

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

National /State News

1. **Orunodoi scheme** recently seen in news is initiative of which of the following state?

- A. **Assam**
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Manipur
- D. Mizoram
- E. None of these

- Some 22 lakh beneficiaries of the Orunodoi scheme in Assam will get ₹18 extra for August to buy a National Flag or two.
- The Assam government has been transferring ₹1,000 as a monetary benefit to the bank accounts of economically weak women on the 10th of every month under the Orunodoi scheme.
- The extra amount would enable each beneficiary to either buy a larger National Flag priced at ₹18 or two smaller ones of ₹9 each.

2. Whom among the following has **designed the Indian flag**?

- A. **Pingali Venkayya**
- B. Methuram Gurse
- C. Ashfaqulla Khan
- D. K. M. Munshi
- E. None of these

- The Central government will release a special commemorative postage stamp in memory of Pingali Venkayya, the designer of the national flag, on August 2.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will release the stamp at a program to be held in New Delhi to mark the birth anniversary of the freedom fighter.
- Born near Machilipatnam on August 2, 1876, Pingali had designed many models of the national flag. In 1921, Mahatma Gandhi approved a design during the Indian National Congress meeting in Vijayawada.
- The Central government is organizing a 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign to mark 75 years of independence. Tiranga yatra will be held in Delhi on August 3.

Orunodoi scheme to aid Assam's Tricolour plans

Beneficiaries to get ₹18 extra to buy flag

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
GUWAHATI

Some 22 lakh beneficiaries of the Orunodoi scheme in Assam will get ₹18 extra for August to buy a National Flag or two.

The Assam government has been transferring ₹1,000 as monetary benefit to the bank accounts of economically weak women on the 10th of every month under the Orunodoi scheme.

“We shall be transferring ₹1,018 to the account of each of the Orunodoi beneficiaries for August so that they can buy the National Flags

for gifting,” Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said on Sunday.

The extra amount would enable each beneficiary to either buy a larger National Flag priced at ₹18 or two smaller ones of ₹9 each.

On Sunday, a fixed deposit certificate of ₹7.5 lakh each was handed over to eight children who lost both parents to COVID-19. Under the scheme Mukhya Mantrir Shishu Seva, ₹3,500 as interest on the deposit would be credited in the bank account of each child until they attain 24 years of age.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1st August – 8th August 2022)

3. Recently in August West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced that the state would get _____ new districts, raising the total number of districts to _____.

- A. 7, 30
- B. 8, 36
- C. 6, 33
- D. 9, 23
- E. None of these

Bengal to get 7 new dists, total now 30

ATRIMITRA
KOLKATA, AUGUST 1

THE WEST Bengal Cabinet on Monday approved the setting up of seven new districts in the state, taking the total number of districts to 30, up from the existing 23.

Announcing the Cabinet decision, the Chief Minister said the seven districts will be carved out of five existing districts -- Murshidabad, Nadia, South and North 24 Parganas, and Bankura.

A new Sundarban district will be carved out of both South and North 24 Parganas districts; two new districts, Ichhamati in Bongaon subdivision and a yet unnamed