Uttarakhand Government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited for the development of new and renewable energy projects in the state.*

*The agreement was signed in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.*

*Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited is an Indian government-owned oil and gas explorer and producer. It is under the ownership of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.*

73. Recently, ASHA workers have been conferred the WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders' award. What is the acronym of A in the Word ASHA?

- A. Advisor
- B. Accredited
- C. Additional
- D. Amenities

### One million all-women ASHA volunteers honoured by WHO

India's one million all-women ASHA volunteers were honoured by the World Health Organization (WHO) on Sunday for their "crucial role" in providing direct access to healthcare facilities in rural areas and their indefatigable efforts to rein in the coronavirus pandemic in the country.

Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) volunteers are Indian government's affiliated health-care workers who are the first point of contact in rural India.

Most of them gained spotlight during the peak of the pandemic in India for conducting door-to-door checks to trace coronavirus patients.

The WHO director-general Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus announced six awards on Sunday to recognize outstanding contributions to advancing global health, demonstrated leadership and commitment to regional health issues. The ceremony for the awards, which were established in 2019, was part of the live-streamed high-level opening session of the 75th World Health Assembly.



PTI ASHA workers are government's affiliated health-care workers. PTI

*The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has expressed his happiness for the entire team of ASHA workers receiving WHO Director-General's Global Health Leaders' award. Shri Modi said that ASHA workers are at forefront of ensuring a healthy India and their dedication and determination is admirable. The Accredited Social Health Activist Workers (ASHA) are more than 1 million female volunteers in #India, honored for their crucial role in linking the community with the health system and ensuring that those living in rural poverty can access primary health care services #WHA75*

*An accredited social health activist is a community health worker instituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare as a part of India's National Rural Health Mission. The mission began in 2005; full implementation was targeted for 2012.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

74. Consider the following statements regarding The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) Committee on Pension Advisory.

1. The re-constituted Panel has 18 members besides the PFRDA Chairman as its ex-officio Chairman and six PFRDA Board members as the ex-officio members of the PAC.
2. The PFRDA Act stipulates that the PAC cannot have more than 25 members, excluding ex-officio members.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has reconstituted the Pension Advisory Committee (PAC), which has been tasked with advising the regulator on drafting rules for the pension sector.
- The reconstituted panel has 18 members in addition to the PFRDA Chairman as its ex-officio Chairman and six PFRDA Board members as the ex-officio members of the PAC.
- It may be recalled that the PFRDA Act provides that the PAC may not have more than twenty-five members, excluding ex officio members, to represent the interests of trade unions, subscribers, trade and industry, intermediaries and organizations engaged in pension research.
- The panel must meet at least twice a year. Every meeting of the PAC shall be chaired by the Chair (PFRDA Chair).
- Each member of the PAC – with the exception of ex officio members – will have a term of office of three years from the date of the appointment of the Authority.
- India's pension assets under management (AUM) have grown strongly and have reached a compound annual growth rate of 30% on average in recent years. At the end of April 2022, Pension AUM totalled 7.39 lakh crore.

75. Recently PN Vasudevan Managing Director and CEO of \_\_\_\_\_ has decided to step down from his role in order to focus on the public charitable trust.

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

## PFRDA rejigs key advisory panel

KR SRIVATS

New Delhi, May 22

The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has reconstituted the Pension Advisory Committee (PAC), which has been tasked to advise the regulator on framing regulations for the sector.

The reconstituted panel has 18 members besides the PFRDA chief as its ex-officio Chairman and six PFRDA board members as ex-officio members.

The PFRDA Act stipulates that the PAC cannot have more than 25 members, excluding ex-officio members, to represent the interests of employees' associations, subscribers, commerce and industry, intermediaries, and organisations engaged in pension research.

The PAC can advise PFRDA on matters referred to it, and on such matters as the panel may deem fit. The panel is required to meet at least twice a year. Every meeting of the PAC has to be presided over by the chairperson (PFRDA Chairman).

### New entrants

Some of the new entrants into the panel are KP Krishnan, Honorary Research Professor, Centre for Policy Research; and Dharendra Kumar, President & CEO, Value Research, sources said. The representatives of the Pension Fund Management industry have also changed with the reconstituted panel including the Chief Executive Officer of LIC Pension Fund and the CEO of Kotak Pension Fund. These two pension fund management houses have come in the place of UTI Pension Fund and HDFC Pension Fund, it is reliably learnt.

The other members of the PAC include Gaurav Sharma, Deputy Commandant, Border Security Force, as a representative of the Union Home Ministry, and Ramesh Chandra Pandey, Section Officer, Finance Establishment Directorate as a representative of the Railways. The reconstituted PAC also has representation from the Defence Ministry, Finance Ministry, Department of Personnel & Training and Department of Posts, besides the Chief Executive of the Indian Banks Association (IBA).

From the States side, the Director (budget) from the Finance Department of Madhya Pradesh has been appointed a member of the PAC. From the industry front, the PAC has the Chairman of the CII National Committee on Insurance & Pensions as a member.

Each member of the PAC—other than ex-officio members—will have a term of office of three years from the date of nomination by the Authority.



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFB) Founder and CEO P N Vasudevan has asked the lender to look for his successor as he wants to hang up his boots.*

*He is also the Managing Director of Equitas, which began as a micro finance institution in 2007 and was later converted into the bank in 2016.*

*Equitas Small Finance Bank is a small finance bank founded in 2016 as a microfinance lender. The bank has its headquarters in Chennai, and is a subsidiary of holding company Equitas Holdings Ltd.*

## Equitas founder Vasudevan steps down as MD & CEO

Equitas Small Finance Bank's founder PN Vasudevan has stepped down from the post of managing director and chief executive officer of the bank. Vasudevan was part of Equitas when it was started as a microfinance institution in 2007, and later when it was converted into a bank in 2016. "He now wants to pursue a distinct set of goals, which he believes will help him contribute further back to the society, more than what he is doing now," Equitas SFB said. **BS REPORTER**

76. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ announced the re-appointment of Salil Parekh as the CEO and MD for the period of five years.

- A. Wipro
- B. Infosys
- C. Accenture
- D. Tata Motors

- IT services company Infosys Limited re-appointed Salil Parekh as its Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer for the next five years till March 2027
- Parekh has been Infosys' MD and CEO since January 2018.
- Infosys Limited is an Indian multinational information technology company that provides business consulting
- The company was founded in Pune and is headquartered in Bangalore.

77. Recently **Paytm**, has announced plans to infuse \_\_\_\_\_ in **Paytm General Insurance Ltd**

## Salil Parekh reappointed Infosys CEO, MD for 5 yrs

The IT giant's profit rose 37.55% during Parekh's four-year term despite Covid



Salil Parekh, MD and CEO, Infosys

December 2017, after Vishal Sikka resigned after a public feud with co-founder NR Narayana Murthy.

### Parekh's watch

Under Parekh's leadership, Infosys' revenues have spiked 68 per cent from ₹7,375 crore to ₹1,23,936 crore while the net profit has risen by 37.55 per cent to ₹22,146 crore from ₹16,100 crore. The Infosys scrip has jumped 165 per cent in his first term.

During Covid-19, the company saw exponential growth

and outperformed its peers, largely by increasing its digital investments and enabling enhanced cloud, design and data offerings.

### Performance stock units

To ensure continuity and commitment of the organisation's leadership, Infosys' nomination remuneration and compensation committee has approved the grant of 1,04,000 shares to six key managerial personnel, and another 3,75,760 shares to 88 senior executives.

These performance stock units will be granted under the Infosys Expanded Stock Ownership Plan 2019, and will vest over three years on the achievement of certain milestones, in line with the plan approved by shareholders. The date of the grant shall be June 1, 2022, the stock exchange filing added.

**HARIPRIYA SUREBAN**  
Bengaluru, May 22

IT giant Infosys has announced the re-appointment of Salil Parekh as CEO and MD for five years. His new term will be effective from July 1, 2022, to March 31, 2027. The reappointment is subject to approval by shareholders.

Parekh has been the CEO and MD of Infosys since January 2018. He has more than thirty years of global experience in the IT services industry with a strong track record of driving digital transformation for enterprises, executing business turnarounds and managing successful acquisitions.

Parekh was appointed in

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**(PGIL) in tranches, over a period of 10 years and to hold upfront equity stake of 74 percent.**

- A. Rs 650 Cr
- B. Rs 950 Cr**
- C. Rs 850 Cr
- D. Rs 500 Cr

**One97 Communications, the parent of digital payments and financial services major Paytm, has announced plans to infuse ₹950 crore in Paytm General Insurance Ltd (PGIL) in tranches, over a period of 10 years and to hold upfront equity stake of 74 per cent.**

**PGIL is an associate of the One97 Communications wherein 49 per cent of the equity share capital is held by the company and the remaining 51 per cent is held by VSS Holdings Pvt Ltd (VHPL), a company owned and controlled by Paytm's MD and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma. PGIL would become a subsidiary of One97 Communications wherein the company would hold 74 per cent shareholding and the remaining 26 per cent stake will be held by VHPL.**

**In a separate stock exchange filing, One97 Communications said its board of directors has approved the re-appointment of Vijay Shekhar Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company for tenure of five years with effect from December 19, 2022 to December 18, 2027**

## Paytm to invest ₹950 crore in general insurance arm in tranches

Nod for reappointment of Vijay Sharma as MD and CEO

OUR BUREAU  
Mumbai, May 21

One97 Communications, the parent of digital payments and financial services major Paytm, has announced plans to infuse ₹950 crore in Paytm General Insurance Ltd (PGIL) in tranches, over a period of 10 years and to hold upfront equity stake of 74 per cent. The proposal was approved by its board of directors on Friday.

PGIL will seek a licence for a general insurance business from the insurance regulator IRDAI. "The investments to be made pursuant to the proposed transaction will be utilised for setting up the general insurance business of PGIL and scaling up its operations, besides maintaining the minimum solvency margin as prescribed under the applicable insurance laws and regulations," it said.

Post receipt of the Certificate of Registration from IRDAI, PGIL would carry on general insurance business to offer a host of personal and commercial covers, including private car, two-wheeler, health, property and liability insurance.

The announcement comes



PGIL will seek a licence for a general insurance business from the IRDAI

soon after Paytm's proposed acquisition of Raheja QBE General Insurance was called off as it could not be completed within the agreed time period.

Paytm Insuretech Pvt Ltd had, in July 2020, entered into a share purchase agreement to acquire 100 per cent of Raheja QBE General Insurance Company.

PGIL is an associate of the One97 Communications wherein 49 per cent of the equity share capital is held by the company and the remaining 51 per cent is held by VSS Holdings Pvt Ltd (VHPL), a company owned and controlled by Paytm's MD and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma.

**PGIL to become subsidiary**

Post the proposed investment, PGIL would become a subsidiary of One97 Communications wherein the company would hold 74 per cent shareholding and the remaining 26 per cent stake will be held by VHPL.

"Both, the company and VHPL (that is the existing shareholders of PGIL) would make primary infusion of capital in PGIL at the same price," One97 Communications said in the filing. In a separate stock exchange filing, One97 Communications said its board of directors has approved the re-appointment of Vijay Shekhar Sharma as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of the company for a tenure of five years with effect from December 19, 2022 to December 18, 2027.

It has also approved the appointment of Madhur Deora, Chief Financial Officer, as an Additional Director with effect from May 20, 2022. Further, the Board has also designated Deora as Whole-time Director and Chief Financial Officer of the company for a tenure of five years from May 20, 2022 to May 19, 2027.

**78. Consider the following statements regarding Jet Airways.**

1. Jet Airways will be the **first Indian carrier to revive operations under the country's insolvency and bankruptcy law.**
2. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted Jet Airways **now under its new owners, the Jalan – Kalrock consortium** – the air operator certificate (AOC).

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

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2
- C. Both 1 & 2**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**D. None of the above**

- **India's aviation regulator, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted Jet Airways – under its new owners, the Jalan – Kalrock consortium - the air operator certificate (AOC), thereby allowing the airline to resume commercial flight operations.**
- **It is poised to make history as the first Indian carrier to return to the skies after being grounded.**
- **The airline company was put through a corporate insolvency resolution process (CIRP) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016, in 2019.**
- **Sanjiv Kapoor was appointed as the CEO and Vipula Gunatilleka was appointed as the CFO.**

**79. Recently, IDBI Bank has entered into a pact with Ageas Insurance International NV to sell its entire stake in the joint venture Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd for \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Rs 480 Cr**
- B. Rs 580 Cr**
- C. Rs 750 Cr**
- D. Rs 800 Cr**

- **The IDBI Bank has entered into a pact with Ageas Insurance International NV to sell its entire stake in the joint venture Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Ltd for over Rs 580 crore.**
- **As of March 31, 2022, LIC-controlled IDBI Bank holds a 25 percent stake in the AFLI.**
- **IDBI Bank said that the transaction is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the current fiscal year 2022-23.**
- **IDBI Bank is expected to receive up to Rs 580.20 crore from the sale of a 25 percent stake in AFLI to Ageas.**
- **AFLI is a three-party joint-venture between IDBI Bank, Federal Bank, and Ageas Insurance**

**Jet Airways gets air operator certificate**

Likely to resume operations in July-Sept period



**ABHISHEK LAW**

New Delhi, May 20

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has granted Jet Airways – now under its new owners, the Jalan – Kalrock consortium – the air operator certificate (AOC), thereby allowing the airline to resume commercial flight operations.

The airline is expected to resume operations in the July-September period.

With this, Jet Airways will be the first Indian carrier to revive operations under the country's insolvency and bankruptcy law. Jet flights were grounded in April 2019 when the company (under the previous Naresh Goyal management) went bankrupt.

"The Air Operator Permit (AOP) for Jet Airways was granted today," Arun Kumar, DG - DGCA, said on Friday.

The grant of the AOC was the

The AOC grant was the final step in a comprehensive regulatory and compliance process for the airline's operational readiness

final step in a comprehensive regulatory and compliance process involving several procedural checks for the airline's operational readiness.

**Proving flights**

Jet Airways had on May 17 successfully completed all its "proving flights" as part of the DGCA's process for the induction of a new aircraft type into the airline's fleet.

Proving flights were carried out in two phases – on May 15 on the Delhi-Mumbai-Delhi route, and on May 17 on the Delhi-Hyderabad-Delhi route.

In all there were five landings and 10-odd hours of fly-

ing. In a statement, the Jalan Kalrock consortium said it has fulfilled all the conditions precedent under its NCLT approved resolution plan.

The revalidation of AOC enables Jet Airways to resume its scheduled commercial operations in India.

The airlines, and its owners, have already obtained security clearances from the Ministry of Home Affairs. "Today marks a new dawn for not just Jet Airways, but also for the Indian aviation industry. We are now at the brink of creating history," Murari Lal Jalan, Lead Member of the Jalan - Kalrock consortium, said.

**IDBI Bank exits insurance, sells entire stake to Ageas for ₹580 cr**

Ageas, first foreign investor to use the enhanced 74% FDI cap in insurance



**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, May 20

IDBI Bank will sell its entire 25 per cent stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance to Ageas Insurance International for ₹580.2 crore.

Post the stake sale, Ageas will own 74 per cent in private sector Ageas Federal Life Insurance. It will be the first foreign investor to use the enhanced foreign direct investment cap of 74 per cent for the insurance sector.

"IDBI Bank has entered into a share purchase agreement with Ageas Insurance Interna-

Post the sale, Ageas will own 74 per cent stake in AFLI

tional NV on May 19, 2022, to sell its entire stake of 20,00,00,000 equity shares in Ageas Federal Life Insurance Company Limited (AFLI) pursuant to exercise of Call Option by Ageas," the bank said in an exchange filing on Friday.

**Deal may go through in Q2**

The transaction is expected to be completed in the second quarter of the current fiscal,

subject to regulatory approvals.

IDBI Bank will exit as a shareholder but remain a distribution partner, Ageas said in a statement.

Ageas Federal Life Insurance is a joint venture with IDBI Bank, global insurance giant Ageas and Federal Bank.

Ageas had in December increased its stake in the insurer to 49 per cent from 26 per cent. Federal Bank's stake will continue at 26 per cent. Since becoming a subsidiary of LIC, IDBI Bank had been looking to pare its stake in Ageas Federal Life Insurance. It had stopped the distribution of policies of Ageas Federal Life Insurance. On March 29, the IDBI Bank board had approved the proposal to sell its stake in the insurer.

## Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

*International NV, which is one of Europe's largest insurance companies.*

80. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has tied up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer UPI payments.

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

**RBL Bank, Amazon Pay and Amazon Web Services (AWS) have teamed up to offer unified payments interface (UPI) payments, according to a Mint report Friday (May 20) that noted the bank will offer peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions in the collaboration.**

**Amazon Pay will issue the National Payments Corporation of India's (NPCI) allocated UPI ID to RBL Bank with the handle @rapl The collaboration expands RBL's presence in the UPI space with its AWS-hosted payment processing platform and allows the bank to connect with Amazon Pay's increasing customer base Mahendra Nerurkar, CEO and vice president of Amazon Pay India Rajeev Ahuja, managing director and interim CEO of RBL Bank.**

### RBL Bank ties up with Amazon Pay to offer UPI payment services

**OUR BUREAU**

Mumbai, May 20

Private sector lender RBL Bank has tied up with Amazon Web Services (AWS) to offer UPI payments. "The bank has partnered with Amazon Pay to offer peer-to-peer and peer-to-merchant transactions," it said in a statement on Friday. With this integration, Amazon Pay will issue NPCI's allocated UPI ID with the handle @rapl to RBL Bank, it further said.

"The partnership will allow the bank to tap Amazon Pay's growing customer base and transaction volumes," it said, adding that it move will expand the bank's presence in the UPI segment with its payment processing platform hosted on AWS.

81. Consider the following statements regarding Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC).

1. SPAC has no commercial operation but is formed strictly to raise capital through IPOs.
2. In the market lingo, SPACs are called "blank cheque companies".
3. SPACs created by Indian entities have listed in the US, ReNew Power merged with a US based 'blank cheque firm' RMG Acquisition Corporation II and then got listed on NASDAQ.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

### SEBI readying framework for SPACs listing +

These 'companies' have no operations but are formed only to raise capital via IPOs

**PALAK SHAH**

Mumbai, May 19

Soon India may have its own version of a "blank cheque company". As in the US, market regulator SEBI is likely to allow the listing of Special Purpose Acquisition Companies (SPAC).

SEBI told the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance that it was deliberating on a framework for SPACs in Indian capital markets and a committee, which was set-up to look into it, is in the process of finalising its report.

**Blank cheque companies**  
The model behind SPACs is "have cash, will acquire a business". A SPAC has no commercial operation but is formed strictly to raise capital through IPOs. The purpose of a SPAC is to acquire or

merge with an existing company. In the market lingo, SPACs are called "blank cheque companies".

Reportedly, in 2020, nearly 250 SPACs were created, mainly in the US, with \$80 billion invested. The year 2021 saw roughly 600 SPAC IPOs. Recently, SPACs created by Indian entities have listed in the US. For example, ReNew Power merged with a US-based 'blank cheque firm' RMG Acquisition Corporation II and then got listed on Nasdaq.

Raising money through IPOs is a lengthy process as it involves a maze of regulatory filings and other obligations. In contrast, a company can be listed on exchanges in days if it merges or is acquired by a SPAC. It is a vehicle born out of financial engineering but the easiest to understand, ex-



pects say. A SPAC has a limited time frame for making an acquisition, compared with another buyer like a private equity firm, which may drive a hard bargain. In India, however, the SEBI rules will define a SPAC.

**Key feature**

But during the recent market crash, since investors have been rushing out of risky assets, SPACs have been struggling for business and deals. A key feature of SPACs is that blank cheque companies

have a couple of years to find a company to take public, otherwise they must return the money to investors and forfeit the expenses incurred.

According to sources close to the development, SEBI told the Parliamentary Standing Committee that "the sub group of the primary market advisory committee (PMAC) is in the process of finalising the report on SPACs. Subsequently, a consultation paper for public comments may also be issued on the matter. Steps regarding SPACs framework may be taken only after consultation with PMAC. The Company Law Committee report of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) of February 2022 recommended introducing an enabling provision to recognise SPACs under the Companies Act and allowing a SPAC incorporated in India on domestic and global exchanges."

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*The government is considering a regulatory framework for special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs) to lay the ground for the possible listing of Indian companies through this route in the future.*

*A special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) is a company that has no commercial operations and is formed strictly to raise capital through an initial public offering (IPO) or the purpose of acquiring or merging with an existing company. They are also known as "blank check companies". To raise money in an initial public offering (IPO), and at this point in time, it does not have any operations or revenues.*

*Once the money is raised from the public, it is kept in an escrow account, which can be accessed while making the acquisition.*

*If the acquisition is not made within two years of the IPO, the SPAC is delisted and the money is returned to the investors.*

**82. Consider the following Statements regarding *National Family Health Survey (NFHS5) 2019 - 21.***

- 1. About 78.6 percent of women in India have a bank or savings account which they operate themselves and not the male members in the family.**
- 2. As per the government data, nearly 45 crore PMJDY accounts currently have deposits of ₹1.57 lakh crore (as of January 26, 2022). About 55 percent of these account holders are women.**

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

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

*As per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) – 2019-21 about 78.6 per cent of women in India have a bank or saving account which they operate themselves and not male members in the family. According to the World Bank, financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs.*

*The government initiated the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFII), namely, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August 2014 to provide universal banking services for every unbanked household. As per the government data, nearly 45 crore PMJDY accounts, which were opened in the last 7 years, currently have deposits of ₹1.57 lakh crore (as of January 26, 2022). About 55 per cent of these account holders are women. The average deposit in an account has also gone up from ₹1,065 per account in March 2015 to ₹3,449 by March 2021.*

*RBI's National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) states that with greater control over their financial lives, women can help themselves and their families to come out of poverty.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

## RBI okays trade transactions settlement with Lanka in INR

**PRESS TRUST OF INDIA**

Mumbai, May 19

In view of difficulties being faced by exporters in getting payments from crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the RBI on Thursday allowed settlement of trade transactions in Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.

In March, the government had guaranteed a term loan of \$1 billion extended by State Bank of India to Sri Lanka for financing purchase of essential goods by the island nation from India.

“In view of the difficulties being experienced by exporters in receipt of export proceeds from Sri Lanka and SBI’s credit facility...it has been decided that such trade transac-



tions with Sri Lanka, falling under the said arrangement, may be settled in the Indian rupee outside the ACU mechanism,” the RBI said in a circular.

Under the arrangement, financing of export of eligible goods and services from India would be allowed subject conditions and whose purchase may be agreed to be financed by SBI under the agreement.

**83. Recently RBI allowed the settlement of trade transactions in the Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism to which of the following countries?**

- A. Nepal
- B. Bangladesh
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Bhutan

***In view of difficulties being faced by exporters in getting payments from crisis-hit Sri Lanka, the RBI allowed the settlement of trade transactions in the Indian rupee outside the Asian Clearing Union (ACU) mechanism.***

***In March, the government had guaranteed a term loan of \$1 billion extended by the State Bank of India (SBI) to Sri Lanka for financing the purchase of essential goods by the island nation from India.***

***It has been decided that such trade transactions with Sri Lanka, falling under the said arrangement, may be settled in INR outside the ACU mechanism.***

## How financial inclusion is giving women’s empowerment a leg up

Of 45 crore Jan Dhan A/Cs opened in seven years, about 55% account holders are women

### DATA FOCUS

**RADHESHYAM JADHAV**

Pune, May 19

In 2005-06 only 15.1 per cent of Indian women had a bank or savings account that they themselves used. In 2016-17 the number of women using their bank accounts themselves went up to 53 per cent and now as per the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) – 2019-21, about 78.6 per cent of women in India have a bank or savings account which they operate themselves and not the male members in the family.

The financial inclusion or financial independence of women is also empowering them in other ways or parameters mentioned in the survey, which include women prioritising their own needs and taking part in household decision making.

According to the World Bank, financial inclusion means that individuals and businesses have access to useful and affordable financial products and services that meet their needs – transactions, payments, savings, credit, and insurance – delivered in a responsible and sustainable way.

#### Banking, decision making

The government initiated the National Mission for Financial Inclusion (NMFII), namely, Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) in August 2014 to provide universal banking ser-

vices for every unbanked household.

#### Average deposit ₹3,449

As per the government data, nearly 45 crore PMJDY accounts, which were opened in the last 7 years, currently have deposits of ₹1.57 lakh crore (as of January 26, 2022). About 55 per cent of these account holders are women. The average deposit in an account has also gone up from ₹1,065 per account in March 2015 to ₹3,449 by March 2021.

The NFHS-5 shows that financial inclusion might have bolstered the participation of women in household decision-making. Currently, about 88.8 per cent women usually participate in household decisions about health care for themselves, making major household purchases, and visits to her family or relatives. In 2015-16 the percentage of women involved in this decision-making was 84 per cent from the 76.5 per cent in 2005-06.

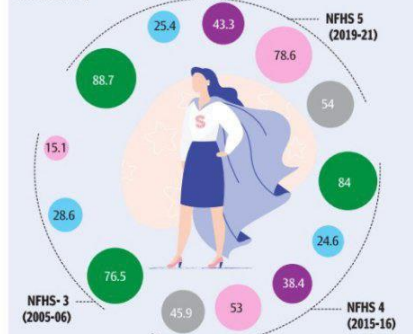
#### Ownership, health

In 2015-16, about 38.4 per cent of women-owned houses and/or land (alone or jointly with others). The NFHS-5 data shows that today 43.3 per cent of women have a house and/or land.

In 2015-16, only 57.6 per cent of women used hygienic methods of protection during their menstrual period. As per the NFHS-5 about 77.3 per cent of women now use hygienic methods. Interestingly, only

### Are Indian women more empowered now?

Indicators (in %)



Source: National Family Health Surveys - 2015-16 & 2019-21

48.2 per cent of rural women used hygienic methods in 2015-16 the percentage today is 72.3 per cent. This is a major indicator of how rural women are taking their own decisions, say women in Lasina village in Yavatmal. Earlier women depended on men for money even as they worked hard in the fields, today they handle their own money, say women in this village.

The number of women having mobile phones that they themselves use has also gone up from 45.9 per cent in 2015-16 to 54 per cent in 2019-21.

In 2005-06, about 37 per cent

women experienced spousal violence, while in 2019-21, the number reduced to about 29.3 per cent.

**Controlling their own lives**  
 RBI’s National Strategy for Financial Inclusion (NSFI) states that with greater control over their financial lives, women can help themselves and their families to come out of poverty; reduce their risk of falling into poverty, eliminate their exploitation from the informal sector, and increase their ability to fully engage in measurable and productive economic activities.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

84. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has acquired two investment technology platforms – Wealth Desk and OpenQ– for a total enterprise value of \$75 million.

- A. Paytm
- B. **PhonePe**
- C. Bharti Airtel
- D. Reliance Jio

- **PhonePe, part of the Walmart Inc-controlled Flipkart group, is acquiring two investment technology platforms – WealthDesk and OpenQ– for a total enterprise value of \$75 million.**
- **PhonePe, which had also applied for a mutual fund license with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) last December, will acquire WealthDesk at a deal value of \$50 million, while OpenQ deal is pegged at \$25 million.**
- **The acquisitions are a part of PhonePe’s larger game plan to open new revenue streams and diversify its offerings for users of its payment services.**

## PhonePe to buy WealthDesk, OpenQ for \$75 million

**YATTI SONI**

Bengaluru, May 18

Walmart-owned PhonePe is acquiring two wealth management companies WealthDesk and OpenQ. While the company did not disclose the deal value, a source close to the development told *BusinessLine* that the collective value of the acquisitions is around \$75 million and the deals are a mix of cash and stock.

WealthDesk is estimated to be valued around \$50 million and OpenQ’s valuation is somewhere around \$20 million. The founder and the entire team of WealthDesk will be working as a part of the PhonePe group, and both the platforms will remain independent. WealthDesk will con-

tinue to remain an open platform for all players, and founder Ujjwal Jain will lead the company.

### 50 partners

“WealthDesk currently has over 50 partners across categories already working with them and we expect their platform to scale further by integrating with more partners and to become a gold standard for investment technology,” said a PhonePe spokesperson. WealthDesk’s vision is to create an internet scale investment technology ecosystem by building the United Wealth Interface (UWI) for Asset and Wealth Management ecosystem on top of broking/transactional platforms. .

85. Consider the following statements regarding **Government Guarantee Policy**.

1. **Guarantee fee has been categorised into two parts based on risk rating. For category ‘A’, the fee will be 0.5-0.6 per cent depending upon tenor while for category ‘B’ it will be 0.7-0.9 percent.**
2. **Such a policy is required as the volume of sovereign guarantees undertaken during a financial year is limited to 0.5 percent of the GDP.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- **Repla-cing a 12-year-old policy, the Finance Ministry has come out with a new Government Guarantee Policy, which aims to include all the changes in Gen-eral Fin-an-cial Rules and fin-an-cial policies.**
- **Such a policy is required as the volume of sov-er-eign guar-an-tees under-taken dur-ing a financial year is lim-ited to 0.5 per cent of the GDP as per the Fiscal Respons-ib-il-ity and Budget Management Act, 2003.**
- **Min-is-tries and depart-ments will have to sub-mit ini-tial pro-posal on a ded-ic-ated portal and then send a phys-ical copy to the budget divi-sion, which will pro-cess it. Approval or oth-er-wise will be con-veyed to min-is-tries/depart-ments through a guar-an-tee portal. Once approved, the ministry/depart-ment may enter into a guar-an-tee agree-ment.**
- **Guarantee fee has been categorised into two based on risk rat-ing. For cat-egory 'A', the fee will be 0.5-0.6 percent depend-ing upon tenor while for category 'B', it will be 0.7-0.9 percent.**
- **It also enables Cent-ral PSUs to raise resources at lower interest charges or on more favour-able terms**

86. Recently, **Greenko Group has announced the setting World Project in \_\_\_\_\_.**
- Indore
  - Kurnool**
  - Balasore
  - Hyderabad

- **Shri Y. S. Jagan Mohan Reddy, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, performed the "first concrete pour ceremony" of the world's largest Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project (IRESPP); being implemented by Greenko Group, at Kurnool District, Andhra Pradesh.**
- **The 5,230 MW Integrated Renewable Energy Storage Project will play a pivotal role in India attaining energy security and enable global energy transition.**

## Finance Ministry releases revised guarantee policy

**SHISHIR SINHA**

New Delhi, May 18

Replacing a 12-year-old policy, the Finance Ministry has come out with a new Government Guarantee Policy, which aims to include all the changes in General Financial Rules and financial policies.

Such a policy is required as the volume of sovereign guarantees undertaken during a financial year is limited to 0.5 per cent of the GDP as per the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

### Procedures

Ministries and departments will have to submit initial proposal on a dedicated portal and then send a physical copy to the budget division, which will process it. Approval or otherwise will be conveyed to ministries/departments through a guarantee portal. Once approved, the ministry/depart-ment may enter into a guarantee agreement.

The ministry/depart-ment will pay an applicable guaran-

tee fee on the day of signing the agreement and thereafter, on April 1 every year. They will update details such as loan drawn history, repayments, etc. in the portal regularly. They are also required to send a review report to the budget division.

### Guarantee fee

Guarantee fee has been categorised into two based on risk rating. For category 'A', the fee will be 0.5-0.6 per cent depend-ing upon tenor while for category 'B', it will be 0.7-0.9 per cent.

Government guarantee intends to improve viability of projects or activities undertaken by Central entities with significant social and economic benefits. It also enables Central PSUs to raise resources at lower interest charges or on more favourable terms. Its objective is to fulfil the requirement in cases where sovereign guarantee is a precondition for concessional loans from bilateral/multilateral agencies to Central PSUs.



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *This is a first of its kind single location energy storage project with wind and solar capacities. This project is being implemented with an investment of over US\$3.0 billion comprising Pumped Storage (10,800 MWh of daily storage), Solar (3000 MW) and Wind (550 MW).*
- *Mr. Anil Chalamalasetty, Founder, CEO & MD, Greenko Group*
- *Greenko Group is the World’s largest Renewable Energy Storage and leading Energy Transition & De-carbonization Solution Company. Greenko is majority owned by two of the world’s largest Sovereign Wealth Funds, Government Investment Corporation (GIC) of Singapore and Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) of Abu Dhabi.*

**87. The India Rubber Meet 2022, a biennial event to serve as a forum for interaction, networking and exchange of information between various stakeholders of the rubber sector held in \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. Pune
- B. Hyderabad
- C. Kochi
- D. Mumbai

*The India rubber Meet 2022, a biennial event that serves as a forum for interaction, networking, and exchange of information between various stakeholders of the rubber sector, will be held in Kochi on July 22 and 23*

*Over 500 delegates from India and abroad are expected to participate in the event, organized by the India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), a society formed by the Rubber Board and the stakeholder associations in rubber and related sectors.*

*A national-level organizing committee under the chairmanship K.N. Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, with representation from all segments of the rubber industry, has been constituted for conducting the event.*

**Greenko building 5,230 MW integrated RE storage project**

First-of-its-kind single location project will have wind, solar capacities

**NAGA SRIDHAR**

Kurnool, May 17

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister YS Jagan Mohan Reddy assured full support to world’s largest integrated renewable energy storage project of the Greenko Group coming up in Kurnool. He was speaking after performing the concrete-pour ceremony for the project on Tuesday.

The project is a first of its kind single location energy storage project with wind and solar capacities. The 5,230 MW project is coming up with an investment of over \$3 billion comprising pumped storage (10,800 MWh of daily storage), solar (3000 MW)

pected to be completed in 2024.

Anil Chalamalasetty, Founder, CEO & MD, Greenko Group, said that Andhra Pradesh is set to become an energy storage capital of India on the back of its favourable topography.

“This integrated solution is pivotal for the nation to become energy independent and establishes it as a leader of de-carbonised economies,” he added.

**TO ADVERTISE  
PLEASE CONTACT**

Mumbai : 022 - 22021099

Pune : 020 - 26113743

Ahmedabad : 079 - 26871105

**BusinessLine**

**Kochi to host India Rubber Meet on July 22**

**OUR BUREAU**

Kochi, May 19

The India Rubber Meet 2022, the sixth edition in the series of the biennial event, will be held on July 22 and 23 July at Kochi.

IRM 2022 is organised under the aegis of India Rubber Meet Forum (IRMF), a society formed by Rubber Board and the stakeholder associations in rubber and related sectors.

There will be invited talks by internationally renowned speakers on various topics. Presentations by those who have made new experiments and discoveries in the fields of rubber production, rubber cultivation and disease control will be an important part of the Meet. There will be panel discussions involving experts and key stakeholders from different segments of the rubber industry.

**Interactive meet**

The conference will be attended by farmers, traders, man-



ufacturers, policy makers, agricultural workers, economists, journalists and all those associated with the rubber sector. The meet will create opportunity for interaction, networking and exchange of information among the participants and help in creating more business opportunities and finding strategies to overcome the challenges in the rubber sector.

A national level organising committee under the chairmanship of KN Raghavan, Executive Director, Rubber Board, with the representation from all segments of the rubber industry, is constituted for the effective conduct of the event.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

88. Recently, **National Mission for Clean Ganga** approved \_\_\_\_\_ projects during the meeting with an estimated cost of around \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. 11 , Rs 660 Cr
  - B. 10 , Rs 900 Cr
  - C. 9 , Rs 350 Cr
  - D. 8 , Rs 500 Cr

*The 42nd meeting of the Executive Committee of National Mission for Clean Ganga was organized on 19th May 2022 under the chairmanship of Shri G. Asok Kumar, DG, and NMCG. The committee approved 11 projects during the meeting with an estimated cost of around Rs. 660 crores.*

*In the 1st National Ganga Council (NGC) meeting held in December 2019, the Hon'ble Prime Minister had directed that Namami Gange should lead and transform into a Model for Sustainable Economic Development- "Arth Ganga" to integrate people in the basin with Ganga rejuvenation*

89. Recently in May the **State Bank of India (SBI)** announced the introduction of \_\_\_\_\_ on its **Yono platform**, allowing customers to get personal loans of up to Rs 35 lakh.
- A. **Xpress Credit**
  - B. Mirror Credit
  - C. Xtreme Credit
  - D. Xtreme Fibre

*State Bank of India (SBI) announced the introduction of Real-Time Xpress Credit on its Yono platform, allowing customers to get personal loans of up to Rs 35 lakh.*

*The customer can apply for a personal loan product from a salaried person. Now, Xpress Credit has a digital avatar, and customers can avail of it from the Yono app, which would be a paperless and digital experience and end-to-end journey.*

*Under Real-Time Xpress Credit, central, state government, and defense salaried customers of SBI will no longer be required to visit the branch to avail of a personal loan.*

90. Recently in May The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has slapped a penalty of \_\_\_\_\_ on **India Infoline Ltd (IIFL) Securities** for "violation" of norms related to client funds.
- A. Rs 5 Cr
  - B. **Rs 1 Cr**
  - C. Rs 10 Cr
  - D. Rs 50 Lakh

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on May 20 said it has slapped a penalty of Rs 1 crore on India Infoline Ltd (IIFL) Securities for "violation" of norms related to client funds*

*The inspections, which the market regulator referred to, were conducted between April 2011 and January 2017.*

*The penalty has been slapped on IIFL around three months after it paid Rs 2 crore to settle a case related to the violation of stock broker regulation norms with the SEBI.*

**91. Consider the following statements regarding SEBI new norms to boost liquidity.**

- 1. SEBI has decided that direct transaction with AMCs will be allowed for ₹25 crore and above.**
- 2. SEBI also allowed mutual funds to launch equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) as passively-managed funds based on an index that comprises top 250 companies in terms of market capitalisation.**

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

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

**EXCHANGE TRADED FUNDS**

# SEBI tweaks norms to boost liquidity

Also allows MFs to launch ELSS

**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, May 23

In order to enhance liquidity in units of ETFs on the stock exchange platform, SEBI has decided that direct transaction with AMCs will be allowed for ₹25 crore and above.

However, the threshold will not be applicable for market makers and will be reviewed periodically, said SEBI in a circular on Monday.

**Direct redemption**

Investors can also directly approach the AMC for redemption of units of ETFs above ₹25 crore without any exit load, if the closing

price of the ETF units is at discount of over one per cent to the day-end NAV for seven continuous trading days or no quotes for the ETFs are available on stock exchange for three consecutive trading days.

AMCs have to redeem the units if total bid size on the exchange is less than half of creation units size daily, averaged for seven consecutive trading days, it added. The provision of the circular will come into effect from July 1, it said.

SEBI also allowed mutual funds to launch equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) as passively-managed funds based on an index that comprises top 250 companies in terms of market capitalisation. However, a fund house can either



have an active or a passive ELSS, but not both. Most of the new-age fund houses may opt for passively-managed ELSS fund.

**Gets thumbs up**

Radhika Gupta, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Edelweiss Asset Management Ltd, in a tweet, said, "The new circular by SEBI on passive funds

has some fantastic changes that will drive further transparency, liquidity and innovation. In particular, the regulations on debt passives are a big positive for this fast growing category."

SEBI also laid down guidelines on how debt passive fundETFs and index funds should be managed to ensure that they reflect the underlying index.

The minimum subscription during New Fund Offer for Debt and other ETFs/Index funds will be ₹10 crore and ₹ 5 crore, respectively.

**Market makers**

The AMC can also contribute the initial fund for unit creation and subsequently transfer it to market makers or other investors, it said.

All direct transactions in units of ETFs by market makers with AMCs shall be at intra-day NAV based on the actual execution price of the underlying portfolio; swing pricing will not be applicable to Debt ETFs.

Indicative NAV of an ETF based on the current market value of its portfolio during the trading hours has to be disclosed on a continuous basis on the stock exchanges, said SEBI.

The portfolio of debt ETFs and Index funds should be re-balanced within seven calendar days on change in index constituents. In case, the rating of any security is downgraded to below the rating criteria of the index, the portfolio should be re-balanced within 30 days, it said.

S  
g  
Mc  
inc  
lov  
IT:  
OUR  
Mum  
The  
allt  
on.  
cerc  
ary  
pac  
TI  
per  
sect  
red,  
and  
surr  
surr  
A  
54,9  
at 5

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- **In order to enhance liquidity in units of ETFs on the stock exchange platform, SEBI has decided that direct transaction with AMCs will be allowed for ₹25 crore and above.**
- **However, the threshold will not be applicable for market makers and will be reviewed periodically**
- **Investors can also directly approach the AMC for redemption of units of ETFs above ₹25 crore without any exit load**
- **SEBI also allowed mutual funds to launch equity-linked savings schemes (ELSS) as passively-managed funds based on an index that comprises top 250 companies in terms of market capitalisation.**
- **However, a fund house can either have an active or a passive ELSS, but not both. Most of the new-age fund houses may opt for passively-managed ELSS fund.**
- **The minimum subscription during New Fund Offer for Debt and other ETFs/Index funds will be ₹10 crore and ₹5 crore, respectively.**

92. Recently, **Saudi Tourism Authority** and \_\_\_\_\_ have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to use the company's travel network to enhance inbound tourism to Saudi Arabia.

- A. Ease My Trip**
- B. Book My Show**
- C. Trivago**
- D. Oyo**

**The Saudi Tourism Authority and EaseMyTrip have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to use the company's travel network to enhance inbound tourism to Saudi Arabia.**

**Through this MoU, the two will explore opportunities to collaborate on key initiatives and engage in a variety of activities to promote and enhance quality tourism experiences in Saudi Arabia, as well as extend their presence in the Indian market.**

**EaseMyTrip will use the partnership to boost destination awareness in India and promote the country's unique travel experiences.**

**EaseMyTrip is an Indian online travel company, founded in 2008.**

93. Consider the following statements regarding Quad Summit.

- 1. The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) had concluded a \$100 million loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), along with three Japanese private financial institutions MUFG Bank, the Bank of Kyoto and the Hachijuni Bank on the side.**
- 2. The Quadrilateral Security Alliance (QUAD) group of nations have decided to launch a satellite-based maritime security system at the Quad summit in Tokyo to curb China's illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- 3. United States president Joe Biden launched a new Asia-Pacific trade initiative Monday in Tokyo, with 13 countries including India and Japan.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

# India signs up for 13-nation Indo-Pacific economic framework initiative led by US

Grouping to set rules in digital economy, supply chain, clean energy, fair economy

**AMITI SEN**  
 New Delhi, May 23  
 India has formally joined the 13-member Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) Initiative launched by US President Joe Biden in Tokyo on Monday.

The IPEF seeks to frame rules and standards in digital economy, supply chain management, clean energy and fair economy to deepen economic engagement in the region.

The initiative – which also includes Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam – is being largely viewed as a Washington effort to counter the growing influence of China in the Indo-Pacific region.

"India will work with all the countries for establishing an IPEF which is both inclusive and flexible," Prime Minister Narendra Modi said at the launch.

He said trust, transparency and timeliness were the foundation of resilient supply chains and the framework would help strengthen these three pillars and put the Indo-Pacific

region on the path to progress, peace and prosperity.

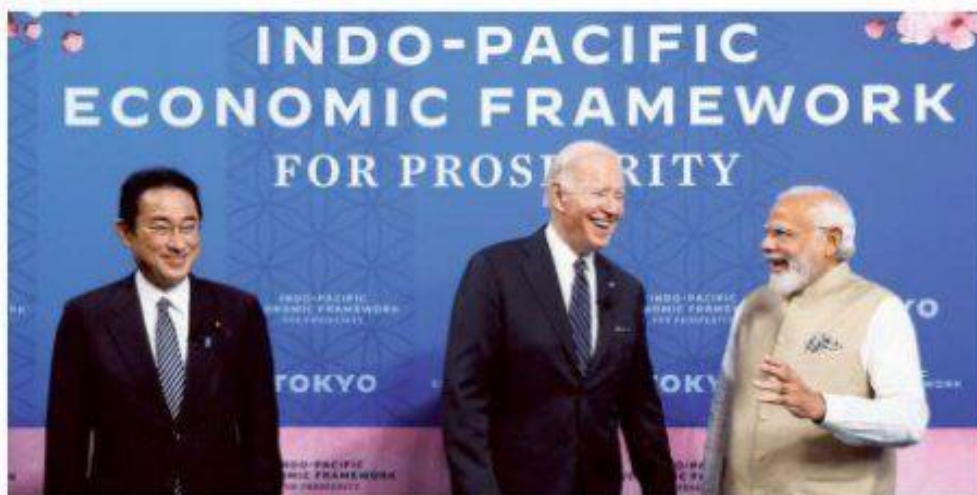
**Focus areas**

According to the IPEF framework, while member countries will not negotiate to bring down tariffs on goods, India has to watch out for areas that are sensitive to its interests such as commitments on cross-border data flows and data localisation, de-carbonisation, labour standards and early warning systems for supply chain management which could prove to be a challenge.

**US eyes stiff rules**

"We will pursue high-standard rules of the road in the digital economy, including standards on cross-border data flows and data localisation. We will also seek strong labour and environmental standards and corporate accountability provisions that promote a race to the top for workers through trade," read a statement released by the White House on Monday.

The US also intends to seek "first-of-their-kind commitments" on clean energy, decarbonisation, and infrastructure that promote



US President Joe Biden, along with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, attending the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity (IPEF) launch event at Izumi Garden Gallery in Tokyo, on Monday *reuters*

good-paying jobs. "We will pursue concrete, high-ambition targets that will accelerate efforts to tackle the climate crisis, including in the areas of renewable energy, carbon removal, energy efficiency standards, and new measures to combat methane emissions," the statement said.

To guard against price spikes, the US also wants commitments on establishing an early warning system, mapping critical mineral supply chains,

improving traceability in key sectors, and coordinating on diversification efforts.

Many civil society organisations from member-countries stressed on transparent negotiations to ensure that talks happen in a participatory manner.

**Call for transparency**

"We are especially concerned that the IPEF will also be employed to curtail much needed efforts for digital industrialisation and

sovereignty of countries, and herald a new era of digital colonialism."

"Indian civil society organisations are also extremely worried that companies are demanding stronger intellectual property protection on medicines, investor-to-state dispute settlement (ISDS) and other provisions from the very problematic Trans-Pacific Partnership and any IPEF should not contain any of these provisions," said Parminder Jeet Singh of the

Forum on Trade and Development.

"The IPEF cannot meet its claimed goals of improving workers' rights and environmental standards without a far more transparent process with genuine involvement of unions, environment groups and other civil society groups. It will certainly not meet such goals if it is modelled on the TPP...", said Patricia Ranald, Convener, Australian Fair Trade and Investment Network.

- **United States president Joe Biden launched a new Asia-Pacific trade initiative Monday in Tokyo, with 13 countries including India and Japan. The bloc is intended to offer US allies an alternative to China's growing commercial presence in the region.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- *United States president Joe Biden faced a dilemma on trade in Asia: He couldn't just rejoin the Trans-Pacific Partnership that his predecessor had pulled the US out of in 2017.*
- *So, Biden came up with a replacement. During Biden's visit to Tokyo, the US on Monday announced the countries that are joining the new Indo-Pacific Economic Framework. In the tradition of trade deals, it's best known by its initials: IPEF*
- *Thirteen countries including US, India, and Japan are part of the trade initiative. Others on the starting list of members are Australia, Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Singapore, South Korea, Thailand and Vietnam.*
- *The Quadrilateral Security Alliance (QUAD) group of nations have decided to launch a satellite-based maritime security system at the Quad summit in Tokyo to curb China's illegal fishing in the Indo-Pacific region.*
- *The four countries have been promoting practical cooperation in various areas, including quality infrastructure, maritime security, counter-terrorism, cyber security, and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, with the aim of realizing a "Free and Open Indo-Pacific (FOIP).*
- *The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) had concluded a \$100 million loan agreement with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC), along with three Japanese private financial institutions MUFG Bank, the Bank of Kyoto and the Hachijuni Bank on the side-lines of the Quad Summit.*

94. Recently, *Global private equity firm General Atlantic plans to plough \_\_\_\_\_ into India and Southeast Asia over the next two years after falling valuations made the region's start-ups.*

- A. \$5 billion
- B. \$2 billion**
- C. \$8 billion
- D. \$10 billion

*Global private equity firm General Atlantic plans to plough \$2 billion into India and Southeast Asia over the next two years after falling valuations made the region's startups more attractive.*

*General Atlantic is in early-stage investment talks with about 15 companies in sectors including technology, financial services, retail and consumer, Sandeep Naik.*

### General Atlantic to invest \$2bn in India, SE Asia

Davos: Global private equity firm General Atlantic plans to plough \$2 billion into India and southeast Asia over the next two years after falling valuations made the region's startups more attractive, a senior executive told Reuters.

General Atlantic is in early stage investment talks with about 15 companies in sectors including technology, financial services, retail and consumer, Sandeep Naik, the head of its business in India and southeast Asia, said. The market for startups, especially in India, is going through a rough patch. After raising a record \$35 billion in 2021, founders are struggling to attract cash, sparking fears of lower valuations and forcing some to cut jobs. REUTERS

95. Recently *Tata Power and Tata Motors have announced collaborating on a project to develop 7 MWp solar rooftop project at Tata Motors' plant in \_\_\_\_\_.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

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

*Tata Power and Tata Motors on Monday announced collaborating on a project to develop a 7 MWp solar rooftop project at Tata Motors' plant in Chikhali, Pune, making the unit home to India's largest on-site solar project.*

*This is the third phase of a joint MWp on-site solar project developed by the two companies. A 10 MWp has been previously installed. The two have also inked a power purchase agreement (PPA) for the project.*

*India's largest on-site solar project at Tata Motors' Pune plant is a testament to our shared goal of being green in our businesses. The project reinforces Tata Power's position as one of India's top renewable energy players*

96. Recently, \_\_\_\_\_ and **B2B pharmacy marketplace Retailio** announced the launch of co-branded credit cards targeted at chemists and pharmacies.

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

### **HDFC Bank, Retailio co-branded credit cards**

HDFC BANK AND Retailio, a B2B pharmacy marketplace, have launched a new range of co-branded credit cards. These credit cards are primarily targeted at pharmacies in the merchant segment, according to a release. These cards will be available for 1 lakh customers of Retailio and new customers, it said.

*Private bank HDFC and B2B pharmacy marketplace Retailio, announced the launch of co-branded credit cards.*

*The cards are targeted at chemists and pharmacies and will be available to over 1 lakh Retailio customers as well as new customers.*

*The partnership will cover over 1.4 lakh merchants during its phase of the roll out.*

97. Recently **Mahagram** has tied up with \_\_\_\_\_ to enhance digital payments ecosystem in the country.

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

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**Mahagram which enables neighborhood shops to access banking services has tied up with IndusInd Bank to enhance digital payments ecosystem in the country.**

**The partnership signed between Mahagram and IndusInd Bank aims to add 15 million (1.5 crore) small merchants to UPI QR in the current fiscal year**

**The partnership will help boost financial inclusion, encourage socio-economic development, mitigate risks of a shadow economy and accelerate growth of cashless society**

**IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai. IndusInd Bank was inaugurated in April 1994 by then Union Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.**

**98. Recently outward forex remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) hit an all time high in FY22 at \_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. \$24.61 billion
- B. \$19.61 billion**
- C. \$26.61 billion
- D. \$16.61 billion

## At \$19.61 billion, outward remittances via LRS hit an all-time high in FY22

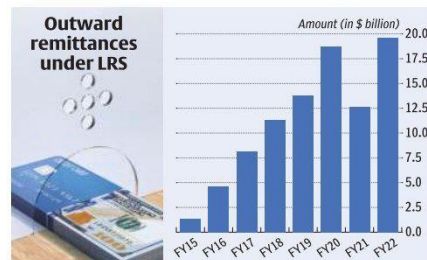
With border curbs going, Indians splurged on travel, overseas education

**NARAYANAN V**  
Chennai, May 18

Outward forex remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's liberalised remittance scheme (LRS) hit an all-time high in FY22 as Indians splurged on overseas education and international travel.

Indians sent \$19.61 billion abroad in FY22, surpassing even the pre-Covid high remittances of \$18.76 billion in FY20, according to latest RBI data.

In FY21, outward remittances had declined to \$12.68 billion as the pandemic and the consequent restrictions



Source: RBI

hit overseas travel and education. Under LRS, resident individuals (including minors) are allowed to remit up to \$2,50,000 per fiscal for permissible current or capital account transactions, or a combination of both.

Remittances are allowed for various purposes including overseas education, in-

ternational travel, maintenance of close relatives, medical treatment, purchase of immovable property and investment in equity/debt, and gift or donation.

At \$6.91 billion, travel accounted for a bulk of the remittances in FY22 as international travel picked up post opening up of borders.

Travel remittances in FY22 were a shade lower than the \$6.95 billion spent in FY20.

Similarly, remittances towards overseas education totalled \$5.17 billion in FY22 surpassing the \$4.99 billion in pre-Covid FY20.

### Gifts, maintenance

Indians were also generous when it came to gifting their beloved ones abroad. Outward remittances towards 'gift' saw the highest increase in FY22 (at \$2.34 billion) compared to FY20 (\$1.59 billion).

Indians also sent \$3.3 billion towards 'maintenance of close relatives' in FY22. Remittances towards deposits in FY22 stood at \$830 million (\$623 million in FY20), while investments in equity/debt in FY22 stood at \$747 million (\$431 million).

**Out-ward forex remittances under the Reserve Bank of India's liberalized remittance scheme (LRS) hit an all-time high in FY22 as Indians splurged on overseas education and international travel.**

**Indians sent \$19.61 billion abroad in FY22, surpassing even the pre-Covid high remittances of \$18.76 billion in FY20, according to latest RBI data.**

**Under LRS, resident individuals (including minors) are allowed to remit up to \$2, 50,000 per fiscal for permissible current or capital account transactions, or a combination of both. At \$6.91 billion, travel accounted for a bulk of the remittances in FY22 as international travel picked up post opening up of borders.**



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

99. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has carved out rural banking function as a separate vertical, to focus on increasing penetration in remote parts of the country.
- State Bank of India
  - HDFC Bank**
  - Punjab National Bank
  - Bank of Baroda

India's largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has carved out rural banking function as a separate vertical, which will be focused on increasing penetration in remote parts of the country.

Tasked to take banking products further in the hinterland, Rural Banking will consolidate the bank's existing initiatives in this direction, and take it closer to the last mile,

Carved out of Retail Branch Banking as part of the bank's 'Future – Ready' project, the Rural Banking business to focus on semi-urban and rural areas, a large part of which remains untapped.

Anil Bhavnani, who has been with the bank for over 19 years has been appointed National Rural Banking Head.

100. Consider the following statement regarding New Development Bank (NDB).

- New Development Bank (NDB) has opened its regional office in GIFT City.
- The office will cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs in Sri Lanka and India.
- NDB's regional office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) will work in close coordination with the NDB Headquarters at Shanghai, China.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- Only 1 & 3**
- Only 1 & 2
- Only 2 & 3
- All of the above

## HDFC Bank announces new vertical for rural play

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 19

Betting big on opportunities in rural areas, HDFC Bank on Thursday announced that it has carved out a rural banking function.

"Tasked to take banking products further in the hinterland, rural banking will consolidate the bank's existing initiatives in this direction, and take it closer to the last mile," the private sector lender said in a statement.

### Expansion plans

Carved out of retail branch banking, the rural banking business to focus on semi-urban and rural areas, a large part of which remains untapped and will offer the entire bouquet of services available with the bank.

Anil Bhavnani, who has been with the bank for over 19 years, has been appointed National Rural Banking Head.

To expand its distribution in the rural areas, HDFC Bank will open over 1,064 branches in semi-urban and rural areas in the financial year.

It also plans to build new product and services related to rural transport economy, forest economy, agri economy, and other allied activities and will focus on providing a one stop shop solution to small farmers, workers, and traders.

With this enhanced focus, we will open more branches this financial year in semi-urban and rural areas. While branches are touchpoints, we are working on meeting rural needs holistically, by creating products specially designed for these markets," Bhavnani said.

## New Development Bank opens regional office in GIFT City

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, May 20

The New Development Bank (NDB) has announced the launch of its Indian Regional Office (IRO) in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City). Working in close coordination with the NDB Headquarters at Shanghai, the Indian Regional Office will focus on project origination (including initial project preparation and technical assistance), pipeline development, project implementation and monitoring as well as regional portfolio management, the NDB said in a statement.

"The Indian Regional Office will be instrumental in enhancing NDB's engagement with borrowers and stakeholders. IRO expands our on-the-ground presence, contributing to preparing and implementing projects...the Indian Regional Office is part of NDB's effort to increase the quality and complexity of its operations, creating a network of business and development opportunities," said Marcos Troyjo, NDB President.

The launch of the Bank's IRO aims to cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs in India and Bangladesh, contributing to economic growth and sustainable development in South Asia, in line with the NDB's mandate, the bank added.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- **New Development Bank (NDB) has opened its regional office in GIFT City.**
- **The office will cater to infrastructure and sustainable development needs in Bangladesh and India.**
- **NDB's regional office in Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) will work in close coordination with the NDB Headquarters at Shanghai, China.**
- **In July 2014, the Agreement establishing the NDB was signed. The Agreement entered into force in July 2015. NDB became fully operational in February 2016.**
- **It is a multilateral development bank set up by BRICS. It is headquartered in Shanghai, China. Its President is Marcos Prado Troyjo.**
- **It aims to mobilize resources for development projects in BRICS, emerging economies, and developing countries.**

101. Recently in May RBI rejected six out of eleven applications for bank license. RBI last time permitted IDFC Bank and \_\_\_\_\_ to set up universal banks in \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. RBL Bank , 2014
- B. Karnataka Bank , 2015
- C. DBS Bank , 2016
- D. Bandhan Bank , 2014

**RBI rejected six out of eleven applications for bank license. RBI received four applications for setting up of universal banks and rejected all of them.**

**RBI received seven applications for setting up of small finance banks (SFBs) and rejected two of them. The rejected applicants for SFBs are VSoft Technologies and Calicut City Service Co-operative Bank. Four applicants found unsuitable under Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks are listed below.**

**UAE Exchange and Financial Services, Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development (REPCO) Bank**

**Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd**

**Pankaj Vaish and others**

**RBI last time permitted IDFC Bank and Bandhan Bank to set up universal banks in 2014**

## + RBI rejects six applications for 'on tap' licences to set up banks

Turns down two applications for setting up SFBs, too



**OUR BUREAU**  
Mumbai, May 17

Six out of the 11 applicants, including UAE Exchange and Financial Services, the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development (REPCO) Bank, and Sachin Bansal-backed Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd could not make the cut for a bank licence, according to the Reserve Bank of India.

The RBI has rejected all four applications for setting up universal banks. It has also rejected two out of seven applications for setting up small finance banks (SFBs), clearly showing that though the universal and small finance bank licences are "on-tap", the central bank is ap-

plying stringent filters. In a statement, the RBI said it found four applicants—UAE Exchange and Financial Services, the Repatriates Cooperative Finance and Development (REPCO) Bank, Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd, and Pankaj Vaish and others – unsuitable under the Guidelines for 'on tap' Licensing of Universal Banks.

### Stringent norms

The central bank said it did not find two applicants – VSoft Technologies and Calicut City Service Co-operative Bank – suitable under the Guidelines

for 'on tap' Licensing of SFBs. "The examination of six applications has now been completed as per the procedure laid down under these guidelines... The remaining applications are under examination," the RBI said.

The applications of Akhil Kumar Gupta, Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services, Cosmea Financial Holdings, Tally Solutions and West End Housing Finance for setting up an SFB are pending with the RBI.

It was back in 2014 that the RBI last gave permission to IDFC Bank and Bandhan Bank, both from the financial services sector, to set up universal banks. The last time that the RBI gave approval to an entity to set up an SFB was to Centrum Financial Services (now functioning as Unity SFB), specifically to rescue the scam-hit Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative Bank.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**102. Under which article of the constitution GST Council makes recommendation to the Union and the States on issues such as model GST law, principles of levy, GST rates etc?**

- A. 276A
- B. 277A
- C. 278A
- D. 279A

- **Supreme Court also rejected the levying of Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) on ‘Ocean Freight’.**
- **This will bring relief for importers as levy of reverse charge on ocean freight is now unconstitutional after the judgment.**
- **Supreme Court bench ruled that regarding ‘recommendations’ of the GST Council as binding would disrupt fiscal federalism.**
- **In fiscal federalism, both the Union and the States are conferred equal power to legislate on GST.**
- **The bench comprised of Justices Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath.**
- **The bench said that Parliament intended the recommendations of the GST Council to only have a persuasive value.**
- **The bench said that this is indicated by deletion of Article 279B and the inclusion of Article 279(1) by the Constitution Amendment Act 2016.**
- **Under Article 279A of the Constitution, the GST Council makes recommendation to the Union and the States on issues such as model GST law, principles of levy, and apportionment of GST levies on interstate supplies, GST rates etc.**

## GST Council recommendations not binding on Centre, States: SC

States say ruling a reiteration of their right to tax; Centre says court has only established the legal position

**SHISHIR SINHA**  
New Delhi, May 19

The Supreme Court on Thursday held that the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the Union or States. It also struck down the levy of Integrated Goods & Services Tax (IGST) on ocean freight in big relief to importers.

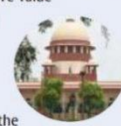
The judgment on GST not being binding on the Union or States was welcomed by the Opposition-led States, particularly those that interpreted it as a reiteration of the States’ right to legislate on taxation, thereby starting a public debate on whether the concept of “one nation, one tax” itself was under question.

The Centre, on its part, ruled out any change in the functioning of GST. The Centre also claimed that the Apex Court has merely established the legal position. Legal experts expect the Centre to file a review petition.

The Apex Court, while disposing of an appeal filed by the Centre against a Gujarat High Court ruling, listed three reasons why the recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the Union and States. “The recommendations” of the GST Council are the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and States. They are recommendatory

**What Supreme Court said...**

- Recommendations of the GST Council are not binding on the Union and States, but only have a persuasive value
- Recommendations of the GST Council, the product of a collaborative dialogue involving the Union and States
- All the recommendations of the GST Council made by virtue of the powers under Article 279A (4) are not binding on the legislature’s power to enact primary legislations
- Centre and States have equal powers to legislate on GST
- The Council must work in a harmonious manner to achieve a workable solution



in nature. A Bench comprising Justices Dhananjaya Y Chandrachud, Surya Kant, and Vikram Nath held that “To regard them as binding edicts would disrupt fiscal federalism, where both the Union and the States are conferred equal power to legislate on GST.”

**‘Persuasive value’**

The Bench said that “Indian federalism is a dialogue between cooperative and uncooperative federalism where the federal units are at liberty to use different means of persuasion ranging from collaboration to contestation.” Further, the deletion of Article 279B and the inclusion of Article 279(1) by the Constitution Amendment Act, 2016 indicates that Parliament intended the recommendations of the GST Council to only have a “persuasive value,” particularly when interpreted along with the objective of the GST regime to foster cooperative federalism and harmony between the constituent units.

The Bench said that the govern-

ment, while exercising its rule-making power under the provisions of the CGST Act and IGST Act, is bound by the recommendations of the GST Council. However, “that does not mean that all the recommendations of the GST Council made by virtue of the power contained in Article 279A (4) are binding on the legislature’s power to enact primary legislation,” it said.

In the present matter, the bone of contention was whether an Indian importer can be subject to the levy of IGST on the component of ocean freight paid by the foreign seller to a foreign shipping line, on a reverse charge basis. The Bench said that such a levy would be a violation of the GST law and, accordingly, rejected the appeal by the Centre against the High Court ruling which had ruled no levy.

**Centre’s stake**

Revenue Secretary Taun Bajaj said that the court has not said anything new. “The GST law says that it will recommend, but it had

nowhere said that it will mandate. It is a constitutional body, executive body created by Constitution which consist of the Centre and States which will recommend and based on its recommendation we have created our laws on GST. This is the scheme of things,” he said.

**States differ**

Tamil Nadu Finance Minister P Thiaga Rajan said: “The SC judgment clarifies all confusion regarding the GST Council recommendations.” Rajan’s counterpart from Kerala, KN Balagopal, maintained that “It is a verdict that upholds the federal rights of States and the people. The CPI (M) has always been sceptical about the role of the GST Council.”

According to Chhattisgarh Finance Minister TS Singh Deo, the judgment reiterates the States’ right to taxation. “It restores the federal balance in the GST Council, where a majoritarianism has been prevailing for some time,” Singh Deo told *BusinessLine*.

**Review?**

Pradeep Rai, Senior Advocate, expected the government to file a review petition. “There could be two options in the case of a review petition—either it will be dismissed or, if accepted, then it can be referred to a larger Bench, even a Constitutional Bench,” he explained. Further, if the review petition is dismissed, the government can opt for a curative petition, which will come up before a five-judge Bench.

**Opposition-ruled States hail decision p3**

**103. Consider the following statements regarding FDI inflow during the fiscal year 2021-22.**

1. India recorded the highest ever annual FDI inflow of 83.57 billion dollars in the last fiscal year.
2. Karnataka is the top FDI recipient state followed by Maharashtra and Delhi. Karnataka has a 38% share in the total FDI inflow reported during the fiscal year 2021-22.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

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

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

*India recorded the highest ever annual FDI inflow of 83.57 billion dollars in the last fiscal year.*

*FDI inflow in the last financial year has registered growth of 85% in comparison to FDI inflow received in the financial year 2014-15.*

*India had recorded an FDI inflow of 45.15 billion US dollars in the financial year 2014-15.*

*FDI inflows have grown 20-fold since the financial year 2003-04. The FDI inflows were 4.3 billion US dollars in the financial year 2003-04.*

*FDI inflow in the manufacturing sector has grown by 76% to 21.34 billion US dollars in the last fiscal in comparison to the fiscal year 2020-21. Computer software and hardware are the top recipient sectors of FDI inflow. They are followed by Services Sector and Automobile Industry.*

*Karnataka is the top FDI recipient state followed by Maharashtra and Delhi. Karnataka has a 38% share in the total FDI inflow reported during the fiscal year 2021-22.*

**104. as per the Union Government which of the following will frame the principles for strategic disinvestment in public sector enterprises?**

- A. Department of Public Enterprises
- B. Boards of public sector enterprises**
- C. Department of Investment and Public Asset Management
- D. Department of Commerce

*Cabinet empowered PSE boards to take a call on disinvestment. The Union Cabinet has accepted a proposal that would allow the boards of public sector enterprises to decide on the divestment and closure of their subsidiaries.*

*The approved proposal by Cabinet also includes strategic disinvestment and minority stake sale.*

*At present, the board of directors of Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna have some limited power of investment and to establish financial joint ventures. This proposal will give more autonomy to the Board of Directors of public sector enterprises and will ensure minimum interference by the government.*

*The principles for strategic disinvestment will be formed by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) while norms for closure will be laid by the Department of Public Enterprises.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

105. Recently in May Ruchi Soya announced to acquire Patanjali Ayurveda food retail business for \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. 710 Cr
- B. 819 Cr
- C. 690 Cr
- D. 500 Cr

**Ruchi Soya to acquire Patanjali Ayurveda food retail business for 690 crores. Ruchi Soya Industries has signed a "Business Transfer Agreement" with Patanjali Ayurved Ltd for acquiring the food retail business. This "Business Transfer Agreement" will be effective from May 9, 2022.**

**Manufacturing, packaging labelling and retail trading of certain food products are the main part of the food retail business.**

**Ruchi Soya will also get the manufacturing plants located at Padartha, Haridwar, and Newasa.**

**The business transfer will be carried out in three parts and the entire transaction is likely to be completed by July 15, 2022. The name of the firm will be also changed to "Patanjali Foods Limited".**

**Earlier, Ruchi Soya had raised Rs 4,300 crore in March 2022 through a follow-on offer.**

## Ruchi Soya to acquire Patanjali's food business

Patanjali had acquired Ruchi Soya via insolvency process in 2019

### OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, May 18

Ruchi Soya is set to acquire Patanjali Ayurved's food retail business, to accelerate its transition to a leading FMCG company. This will include Patanjali-owned manufacturing units situated in Padartha district, Haridwar in Uttarakhand and Newasa unit in Maharashtra, transfer of employees and its distribution networks. Baba Ramdev's Patanjali Group had acquired Ruchi Soya through an insolvency process in 2019.

### Acquired for ₹690 cr

"The acquisition is valued at a fair market value (net) of ₹690

crore based on all the fixed assets of food division & respective current assets on slump sale basis," it said in a BSE filing. Patanjali's food business comprises of 21 major products including ghee, honey, spices, juices and atta among others. The acquisition is expected to be completed by July 15. Post the acquisition, the name of Ruchi Soya will also be changed to Patanjali Foods.

The proposed acquisition falls under the related-party transaction. "With this acquisition, the company also informed that it has reaffirmed its position to be a strong FMCG company in its journey towards becoming a major player in the FMCG space as committed to its shareholders at the time of its maiden FPO," the company added. The food business will be transferred to Ruchi Soya Industries effective from May 9.

## FOR MORE FUNCTIONAL AUTONOMY PSU boards to get powers to sell subsidiaries, exit JVs

Move to unlock capital, facilitate their more productive use

### FE BUREAU

New Delhi, May 18

**THE UNION CABINET** on Wednesday empowered the boards of the central public sector enterprises (CPSEs) to privatise, disinvest or close their subsidiaries and sell stakes in joint ventures.

The move will give a fillip to the government's efforts to unlock capital, which are either stuck or sub-optimally employed in state assets, and put these into more productive use.

Many large profit-making CPSEs like Coal India, ONGC and NTPC have valuable subsidiaries or JV partnerships (see chart).

### SOME CPSEs AND THEIR KEY SUBSIDIARIES/JVS

<p>■ <b>ONGC</b> ONGC Videsh, HPCL, Mangalore Refinery and Mangalore Refinery &amp; Petrochemicals</p>	<p>■ <b>IOC</b> Chennai Petroleum Corporation, IndianOil Adani Gas, Petronet LNG (JV)</p>	<p>■ <b>BPCL</b> Petronet LNG and Indraprastha Gas (both JVs) sdfsdfsdf sdfsdfsdf</p>
--	---	---

■ **COAL INDIA:** Eastern Coalfields, Western Coalfields, South Eastern Coalfields, Northern Coalfields and Mahanadi Coalfields and Central Coalfields

The decision will enable them to monetise parts of these assets without having to secure the approval of the Cabinet or go through the process involving the administrative ministries and/or the department of investment and public asset management (Dipam).

The move is also expected to reduce the burden on

Dipam, which could now focus on privatisation of holding companies or parent CPSEs.

Continued on Page 2

### Govt amends biofuels policy

● ALSO SEE, PAGE 2

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

**Appointment News**

106. Recently In May Government has announced formation of the **Cotton Council of India under the Chairmanship of** \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Manish Shah
- B. Debashish Mitra
- C. **Suresh Bhai Kotak**
- D. Ajay Mittal

*The Cotton Council of India will be formed under the Chairmanship of Suresh Bhai Kotak.*

*It will have representatives from Textiles, Agriculture, Commerce, Cotton Corporation of India, Cotton Research Institute, and the Finance Ministry.*

*The first meeting of the Cotton Council of India will be organized on 28th May 2022.*

*The main aim of the council is to bring improvement in the field of Cotton in India. It will discuss the issues related to the Cotton sector and prepare a robust action plan for improvement in this field.*

*In India, low cotton productivity is the biggest challenge. The cotton production is less despite a large area under cotton cultivation. Union Textiles Minister Piyush Goyal emphasized upon the use of better quality seeds for improving the productivity of cotton.*

*He urged to spinning and trading community for supplying cotton and yarn first to the domestic industry.*

107. In a bid to reduce the dependence on imports for chemicals and make India more self-reliant, the **Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has formed a seven-member joint task force under the chairmanship of** \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Ajay Gopikishan
- B. Suresh Bhai Kotak
- C. **Srivari Chandrashekhar**
- D. VC Ashokan

- *In a bid to reduce the dependence on imports for chemicals and make India more self-reliant, the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers has formed a seven-member joint task force under the chairmanship of science and technology secretary Srivari Chandrashekhar.*
- *The task force will identify critical chemicals to be produced in India. The terms of reference of the committee include the identification of basic chemicals to be used by downstream industry, especially speciality chemicals.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *It needs to prioritise 20-25 chemicals that are currently imported and can be produced through value addition in the by-products of the petroleum and petrochemical industry and also earmark the refineries/petrochemical industries for these chemicals.*

108. Recently the Supreme Court *appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by \_\_\_\_\_ to manage the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and adoption of its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.*

- A. Bhaskar Ganguly
- B. Suryakant Singh
- C. **A.R. Dave**
- D. P.S. Narasimhan

*The Supreme Court today appointed a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former apex court judge AR Dave to manage the affairs of the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and adoption of its constitution in line with the National Sports Code and model guidelines.*

*A bench of Justices DY Chandrachud, Surya Kant and PS Narasimha said the COA will comprise two earlier members -- Dr SY Qureshi, former Chief Election Commissioner and Bhaskar Ganguly, former captain of the Indian Football Team besides Retired Justice Dave.*

*The top court said the current state of affairs in the AIFF is not in the interest of proper governance of the federation. It directed the CoA to forthwith take charge of the AIFF and oversee the adoption of the constitution by the AIFF.*

109. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has *announced the appointment of Pieter Elber's as Chief Executive Officer as he succeeds Ronojoy Dutta.*

- A. SpiceJet
- B. **Indigo**
- C. Aksa
- D. Air India

*The Board of Directors of Inter-Globe Aviation, which operates the airline IndiGo appointed Pieter Elbers as Chief Executive Officer.*

*Elber's will join IndiGo on or before October 1, succeeding Ronojoy Dutta, who has decided to retire on September 30, after guiding IndiGo through the turbulent Covid period.*

*Since 2014, Elber's has served as the President and Chief Executive Officer of KLM Royal Dutch Airlines. He is also a member of the Executive Committee of the Air France – KLM Group.*

*IndiGo Managing Director Rahul Bhatia.*

## Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

110. Recently **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has constituted a committee to finalize rules to allow foreign universities to open campuses in India under the chairmanship of \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. M Jagadesh Kumar
- B. K Radhakrishnan
- C. Navneet Munot
- D. Subhash Ola

**India's higher education regulator has constituted a committee and will soon finalize rules to allow foreign universities to open campuses in India, months after the Union Budget underlined the intention to liberalize the higher education space. The University Grants Commission (UGC), the apex higher education regulator, is not just working to open foreign university campuses at the Gujarat International Finance Tech (GIFT) city, a special economic zone, but also on the mainland.**

**The functioning of these campuses will be free from domestic regulators such as UGC. But UGC will explore the possibility of Indian universities collaborating with these foreign university campuses located in GIFT City.**

### UGC norms soon to facilitate foreign universities open campuses in India

**ABHISHEK LAW**

New Delhi, May 17

The five-member committee constituted by the University Grants Commission is in final stages of deliberations on regulations to facilitate foreign universities to open campuses in India.

"We have already been approached by a few foreign institutions to open their campuses in India. This will help bring world class pedagogy and students will not have to go abroad for higher studies incurring huge expenditure," M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairperson, UGC, said.

It will also help to limit the outflow of over \$25 billion foreign exchange, he added.

**Collaborations**

In addition, with foreign universities permitted to establish their campuses in GIFT city to offer post graduate and execut-



M Jagadesh Kumar, Chairperson, UGC

ive programmes in financial services and technology.

"UGC will also explore the possibility of Indian universities collaborating with these foreign university in GIFT city," he said.

However, the functioning of these campuses, will be free from domestic regulators such as UGC.

The Centre is already working on regulatory framework whereby Indian universities can open campuses abroad.

A committee led by Dr K.

Radhakrishnan, Chairman, IIT Council, has prepared recommendations for opening off-shore campuses of Indian higher educational institutions; however, regulatory support is required to make this a reality.

"We hope that the regulations will be in place in due course of time," Kumar added.

Currently about 50,000 international students from about 165 countries study in India. Two-thirds of these students come from five countries. On the other hand, India has over 900,000 students studying abroad.

"We need to reverse this. We must attract more foreign students to India while we provide international quality education to Indian students by letting foreign universities open their campuses in India," he said.

CM

### BSE board approves appointment of S. S. Mundra as chairman

**New Delhi:** Leading stock exchange BSE on Tuesday said its board has appointed S. S. Mundra, a public interest director, as the chairman of the bourse. Mundra will replace Justice Vikramajit Sen. "This is to inform that the board of directors of the company on Monday had considered and approved the appointment of S. S. Mundra, public interest director, as the chairman of the board of directors of the company, subject to approval of Sebi," BSE said in a regulatory filing to NSE.

PTI

111. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has appointed **S.S. Mundra** as its Chairman as he replaced Justice Vikramajit Sen.

- A. SEBI
- B. NABARD
- C. NSE
- D. BSE

**BSE has appointed S.S. Mundra as its Chairman. Board of Directors of BSE has approved his appointment. His appointment is subject to the approval of SEBI. S S Mundra will replace Justice Vikramajit Sen. He worked as RBI deputy governor till July 2017. He was also RBI's nominee on the Financial Stability Board (G20 Forum).**

**He also served as Vice-chair of OECD's International Network on Financial Education.**

**BSE (Bombay Stock Exchange): BSE is India's premier exchange. It is the world's fastest Stock Exchange with a speed of 6 micro-seconds. It is the first stock exchange to get approval from SEBI. It launched its SME platform on 13th March 2012. It was established in 1875. It is also the oldest stock exchange in Asia. It is located in Mumbai.**



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

*Rajiv Ranjan and Sitikantha Pattanaik have been appointed by RBI as executive directors.*

*They have been appointed as executive directors with effect from May 1, 2022.*

*Sitikantha Pattanaik served as an adviser in the Department of Economic and Policy Research.*

*Rajiv Ranjan was an Adviser-in-Charge of the Monetary Policy Department and Secretary to the Monetary Policy Committee.*

*Rajiv Ranjan will also serve as an ex-officio member of the Monetary Policy Committee. As Executive Director (ED), Sitikantha Pattanaik will look after the Department of Economic and Policy Research.*

112. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ becomes the first Indian to be declared a saint by Pope Francis.

- A. **Devasahyam Pillai**
- B. Mutthukumaran Deva
- C. Radhekrishnan Iyer
- D. Anamalai Deva

*Devasahayam Pillai becomes the first Indian to be declared a saint by Pope Francis. Devasahyam Pillai converted from Hinduism to Christianity in the 18th century.*

*A note prepared by the Vatican said that while preaching Christianity, Devasahyam emphasized equality by forgetting caste differences.*

*Pillai converted to Christianity in 1745. After this, he got the name of Lazarus which means God is my help.*

*Devasahayam was born in 1712 in Nattalam village in Kanyakumari district. He served in the court of Marthanda Varma of Travancore. Nine others, including four women, were also declared saints along with Devasahayam.*

113. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

- A. Jagdishan Mukhi
- B. **Nidhi Chibber**
- C. Shyam Bhagat Negi
- D. Vivek Kumar Dewangen

- Senior IAS officer Nidhi Chibber has been appointed as the chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *Currently, she is an Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Heavy Industries.*
- *Vivek Kumar Dewangen has been appointed as Chairman & Managing Director, REC Ltd., Ministry of Power. He is currently serving as Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Power.*
- *Rakesh Sarwal named as Managing Director of National Waqf Development Corporation Ltd.*

114. In May 2022, \_\_\_\_\_ lead the *Indian envoy in First International Migration Review Forum held in New York from 17<sup>th</sup> -20<sup>th</sup> May.*

- A. *Suresh Prabhu*
- B. *S Jaishankar*
- C. *Rajnath Singh*
- D. *V. Muraleedharan*

*Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will lead the Indian envoy in First International Migration Review Forum to be held in New York from 17th-20th May.*

*The International Migration Review Forum will act as the primary intergovernmental global forum to discuss progress made in the implementation of all aspects of migration and Sustainable Development Goals.*

*This forum will have four interactive multi-stakeholder round tables sessions, a policy dialogue and a plenary. The participating members will also adopt a Progress Declaration.*

*Minister of State for External Affairs V. Muraleedharan will also participate in a high-level Ministerial Meeting on Global Food Security.*

115. Consider the following statements regarding new Prime Minister of France.

1. *Elisabeth Borne has been named as new Prime Minister of France.*
2. *Elisabeth Borne is former Minister of transport, ecology and labour succeeded Jean Castex.*

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- *Elisabeth Borne has been named as new Prime Minister of France by French President Emmanuel Macron.*
- *Elisabeth Borne is former Minister of transport, ecology and labour. She succeeds Jean Castex.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- *She is the second woman to hold this position. Edith Cresson earlier held this position under President Francois Mitterrand.*
- *France is a Western European country whose capital is Paris. Its currency is Euro. It is one of the five permanent members of the UNSC.*

116. Recently *Hassan Sheikh Mohammad* has been appointed as the new President of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. France
  - B. **Somalia**
  - C. Sweden
  - D. Zambia

*Hassan Sheikh Mohammad has been elected as the new President of Somalia.*

*Hassan Sheikh Mohammad defeated three dozen candidates in three rounds of voting. The real power in Somalia is in the hands of terrorists. Al-Shabab, a terrorist group, has a firm grip on Somalia.*

*Hassan Sheikh Mohammad has earlier served as President from 2012 to 2017. He is a peace activist and an educator.*

*Its capital is Mogadishu. Currency of Somalia: Somali Shilling*

117. Recently in May *Anil Bajjal* resigns from *Lieutenant Governor* of \_\_\_\_\_.
- A. Ladakh
  - B. **Delhi**
  - C. Jammu & Kashmir
  - D. Goa

*Anil Bajjal was appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi in 2016. He was the 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.*

*He served as vice-chairperson of the Delhi Development Authority and retired in 2006 as Union Urban Development Secretary.*

*The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, passed by Parliament in 2021, has made the Lieutenant Governor the head of the Delhi Government. Lieutenant Governor of a Union territory and Governor of a state in India have equivalent powers.*

*The President of India appoints a Lieutenant Governor in the Union Territories of Delhi, Andaman Nicobar Island, and Pondicherry.*

118. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ *has been appointed as the new commissioner of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.*
- A. **Vikas Mishra**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- B. Ashwani Kumar**
- C. Gyanesh Bharti**
- D. SS Murmu**

*1998 batch IAS officer Gyanesh Bharti has been appointed new commissioner of unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.*

*1992 batch IAS officer Ashwani Kumar has been appointed as the special officer in the unified Municipal Corporation of Delhi.*

*Ashwani Kumar will be the senior most bureaucrats to administer the city's civic affairs until elections for the combined MCD are held. The appointments of Gyanesh Bharti and Ashwani Kumar will come into effect on May 22.*

*Three civic bodies - South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC), North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), and East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC) - will merge on 22 May.*

- 119. Recently in May, H. E. Anthony Albanese has won the Prime Minister election of which of the following countries?**
- A. Zambia**
  - B. Sweden**
  - C. Australia**
  - D. Hong Kong**

*Australia's opposition Australian Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese claimed victory in elections as PM Scott Morrison congratulated the incoming prime minister.*

*After claiming victory, Albanese announced he would be attending the Quad meeting with US, Japan and India in Tokyo.*

*Albanese was first elected to the Australian Parliament in 1996 and was a minister after Labor leader PM Rudd registered victory in 2007.*

*Albanese who belongs to a working-class background said soon after announcing victory in the polls that he wants to "unite the country".*

*In foreign policy, Albanese has vowed to support for the AUKUS alliance and to boost ties with the United States including strengthen relations with countries in the Asia-Pacific region.*

*Scott Morrison is the name of the outgoing Prime Minister of Australia. Malaysian-born Penny Wong was sworn in as foreign minister. Wong is Australia's first Foreign Minister who was born overseas. Richard Marles was sworn in as deputy prime minister of Australia.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

120. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has been appointed as new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi after resignation of Anil Baijal.

- A. Vinay Kumar Saxena
- B. M Jagdish Kumar
- C. Ajay Bhushan Pandey
- D. Subhash Ola

- Vinay Kumar Saxena has been appointed new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi. President Ram Nath Kovind has accepted the resignation of Anil Baijal as Lieutenant Governor of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.
- Vinay Kumar Saxena is presently the Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission.

## Vinai Kumar Saxena is new L-G

Kejriwal extends warm welcome, assures full cooperation

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Vinai Kumar Saxena, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission, has been appointed the new Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) of Delhi.

President Ram Nath Kovind on Monday accepted the resignation of Anil Baijal from the post, a Rashtrapati Bhavan communique said.

"The President of India has been pleased to appoint Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena to be the Lt. Governor of National Capital Territory of Delhi with effect from the date he assumes charge of his office," read a statement issued by Rashtrapati Bhavan.



Vinai Kumar Saxena

Mr. Saxena, 64, an alumnus of Kanpur University with a pilot licence, is a "philanthropist in vision and corporate scientist in action", according to his KVIC profile. In 1991, he had formed an NGO, National Council for Civil Liberties, which opposed Medha Patkar's Narmada Bachao Andolan. Mr. Saxena is one of the

members of the national committee to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's Independence. This committee is headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**Praise for Baijal**

"On behalf of the people of Delhi, I extend a warm welcome to the newly appointed Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, Mr. Vinai Kumar Saxena. For the betterment of Delhi, he will get full cooperation from the Cabinet of Delhi Government," Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal tweeted. Mr. Kejriwal also tweeted praise for the outgoing L-G, wishing him good health. (With agency inputs)

121. Recently JSW Group announced the appointment of \_\_\_\_\_ as CEO of its e-commerce venture JSW One Platforms.

- A. Sourabh Mishra
- B. Gaurav Sachdeva
- C. Aditi Mishra
- D. Karan Goel

**JSW Group announced the appointment of Gaurav Sachdeva as CEO of its e-commerce venture JSW One Platforms.**

**"Gaurav Sachdeva takes over the role of CEO at JSW One Platforms after his successful tenure at JSW Ventures, where he led venture capital investments for the fund.**

**JSW one will soon constitute an employee stock ownership plan (ESOP) for its entire staff.**

**Parth Jindal, Director of JSW One Platform.**

122. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has taken charge as the Chairman & Managing Director of state-run REC Limited.

- A. Vivek Kumar Dewangan
- B. Ashish Pandey
- C. Vinay Kumar Saxena
- D. Anil Bijlani

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- **Vivek Kumar Dewangan, a 1993 batch Indian Administrative Service Officer of Manipur Cadre, took charge as Chairman and Managing Director of Rural Electrification Corporation (REC)**
- **Before his appointment in REC, he was serving as Additional Secretary in the power ministry.**
- **REC Limited (formerly Rural Electrification Corporation Limited) is a Navratna company under the administrative control of the Ministry of Power.**

**123. Recently RBI has set up a committee to evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and quality of customer service in banks, NBFCs. The six-member committee will be headed by\_\_\_\_\_.**

- A. B P Kanungo**
- B. A K Goel**
- C. Rajeshri N Varhadi**
- D. Anil Kumar Sharma**

**The RBI has set up a committee to evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and quality of customer service in banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it.**

**The six-member committee headed by former RBI deputy governor B P Kanungo has been asked to submit a report within three months from the date of its first meeting,**

**Other members of the panel are: A K Goel (Chairman IBA and MD & CEO, PNB), A S Ramasastry (former Director, IDRBT), Amitha Sehgal (Hon. Secretary, AIBDA), Rajeshri N Varhadi (Professor, University of Mumbai), and Anil Kumar Sharma (Executive Director, RBI).**

**The RBI further said the Committee may also invite domain experts and RBI officials for consultations and/or to participate in its deliberations.**

## Rajiv Kumar takes charge as Chief Election Commissioner

He will preside over the 2024 Lok Sabha election

**SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT**  
NEW DELHI

Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar on Sunday assumed charge as the 25th Chief Election Commissioner (CEC).

Mr. Kumar succeeds Sushil Chandra, who retired on Saturday.

After assuming charge, Mr. Kumar said a lot had been done over the past 70 years by the Election Com-



Rajiv Kumar taking charge as the CEC in New Delhi on Sunday. •PTI

mission of India (ECI) to ensure free and fair elections. "The Commission will follow the time-tested and de-

mocratic methods of consultations and consensus-building in bringing about any major reforms responsible under the Constitution. ECI will not shy away from taking tough decisions," he said.

Mr. Kumar added that technology would be used further to simplify processes and to bring about transparency and ease of voter services.

A former Finance Secretary, Mr. Kumar will preside over the 2024 Lok Sabha election as his tenure as the CEC is till February 2025.

## RBI panel to review customer service in bank



THE RBI ON Monday said it has set up a committee to evaluate the efficacy, adequacy and quality of customer service in banks, NBFCs, and other entities regulated by it. The six-member committee headed by former RBI deputy governor B P Kanungo has been asked to submit a report within three months, the central bank said.

## France set to get its first woman PM in 3 decades

Borne was serving as Labour Minister

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday named Labour Minister Elisabeth Borne as Prime Minister to lead his ambitious reform plans, the first woman to head the French government in over 30 years.

Outgoing French Prime Minister Jean Castex earlier handed his resignation to the President, part of a widely expected reshuffle to make way for a new government in the wake of Mr. Macron's re-election in April.

The last woman premier, Edith Cresson, briefly headed the Cabinet from May 1991 to April 1992 under president Francois Mitterrand.

Ending weeks of speculation, the Elysee confirmed Ms. Borne's nomination in a statement and she then headed to the Matignon residence of the premier in Paris for the handover with Castex.

The departure of Mr. Castex enables Mr. Macron to reshape the Cabinet ahead of the country's crucial par-



Elisabeth Borne

liamentary polls in June.

The new government under Ms. Borne is expected to be announced in the next days.

Speculation has been rife in recent weeks about Mr. Castex's replacement, with Mr. Macron indicating he wanted a woman with left-wing and environmental credentials.

Ms. Borne, 61, is seen as an able technocrat who can negotiate prudently with unions, as the President embarks on a new package of social reforms that notably include a rise in the retirement age which risks sparking protests.



13/16

## Devasahayam Pillai declared saint

He is the first Indian layman to be canonised; Pope Francis presides over ceremony

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
VATICAN CITY

Devasahayam Pillai, who embraced Christianity in the 18th century, on Sunday became the first Indian layman to be declared a saint by Pope Francis during an impressive canonisation ceremony here at the Vatican.

Devasahayam was recommended for the process of Beatification by the Vatican in 2004, at the request of the Kottar diocese, the Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council and the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India.

Pope Francis, 85, canonised Blessed Devasahayam during a Canonisation Mass at St Peter's Basilica in the Vatican.

A miracle attributed to Devasahayam was recognised by Pope Francis in 2014, clearing the path to his canonisation in 2022.

It was the first canonisation ceremony at the Vatican in over two years. Pope Francis, who has been complaining of strained liga-



**Holy day:** Archbishop Thomas J. Netto unveiling a photo of the saint in Thiruvananthapuram on Sunday. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

ments in his right knee for months, used a wheelchair to preside over the ceremony. Nine others, including four women, were also canonised along with Devasahayam. "Our calling is to serve the Gospel and our brothers and sisters, to offer our lives without expecting anything in return, or any worldly glory," the Pope said during the ceremony.

"Being disciples of Jesus and advancing on the path of holiness means first and foremost letting ourselves be transfigured by the power of God's love," he said.

**Travancore kingdom** Devasahayam was born on April 23, 1712 as Neelakanta Pillai into a Hindu Nair family, at Nattalam in Kanyakumari district, which was part

of the erstwhile Travancore kingdom.

He was an official in the court of Travancore's Maharaja Marthanda Varma when he was instructed into the Catholic faith by a Dutch naval commander in 1745. He took the name "Lazarus", or "Devasahayam" in Malayalam, which translates to "God is my help".

"While preaching, he particularly insisted on the equality of all people, despite caste differences. This aroused the hatred of the higher classes, and he was arrested in 1749. After enduring increasing hardships, he received the crown of martyrdom when he was shot on January 14, 1752," a note prepared by the Vatican earlier had said.

Sites linked with his life and death are in Kottar Diocese, in Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu.

Devasahayam was declared Blessed on December 2, 2012, in Kottar, 300 years after his birth.

## Albanese to be Australia's 31st PM



**SYDNEY** Anthony Albanese has claimed victory for his Labor Party after incumbent Prime Minister Scott Morrison conceded defeat in Australia's federal elections held on Saturday. The election results would end the coalition's nine-year hold on power with Albanese set to become Australia's 31st Prime Minister. Addressing supporters, Albanese pledged to bring Australians together, Xinhua reported. "Thank you for this extraordinary honour. Tonight, the Australian people have voted for change," he said. – Agencies

## Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi Anil Bajjal resigns

JATIN ANAND  
NEW DELHI

In a move that caught the entire administrative and political machinery of the national capital by surprise, Lieutenant-Governor Anil Bajjal tendered his resignation here on Wednesday.

Government sources said Mr. Bajjal cited personal reasons and his advanced age in his resignation letter. He also mentioned that he had contracted COVID-19 during the height of the pandemic.

The career bureaucrat, according to sources close to him, believed firmly in maintaining a low profile, away from media's glare,



Anil Bajjal

non-confrontational administration and inter-departmental coordination. Mr. Bajjal, in his mid-70s, was appointed to the post on December 31, 2016.

Mr. Bajjal also served as Union Home Secretary in the 2004 NDA government.

SEE ALSO ► PAGE 3

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

**Days and Obituary News**

124. **World AIDS Vaccine Day** is observed each year globally on \_\_\_\_\_ to create awareness about AIDS and the need for its vaccine.

- A. 17<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 16<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 15<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 18<sup>th</sup> May

- World AIDS Vaccine Day is observed each year all over the world on May 18 to create awareness about AIDS and the need for its vaccine.
- World AIDS Vaccine Day was for the first time celebrated on 18 May 1998.
- No vaccine is currently available to curb HIV. World AIDS Vaccine Day is also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day.
- AIDS is a viral disease. The full form of AIDS is Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome.
- AIDS was first reported in the United States in 1981.
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) causes AIDS. It damages the immune system of the body.

125. Every year \_\_\_\_\_ is observed as **Anti-Terrorism Day** to spread the message of peace and humanity and to promote unity among the people.

- A. 19<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 20<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 21<sup>st</sup> May
- D. 22<sup>nd</sup> May

Every year 21<sup>st</sup> May is observed as Anti-Terrorism Day. It is celebrated to spread the message of peace and humanity and to promote unity among the people.

Its main objective is to keep away youth from Terrorism or any kind of violence.

It is also observed to mark the death anniversary of the former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was killed in a terrorist attack in 1991.

Recently, Supreme Court has given order for the release of A G Perarivalan, one of the seven convicts in the Rajiv Gandhi assassination case.

126. **World Hypertension Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to spread awareness about hypertension and its symptoms.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- A. 16<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 17<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 18<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 19<sup>th</sup> May

*World Hypertension Day is celebrated every year on 17 May to spread awareness about hypertension and its symptoms.*

*Hypertension is also known as high blood pressure. It occurs when blood pressure rises to the level of 140/90. It is one of the main causes of cardiovascular disease. It can cause stroke, renal complications, and premature death. The theme of this year's World Hypertension Day is "Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer".*

127. Every Year **International Museum Day (IMD)** is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_ to increase public awareness about role museums play in societal development.

- A. 14<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 15<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 16<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 18<sup>th</sup> May**

*International Museum Day (IMD) is celebrated on 18 May each year. IMD provides an opportunity to increase public awareness about role museums play in societal development.*

*International Council of Museums is organizing IMD celebrations every year since 1977. The theme for International Museum Day 2022 is 'The Power of Museums'. International Council of Museums is a non-governmental organization. It is headquartered in Paris, France.*

128. **National Dengue Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ to spread awareness about dengue among people.

- A. 16<sup>th</sup> May**
- B. 17<sup>th</sup> May
- C. 18<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 15<sup>th</sup> May

- *National Dengue Day is celebrated every year on 16 May.*
- *It is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to spread awareness about dengue among people.*
- *The first dengue vaccine Dengvaxia is developed by Sanofi Pasteur.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

129. The UN General Assembly declared \_\_\_\_\_ as **World Bee Day** in order to create awareness on the pivotal role of bees and other pollinators in keeping people and the planet healthy.

- A. 19<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 20<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 18<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 17<sup>th</sup> May

- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer's Welfare (MoA&FW), Government of India is celebrating World Bee Day on 20th May, 2022 at Tent City -II, Ekta Nagar, Narmada, Gujarat.
- This year FAO will celebrate World Bee Day through a virtual event, under the theme 'Bee Engaged: Celebrating the diversity of bees and beekeeping systems'.
- The UN General Assembly declared 20th May as World Bee Day in order to create awareness on the pivotal role of bees and other pollinators in keeping people and the planet healthy.
- A stall will also be set up by the Indian Bank, the implementing agency for 'Madhukranti' Portal for the live Registration of Beekeepers on the Portal during this event.
- National Beekeeping & Honey Mission (NBHM) of the Govt. of India under AatmaNirbhar Bharat is implemented through the National Bee Board for overall promotion of scientific beekeeping & entrepreneurship among small & marginal farmers, infrastructure development for postharvest management and support for research & development and to achieve the goal of "Sweet Revolution".

130. Every year on \_\_\_\_\_, **International Tea Day** is commemorated to enhance public awareness of tea's cultural and economic importance around the world.

- A. 20<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 21<sup>st</sup> May**
- C. 19<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 18<sup>th</sup> May

Every year on May 21, International Tea Day is commemorated. The United Nations recognised it for the first time in 2019.

This day is observed to enhance public awareness of tea's cultural and economic importance around the world.

The theme of the International Tea Day 2022 is "Tea and Fair Trade."

Tea is a beverage. It is made from the *Camellia Sinensis* plant. After water, tea is the most consumed drink in the world. It is believed to have originated from northeastern India, northern Myanmar, and southwest China.

Kenya is the world's largest exporter of tea, followed by China and Sri Lanka. China is the largest producer of tea in world, followed by India and Kenya.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

131. **World Turtle Day** is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_ globally to raise awareness about helping turtle survive and thrive in their natural habitat.

- A. 21<sup>st</sup> May
- B. 22<sup>nd</sup> May
- C. 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- D. 24<sup>th</sup> May

- **World Turtle Day** is celebrated every year on May 23 globally to raise awareness about helping turtle survive and thrive in their natural habitat.
- The objective **World Turtle Day 2022** is also to educate people about the things that they can do to protect the habitats of turtles as well as tortoises.
- **World Turtle Day** was founded by the **American Tortoise Rescue (ATR)** in 1990
- **The World Turtle Day 2022 theme is- 'Shellebrate!' Asks Everyone to Love and Save Turtles.**

132. Every year on \_\_\_\_\_ the **International Day for Biological Diversity** is observed to raise awareness about global biodiversity issues.

- A. 21<sup>st</sup> May
- B. 23<sup>rd</sup> May
- C. 20<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 22<sup>nd</sup> May

- Every year on May 22, the **International Day for Biological Diversity** is observed.
- It is observed to raise awareness about global biodiversity issues.
- **The theme of International Day for Biological Diversity 2022 is "Building a shared future for all life."**
- In December 2000, the **United Nations General Assembly** declared May 22 as **International Day for Biological Diversity**.

133. Every Year **National Endangered Species Day** is observed on the third \_\_\_\_\_ of May to raise awareness about the importance of saving Endangered Species.

- A. Monday
- B. Sunday
- C. Friday
- D. Saturday

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*National Endangered Species Day is observed on the third Friday of May. This year, it was celebrated on 20 May.*

*It is observed to raise awareness about the importance of saving Endangered Species.*

*This day was started by David Robinson and the Endangered Species Coalition in 2006.*

*The National Endangered Species Day theme 2022 is “Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration”.*

*Bengal Tiger, Snow Leopard, One-horned Rhinoceros, Blackbuck, etc. are the most common Endangered Species in India.*

134. Every Year **World Metrology Day** is celebrated on \_\_\_\_\_ to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention in 1875.

- A. 19<sup>th</sup> May
- B. 20<sup>th</sup> May**
- C. 18<sup>th</sup> May
- D. 17<sup>th</sup> May

*CSIR-National Physical Laboratory is the custodian of national measurement standards through an act of Parliament and provides traceability to SI units in India. CSIR-National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi in association with Metrology Society of India (MSI) organized the World Metrology Day on 20th May 2022 to commemorate the anniversary of the signing of the Metre Convention on 20th May 1875.*

*The theme for World Metrology Day 2022 was “Metrology in the Digital Era”, announced jointly by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) and the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML).*

*This theme was chosen for introducing digital measurement frameworks and requirements for an open and transparent exchange of digital information technology for revolutionizing the scientific community*

*On this occasion, World Metrology Day poster was released by the dignitaries. Three Bharatiya Nirdeshak Dravyas (BNDs®) namely, BND 6019 for gas, BND 4203 and BND 4204 for gold alloys, respectively, were also released. India’s first Robotic Mass Comparator was also inaugurated during this event.*

**Sports Award Books News**

135. Recently in May \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded the top **British honorary award "the order of the British Empire"**.

- A. Balakrishna Mukund
- B. Ajay Gopikishan Pirmal**
- C. Ratan Lal
- D. Ajay Bhushan

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

- *Ajay Gopikishan Piramal has been awarded the top British honorary award.*
- *He has been awarded **honorary commander of the order of the British Empire.***
- ***He is the chairman of the Piramal Group. He has been co-chair of India-U.K. CEO forum since 2016.***
- *He got the award for services to the U.K.-India trade relationship as co-chair of the U.K.-India CEO Forum.*

## Piramal awarded

New Delhi: Piramal Group chairman Ajay Piramal has received Commander of the Order of British Empire award. PTI

136. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has won the 1<sup>st</sup> prize for the Amazon Sambhav Entrepreneurship Challenge 2022 and his enterprise "Genius energy Critical Innovation Private Limited" has won the Start-up of the Year award.

- A. Rajiv Kumar
- B. Subhash Ola**
- C. N Rajendran
- D. Ratan Tata

*Subhash Ola's enterprise "Genius energy Critical Innovation Private Limited" has won the Start-up of the Year award.*

*Subhash Ola has developed a technology for saving energy in boilers by recycling steam.*

*The technology was first developed to make khoya and other milk products but later used in textile, milk and food, pharma, plywood, paper mills, leather industries etc.*

*This technology is used with the existing boiler infrastructure of the particular industry. The closed-circuit design of the technology will reduce additional water requirements.*

*Genius energy Critical Innovation was incubated by the National Innovation Foundation (NIF).*

*In 2015, Subhash Ola was honoured with the 8th Biennial National Grassroots Innovation and Outstanding Traditional Knowledge Award.*

137. Recently, *Novak Djokovic defeated whom to win the Italian Open 2022 for a record-extending 38th ATP Masters 1000 title?*

- A. Rafael Nadal
- B. Stefanos Tsitsipas**
- C. Daniil Medvedev
- D. Carlos Alcaraz Garfia

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

*Novak Djokovic defeated Stefanos Tsitsipas 6-0, 7-6(5) to win the Italian Open 2022 38th ATP Masters 1000 title.*

*When he defeated Casper Ruud in the semi-finals, he became the fifth man in the Open Era to win 1,000 matches, and he defeated Tsitsipas to win his first championship of the season.*

*After winning the trophy six times in the Italian capital since his first success in 2008, Djokovic was playing his fourth consecutive final in the clay-court event.*

*Italian Open: It is a tennis tournament held in Rome, Italy. It is played on Clay court.*

**138. Consider the following statements and find which of the following statement is in-correct?**

1. Nikhat Zareen has won the gold medal at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul.
2. She defeated Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the 52 kg category.
3. **Nikhat became the First Indian woman to win a gold medal in the World Boxing Championships.**
4. The Indian team finished its campaign with three medals at the world's biggest boxing competition.

**{ BOXING'S NEW STAR }**

## Nikhat Zareen wins world championship gold

**Avishek Roy**

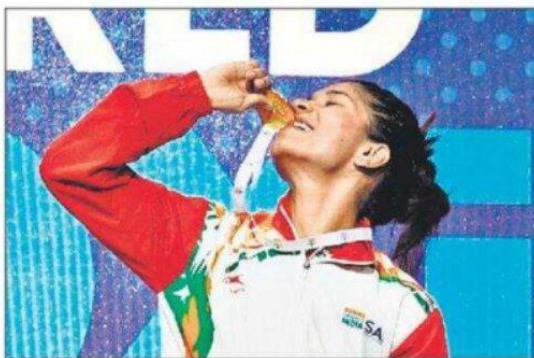
letters@hindustantimes.com

**NEW DELHI:** With a world title on the line in Istanbul, Nikhat Zareen closed her eyes and prayed. Her opponent Jutamas Jitpong of Thailand had taken the final to the last round but Zareen had thrown enough punches to not leave it to fate this time. She had sealed it with a thumping third round against the Tokyo Olympics quarter-finalist. Or so she thought.

When her hand finally went up, Zareen roared, her face became a mélange of emotions

before tears rolled. She clutched India coach Bhaskar Bhatt and sobbed on the side of the ring. Two-and-half years after losing a bitter, highly-charged selection trial to legend MC Mary Kom for a berth in the Tokyo Olympics qualifiers in the fly-weight (52kg) division, Zareen was a world champion.

She is now the fifth Indian woman to win a world title, but, more importantly, the only boxer besides Mary Kom to become a world champion since women's boxing became part of the Olympic programme in 2012.



→PIB Nikhat Zareen after being crowned champion in Istanbul. 8A

**Nikhat Zareen won gold, and Manisha Moun and Parveen both won bronze at the Women's World Boxing Championships.**

**Nikhat Zareen has won the gold medal at the IBA Women's World Boxing Championships in Istanbul after beating Thailand's Jitpong Jutamas in the 52 kg category.**

**After record six-time champions Mary Kom, Sarita Devi, Jenny RL, and Lekha KC, Nikhat became the fifth Indian woman to win a gold medal in the World Boxing Championships.**

**Manisha Moun (57 kg) and Parveen Hooda (63 kg) have won bronze medals. The Indian team finished its campaign with three medals at the world's biggest boxing competition.**

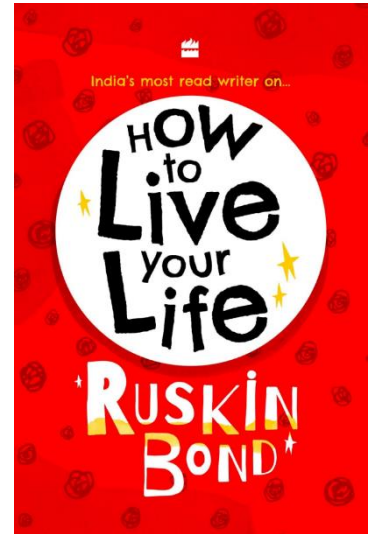
**This year is also celebrated as the Women's World Championship's 20th anniversary.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

139. Who is the author of the Book titled "How to Live Your Life"?

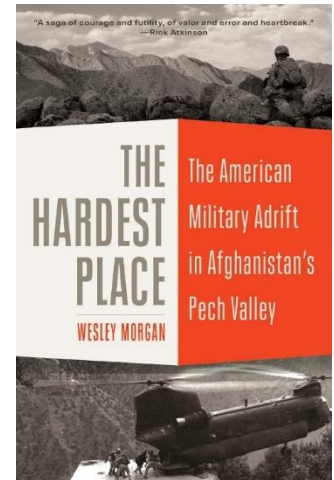
- A. Stephen King
- B. Ruskin Bond**
- C. Anthony Blink
- D. Rod Marsh

- How to Live Your Life, published on the author's 88th birthday, is journal-like, filled with gentle reflections.
- It's as if Bond is writing to a friend, and you, as a reader, are getting a glimpse of the inner workings of his mind and soul.



140. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has won the William E. Colby Award for his book 'The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley'.

- A. Anthony Wilkins
- B. Ruskin Bond
- C. Geetanjali Shree
- D. Wesley Morgan**



Journalist Wesley Morgan has won the William E. Colby Award for his book 'The Hardest Place: The American Military Adrift in Afghanistan's Pech Valley'.

He got this award for his military and intelligence coverage.

Journalist Wesley Morgan had covered the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq for the New York Times, the Washington Post and other publications.

Colby Award: It is named after a former ambassador and CIA director William E. Colby. It is given for contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs.

It comprised a cash prize of \$5,000. It is being presented by Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont.

141. \_\_\_\_\_ has won the Spanish Grand Prix to take over at the top from Ferrari's luckless Charles Leclerc.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- A. Max Verstappen**
- B. George Russell**
- C. Carlos Sainz**
- D. Lewis Hamilton**

**Verstappen drives to his third win in a row**

Takes championship lead; Leclerc done in by electrical fault

**SPANISH GP**

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE  
MONTMELO

Max Verstappen reaped the reward of Charles Leclerc's misfortune to rack up his third straight win this season in Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix and move top of the Formula One drivers' standings.

Sergio Perez took second for a Red Bull 1-2 at the Montmelo circuit behind the World champion where in 2016 Verstappen had opened his F1 account as a teenager.

Leclerc was sitting comfortably in the lead from pole

until lap 23 when a sudden loss of power proved fatal to his Ferrari.

The man from Monaco arrived in Catalonia 19 points in front in the title race, but left it six points behind Verstappen ahead of his home race next weekend.

Verstappen had to overcome being blown off the circuit and into the gravel by a gust of wind early on and some technical niggles.

"Difficult beginning but a good end! I tried to stay focussed, which is not always easy," said the Dutch driver, who hit the front late on after

passing Perez who had been instructed to relinquish the lead over the team radio.

**Russell third**

Mercedes showed improved form after a bumpy start to the season with George Russell claiming third. Lewis Hamilton in the other Mercedes threaded his way through the field after being forced into the pits shortly after the start with a puncture to take fifth.

Meanwhile in the Formula 2 feature race, electrical problems denied Jehan Daruvala the chance to fight for victory.



**Speed ace:** Verstappen's winning run continued on Sunday.  
• GETTY IMAGES

**Formula One world champion Max Verstappen won the Spanish Grand Prix in a Red Bull one-two take over at the top from Ferrari's luckless Charles Leclerc, who retired with an engine failure while leading.**

**Mexican Sergio Perez finished a dutiful second, 13 seconds behind but with the consolation of a bonus point for fastest lap, after being told to let his team mate pass for a third victory in a row after Imola and Miami.**

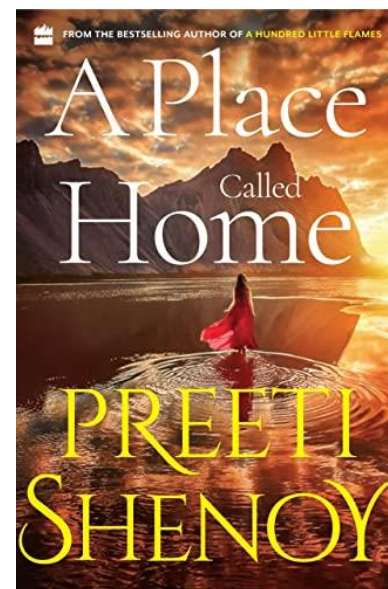
**The 24-year-old Dutch driver is now six points clear of Leclerc after winning four of six races -- all those he has finished.**

**Britain's George Russell came third for a revived Mercedes and after going wheel-to-wheel with Verstappen early on in a thrilling display of defensive driving as they battled for second place behind Leclerc.**

**142. The Book titled 'A Place Called Home' is authored by who amongst the following?**

- A. Ashwini Gupta**
- B. Preeti Shenoy**
- C. Megha Pant**
- D. S Jaishankar**

- **Preeti Shenoy's new novel, 'A Place Called Home,' will be released in June.**
- **The novel will be published by HarperCollins India.**
- **The novel is about secrets, family, and finding yourself.**





Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

143. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ was crowned as the Champions of the 12<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh defeating Karnataka in the final.

- A. Haryana
- B. Odisha
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Punjab

May 17, 2022, 9:04PM

### Odisha defeats Karnataka in final of 12th Hockey India Senior Women's National C'ship

Odisha were crowned as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Karnataka in the final of the competition.

The final match was a closely contested affair between Karnataka and Odisha. Both the teams started well, as they created several goal-scoring opportunities. However solid defensive performances from both the sides ensured that the match went into the half time with the scoreline reading 0-0.

Punam Barla in the 34th minute opened the scoring in the match in the third quarter as Odisha picked up the lead. Ashim Kanchan Barla in the 59th minute sealed the game with a late goal as Odisha beat Karnataka 2-0 to claim the Championship.

Jharkhand beat Haryana 3-2 to earn third-place finish.



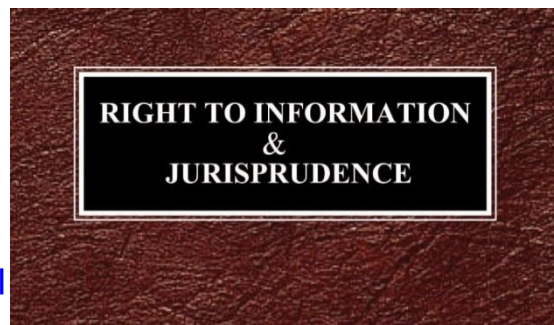
- **Odisha were crowned as the Champions of the 12th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2022 in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh with a thrilling 2-0 victory over Karnataka in the final of the competition.**

- **The final match was a closely contested affair between Karnataka and Odisha. Both the teams started well, as they created several goal-scoring opportunities. However solid defensive performances from both the sides ensured that the match went into the half time with the scoreline reading 0-0.**
- **Jharkhand beat Haryana 3-2 to earn third-place finish.**

144. Who is the author of the book titled "**Right to Information and Jurisprudence**"?

- A. Sanjay Kapoor
- B. M.L. Sharma
- C. Preeti Shenoy
- D. Megha Pant

- **M.L. Sharma, who was denied the position of the directorship of the Central Bureau of Investigation during the UPA government's tenure, was appointed an information commissioner (IC) at the Central Information Commission in 2008.**

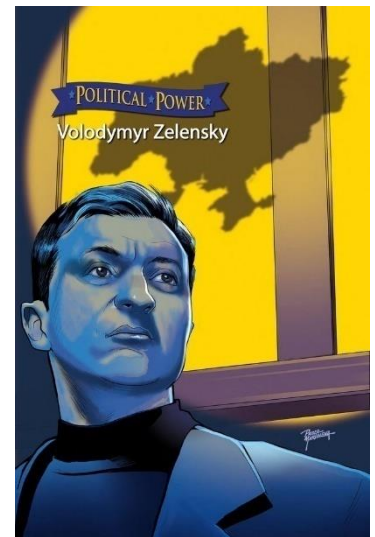


**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

- *He has come up with the book which contains relevant legal knowledge and explains the 156 landmark decisions of the CIC, 374 judgments of various high courts and 29 judgments of the Supreme Court.*
- *However, this book is not a mere compilation of those decisions. It is annotated with Sharma's knowledgeable comments, which makes it all the more useful.*
- *Sharma has also narrated a history of struggle for the RTI Act in India and the advocacy for transparency law across the globe.*

*Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskiy's life story – from comedian to war-time leader – has been given the graphic novel treatment in Tidal Wave Comics' latest biography, "Political Power: Volodymyr Zelenskyy." by Pablo Martinena.*

*The 22-page glossy, released tells the story of how Zelenskiy, who once played a fictional president in a TV show, swept to power in 2019 promising to end a war with Moscow-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine. He had no political experience when he took office as the country's sixth president.*



145. Consider the following statements regarding **Deaflympics 2021**.

1. **Taking a big leap from the 2017 edition of the special event, Team India secured 16 medals at the Deaflympics 2021.**
2. **Team India clinched a total of eight gold medals in Deaflympics 2021. Indian athletes won a total of 7 bronze medals in the 24th Deaflympics hosted by Brazil's Caxais do Sul.**
3. **Jerlin Anika made waves at the recent Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, winning three gold medals in badminton.**

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- **Jerlin Anika made waves at the recent Deaflympics in Caxias do Sul, Brazil, winning**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

three gold medals in badminton. Jerlin secured a gold each in women's singles, mixed doubles and mixed team event.

- The 24th edition of the 2021 Summer Deaflympics i.e. Caxias 2021 officially called the XXIV Summer Deaflympics Games, Festa da Uva, Caxias do Sul, Brazil was an international multi-sport event held in International Committee for Sports for the Deaf (ICSD) It is the main governing body responsible for the organization of the Deaflympics and other World Deaf Championships
- The motto of this event is "Sports Comes From Our Hearts"
- The mascot of Deaflympics is Ring-tailed Koti – Nino, which means priceless, worthy of praise, cheerful, happy, very lucky and auspicious.
- India's largest contingent ever at a Deaflympics – 65 athletes – returned with the country's richest haul from the event in Caxias do Sul, in southern Brazil.
- A total of 16 medals were won over the fortnight-long quadrennial event, including eight gold, one silver and seven bronze. The medals came from five of the 11 sports the Indians were competing in, with the shooting team picking up the most – three gold and two bronze.
- India finished in ninth position on the medal table.

Overall medal table					
Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	Ukraine (UKR)	62	38	38	138
2	United States (USA)	20	11	24	55
3	Iran (IRI)	14	12	14	40
4	Japan (JPN)	12	8	10	30
5	South Korea (KOR)	11	18	14	43

{ TRAGEDY } LEGENDARY ALL-ROUNDER

## Aussie cricketer Andrew Symonds dies in crash



Andrew Symonds GETTY IMAGES

### Agencies

letters@hindustantimes.com

**SYDNEY:** Former Australia all-rounder and two-time World Cup winner Andrew Symonds died in a car accident in Queensland late on Saturday, local police said.

Symonds was a big-hitting all-rounder who built a credible test career and was an exemplar of Australian sport's prized larrikin tradition. He was 46.

"Australian cricket has lost another of its very best. Andrew was a generational talent who was instrumental in Australia's success at World Cups and as

part of Queensland's rich cricket history," Cricket Australia chairman Lachlan Henderson said. "He was a cult figure to many (and) was treasured by his fans and friends."

Cricket Australia reported details of Symonds' death on its website, citing a police statement with details of the accident late Saturday night. The car Symonds was driving left the road and rolled, according to the police.

Symonds was a "larger-than-life figure who drew a wide-spread fan base during his peak years for not only his hard-hitting ways but his larrikin persona,"

Cricket Australia said.

He was a member of Australia's World Cup-winning teams in 2003 and 2007 and appeared in 198 one-day internationals in addition to 14 T20 Internationals.

Symonds' wife, Laura, told local press that the family was in shock. "He was such a big person and there is just so much of him in his kids," she said.

Tall and dreadlocked, his face daubed in zinc cream, Symonds had an iconic physical presence. He was born in Birmingham, UK, and his adoptive parents moved to Australia when he was an infant. RELATED REPORTS →P2,P15

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**Science Technology and Environment**

146. Recently **Indian Navy** successfully conducted the maiden firing of the first indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile from \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. Chandipur
- B. **Balasore**
- C. Jhansi
- D. Pokhran

**Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of the first indigenously developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile.**

**The firing was conducted from a Seaking 42B helicopter at Integrated Test Range, Balasore.**

**The Naval Anti-Ship Missile was developed in collaboration with Defence Research and Development Organization.**

**It is the first indigenous air-launched anti-ship missile system for the Indian Navy.**

**Several new technologies have been incorporated into this missile, including an indigenously developed launcher for the helicopter.**

**Navy tests locally built anti-ship missile**

**OUR BUREAU**

New Delhi, May 18

The Indian Navy successfully test fired an indigenously built naval anti-ship missile from a Seaking 42B helicopter at the integrated test range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha on Wednesday.

Developed by DRDO in association with Indian Navy, the mission, a first for the Navy, "met all its objectives", said the Defence Ministry.

"The missile followed the desired sea-skimming trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree of accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithms. All the sub-systems performed satisfactorily. The sensors deployed across the test range and near impact point tracked the missile trajectory and captured all the events," said a ministry statement.

**New technologies**

The missile system incorporated many new technologies, including an indigenously developed launcher for the helicopter, it said. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.



**On target** The DRDO and Indian Navy conducted a successful maiden flight-test of the indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile from a Seaking B42 helicopter

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh congratulated the DRDO, Indian Navy and associated teams for the maiden developmental flight test and said this showed that India has attained a high level of capability in the indigenous design and development of missile systems.

Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development, and chairman, DRDO, G Satheesh Reddy, appreciated the efforts of the project team. Senior officers of DRDO and the Indian Navy witnessed the flight test at Ballasore test range.

147. Recently **West Central Railway** has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive named \_\_\_\_\_ on a trial basis during train shunting at Jabalpur, Mudwara, and other stations.

- A. Meghraj
- B. Tejasvi
- C. **Navdoot**
- D. Sanchar

**West Central Railway has developed a battery-operated dual-mode locomotive, 'Navdoot'. After e-bikes, e-cars, and e-bus, now the e-train has been introduced in the country.**

**This engine operates in both battery and electric modes. It is currently being used on a trial basis during train shunting at Jabalpur, Mudwara, and other stations. At 30 kilometres per hour, this e-engine can pull 18 coaches. It currently contains 84 batteries and is capable of pulling 400 tonnes. The Electric Department of New Katni Junction has performed locomotive 'Navdoot'. The Railway Board has also awarded this Dual Mode Locomotive the Best Innovation Award. With this new locomotive, railways will save 1000 litres of diesel every day.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)

148. Consider the following statements regarding indigenously built frontline warships of Indian Navy.

1. Two frontline warships of the Indian Navy, *Surat*, a Project 15B Destroyer, and *Udaygiri*, a Project 17A Frigate, has been launched at *Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai*, simultaneously.
2. *Surat* is the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers, and is named after Gujarat's commercial capital.
3. The third ship of Project 17A Frigates, *Udaygiri* is named after a mountain range of Andhra Pradesh.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- Defence Minister inducted two indigenously built frontline warships into Indian Navy.
- Two frontline warships of the Indian Navy, *Surat*, a Project 15B Destroyer, and *Udaygiri*, a Project 17A Frigate, has been launched at *Mazgaon Docks Limited, Mumbai*, simultaneously.
- The Chief Guest for both events was Defence Minister *Rajnath Singh*.
- The Indian Navy's next-generation stealth guided-missile destroyers, the Project 15B class, are being built at *Mazgaon Docks Ltd in Mumbai*.
- *Surat* is the fourth ship of Project 15B Destroyers, and is named after Gujarat's commercial capital.
- The third ship of Project 17A Frigates, *Udaygiri*, is named after a mountain range of Andhra Pradesh.
- *Shivalik* class of P17 has improved stealth features, advanced weaponry and sensors, and a platform management system.
- A total of seven ships are being built under the P17A program.
- Under the P17A program, a total of seven ships, with 04 at MDL and 03 at GRSE are under construction.
- Both 15B and P17A ships have been designed in-house by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND)
- Project 15B is expected to cost a total of Rs 35,800 crore, Rs 8,950 crore per vessel.
- *INS Surat* is the fourth and the last ship of the 7,400-tonne Project 15B Indian Navy Destroyers. These are called the *Visakhapatnam* class after the lead vessel *INS Visakhapatnam*. The Destroyer has been named after Gujarat's commercial capital- *Surat*, which has a rich maritime and ship-building history.
- The Indian Naval Destroyers are named after Indian cities as per the naval tradition. It began with Project 15, under which three destroyers were built: *INS Delhi* in 1997, *INS Mysore* in 1999 and *INS Mumbai* in 2001. Project 15 was followed by the three-destroyer Project 15A, under which *INS Kolkata* was commissioned in 2014, *INS Kochi* in 2015 and *INS Chennai* in 2016.
- These frigates are reincarnations of the six-ship *Leander*-class or the *Nilgiri*-class, which included -*INS Nilgiri* (1972-1996), *INS Himgiri* (1974-2005), *INS Udaygiri* (1976-2007), *INS Dunagiri* (1977-2010), *INS Taragiri* (1980-2013) and *INS Vindhya* (1981-2012).

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**



At the launch ceremony on Tuesday at Mazagon Dock. *Pradip Das*

## Udaygiri, Surat: Navy gets twin boost



The INS Udaygiri and INS Surat are shining examples of India's growing indigenous capability. The warships will be among the most technologically advanced missile carriers in the world that will cater to the present as well as future requirements.

**RAJNATH SINGH,**  
DEFENCE MINISTER

**Indigenous warships** inaugurated by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh at Mazagon Dock in Mumbai on Tuesday

**Designed in-house** by Navy's Directorate of Naval Design

**Built by** Mumbai-based Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL)



### UDAYGIRI

- Third warship of Project 17A Frigates
- Improved stealth features
- Advanced weapons & sensors
- Platform management systems.



### SURAT

- Next-gen stealth-guided missile destroyer
- Fourth of Project 15B Destroyers
- Makeover of the P15A (Kolkata Class) destroyers

*Photo courtesy: Twitter/ @rajnathsingh*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

149. Recently in may the Navies of India and \_\_\_\_\_ concluded their second joint patrolling in the southwestern Indian Ocean from May 9 to 13, 2022.

- A. Australia
- B. France
- C. Japan
- D. Russia

## Indian and French Navies jointly patrol Indian Ocean

India continues focus on expanding maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare cooperation in the region

**DINAKAR PERI**  
NEW DELHI

The Navies of India and France concluded their second joint patrolling in the southwestern Indian Ocean last week, while an Australian P-8 maritime patrol aircraft is expected in India next month on a reciprocal visit, underscoring India's continued focus on expanding maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

Diplomatic sources told *The Hindu* that during the five days from May 9 to 13, an Indian Navy P-8I aircraft was deployed from the French island of La Reunion to carry out "joint surveillance and patrolling operations" with the French Navy in the southwestern Indian Ocean. Two French Floréal-class

surveillance frigates, the *Floréal* and the *Nivose*, took part in the deployment, with focus on anti-smuggling, a diplomatic source said.

"In order to increase the level of interoperability, French sailors were taken onboard the P-8I," the source said.

Noting that it is the second time that France and India have carried out "joint patrolling" out of La Reunion, the source added, "This type of operation demonstrates how Indo-French naval cooperation serves as net security provider in the region."

In a statement last week, the Indian Navy said, "During the deployment...the P8I aircraft will engage with French warships operating in the region and undertake coordinated surveillance



**Maritime operation:** Indian Navy and French Navy personnel at La Reunion Island on May 9. • TWITTER/@INDIANNAVY

missions in the area to enhance maritime safety and security in the Southern Indian Ocean, including the Mozambique Channel."

As reported by *The Hindu* in March 2020, India and France had conducted their maiden week-long joint patrols from Reunion Island. In the backdrop of in-

creasing Chinese naval presence in the IOR, maritime domain awareness (MDA) and anti-submarine warfare (ASW) cooperation has emerged as a top priority for India and the Quad countries both in a bilateral and also in the Malabar naval exercise.

Last month, an Indian Na-

vy P-8I from INAS 312 'Albatross' squadron was in Darwin, Australia, where it participated in coordinated operations in "ASW and surface surveillance" to enhance MDA with P-8 aircraft of the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

"An Indian Navy P-8I Neptune worked with one of our P-8A Poseidons in mid-April over several days to conduct coordinated maritime surveillance patrols in the waters to our north, in another chapter of the enduring India-Australia security partnership," the RAAF said on LinkedIn.

The RAAF is expected to pay a reciprocal visit likely in June, defence and diplomatic sources said. In January this year, an Indian Navy P-8I participated in the multinational ASW Exercise Sea Dragon-22 at Guam in the U.S. that saw the participation of the Quad countries, Canada, and South Korea.

Indian Navy operates 12 Boeing P-8Is in two squadrons located at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu and INS Hansa, Goa. A proposal for six more aircraft has been deferred for now by the Defence Ministry. "P-8I gives Indian Navy the reach and capability to undertake ASW missions far away and also demonstrated on several occasions," a source noted. French Minister for the Armed Forces Florence Parly during her visit to India in December made a reference for expanding cooperation in the region and said that there were many tensions in the Indian Ocean, especially in the eastern part of Africa.

**The Navies of India and France concluded their second joint patrolling in the southwestern Indian Ocean last week, while an Australian P-8 maritime patrol aircraft is expected in India next month on a reciprocal visit, underscoring India's continued focus on expanding maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**

**During the five days from May 9 to 13, an Indian Navy P-8I aircraft was deployed from the French island of La Reunion to carry out "joint surveillance and patrolling operations" with the French Navy in the southwestern Indian Ocean.**

**It is the second time that France and India have carried out "joint patrolling" out of La Reunion.**

150. Consider the following statements regarding India's first dedicated astronomy mission, 'Astrosat'.

1. India's first dedicated astronomy mission, 'Astrosat', has witnessed the birth of black holes for the 500th time.
2. Astrosat was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 28th September 2015.
3. Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager – CZT is a part of the 'Astrosat' telescope, which has discovered the birth of black holes.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 1 & 3
- C. Only 2 & 3

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam  
Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**D. All of the above**

*Astrosat' witnesses the birth of black holes for 500th time. India's first dedicated astronomy mission, 'Astrosat', has witnessed the birth of black holes for the 500th time. Space telescope 'Astrosat' is playing a key role in studying black hole births.*

*Black holes are regions with a strong gravitational pull which does not allow particles or electromagnetic radiations to pass through them. Even light cannot pass through the Black holes.*

*Astrosat was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on 28th September 2015.*

*Cadmium Zinc Telluride Imager – CZT is a part of the 'Astrosat' telescope, which has discovered the birth of black holes. It has the ability to measure the polarization of X-rays.*

**151. Recently in May Indian Railways has announced partnership with \_\_\_\_\_ for developing an indigenous Hyperloop System.**

- A. IIT Madras**
- B. IIT Bombay**
- C. IIT Kanpur**
- D. IIT Delhi**

## **Rlys, IIT-Madras to develop Hyperloop**

**New Delhi:** The Indian Railways and IIT-Madras are setting off on a joint mission to develop India's own Hyperloop, a new system that proposes to use the magnetic levitation technology in tubes to enable travel at aeroplane-like speeds.

It's the Hyperloop's low energy requirement that has drawn the Railways towards the project, a statement issued by the min-

istry said Thursday, highlighting the help it can offer as the country endeavours to attain Carbon neutrality. When complete, it will be at par with the Virgin Hyperloop facility in the US in terms of functionality but will significantly outperform it in terms of cost, the statement added. The Railways will also be helping the institute set-up a Centre of Excellence for Hyperloop Technologies.

The statement said the Ministry's interest was piqued when it came to know a team of 70 IIT-Madras students called 'Avishkar Hyperloop' has been working on the technology since 2017. In March, the Ministry was approached by IIT-Madras to collaborate for a Rs 8.34-crore project to develop a "contactless pod prototype" and the "first-of-its-kind Hyperloop Test Facility". **ENS**

**Indian Railways to partnership with IIT Madras for developing an indigenous Hyperloop System.**

**Hyperloop technology-based transportation will reduce carbon emissions and bring a new revolution to the transport system.**

**A team comprising 70 students named "Avishkar Hyperloop", was formed by IIT Madras in 2017.**

**The team "Avishkar Hyperloop" won the 'Most Scalable Design Award' at the European Hyperloop Week – 2021.**

**They are using frugal engineering for developing Hyperloop based transportation system.**

**Indian Railways in association with IIT Madras will also set up a "Centre of Excellence for Hyperloop Technologies".**

**The Hyperloop system works on a technology which uses magnetic levitation in low-pressure tubes for transporting people and goods at high speeds The Hyperloop concept was proposed by Elon Musk.**



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

151. Recently \_\_\_\_\_ has proposed *world's first space mission specially designed to search for habitable planets in the universe.*

- A. India
- B. China**
- C. Singapore
- D. Japan

*Chinese scientists have proposed a project to hunt for habitable Earth-like planets outside our solar system through a space telescope. This is will be the world's first space mission specially designed to search for habitable planets in the universe.*

*The proposed project will involve surveying the sky through a space-borne telescope to hunt for habitable planets about 32 light-years from Earth. The project is named Close by Habitable Exoplanet Survey (CHES).*

*The project will seek answers to some of the most important questions including- 'Are we alone in the universe'.*

152. Consider the following statements regarding 'HANSA-NG.

1. 'HANSA-NG' is a *two-seater new generation flying trainer aircraft designed and developed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).*
2. It *successfully completed its engine relight test at the aeronautical test range (ATR) facility of the Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at Challakere.*

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

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

*HANSA-NG' aircraft has been designed to full fill the need of the Indian flying club.*

*'HANSA-NG' is a two-seater new generation flying trainer aircraft. It has been designed and developed by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).*

*It successfully completed its engine relight test at the aeronautical test range (ATR) facility of the Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) at Challakere.*

*The flight test has been carried out at an altitude of 7,000-8,000 feet at a speed of 60 to 70 knots by wing commanders K V Prakash and NDS Reddy.*

*The in-flight 'Engine Relight' test is the most important achievement toward certification of aircraft by DGCA.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

153. Consider the following statements regarding **Naval Anti-Ship Missile (Short Range) or NASM-SR**.

1. The NASM-SR has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
2. The NASM-SR has a range of 55 km and weighs 385 kg.
3. This missile will replace the Sea Eagle missiles which are currently in use with the Navy.

Which of the following statement is/are correct?

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

- The Navy recently tested an indigenous Naval Anti-Ship Missile (Short Range) or NASM-SR from a Sea King helicopter at the Integrated Test Range in Balasore, Odisha.
- The NASM-SR has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The NASM-SR has a range of 55 km and weighs 385 kg.
- This missile will replace the Sea Eagle missiles which are currently in use with the Navy. With the Sea King helicopters too being phased out, it is expected that the NASM-SR will be used with the new MH-60R multi-role helicopters, which are being inducted into the Navy.
- The NASM-SR carries a warhead of 100 kg and has sub-sonic capabilities, which means that it flies below the speed of sound at 0.8 Mach. The sub-sonic flight speed makes it difficult for the naval vessels on target to detect it.
- It has a launch altitude of maximum of 3 km and can skim 5 metres above sea level when on final approach to the target. The NASM-SR can also be fired from the shore to target vessels in the sea.

155. A team of herpetologists has discovered a new venomous snake species named 'Trimeresurus Mayaae' or Maya's Pit viper in which of the following states?

- A. Manipur
- B. Mizoram

## New species of snake found in Meghalaya

It is named *Trimeresurus mayaae*

RAHUL KARMAKAR  
GUWAHATI

Meghalaya, the land of the mythical evil spirit that takes the form of a giant serpent called U Thlen, has yielded a new-to-science, venomous green snake.

Recorded simultaneously in Mizoram, the snake has been named *Maya's pit viper* after the deceased mother of an Army officer, one of seven authors of a study on it. The name of the pit viper, recognised as *Trimeresurus mayaae*. The study was published in the recent edition of *PLOS One*, a peer-reviewed open access scientific journal published by the Public Library of Science.

Jayaditya Purkayastha, a herpetologist from the wildlife research group Help Earth and a lead author of the study, said the new species was relatively common in Meghalaya, Mizoram and



*Trimeresurus mayaae*

even in Guwahati.

But the snake used to be referred to as either the Pope's Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus popeiorum*) or Gumprecht's Green Pit Viper (*Trimeresurus gumprechtii*) until it was observed closely at the Umroi Military Station.

Mr. Purkayastha collaborated with Colonel Yashpal Singh Rathee of the military station and H.T. Lalremsanga of Mizoram University, who also recorded the same species in Mizoram.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam**  
**Third Week of May (16<sup>th</sup> May – 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2022)**

**C. Meghalaya**

**D. Tripura**

- *A team of herpetologists has discovered a new venomous snake species named Trimeresurus Mayaae or Maya's Pit viper from Umroi Military station in the Ri-Bhoi district of Meghalaya.*
- *The snake **has been named in honour of Col Yashpal Singh Rathee's late mother – Maya.***
- *The research was published in the recent edition of PLOS One.*
- *It is very similar to 'Pope's Pit Viper' but the colour of the eyes is different and is 750 mm long.*

**156. Consider the following statements regarding *World's highest weather station*.**

- 1. The "world's highest weather station" has been *installed on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres by a team of National Geographic Society scientists.***
- 2. A *MoU has been signed between Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and National Geographic to operate all five Automatic Weather Stations.***

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

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

***The "world's highest weather station" has been installed on Mt. Everest at an altitude of 8,830 metres by a team of National Geographic Society scientists.***

***The solar-powered weather monitoring system will measure various meteorological phenomena such as air temperature, wind speed and direction, air pressure, change in snow surface height, and incoming and outgoing short and long wave radiation.***

***The Nat-Geo team was led by climate scientist Baker Perry from the Appalachian State University in the US.***

***A MoU has been signed between Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and National Geographic to operate all five Automatic Weather Stations.***

***According to the agreement, the National Geographic team will fully operate the stations until 2025 before delivering the technology to the Nepal government in 2026.***

***On the northern side of Everest, a Chinese team had also established an autonomous weather monitoring system at an altitude of 8,800 metres.***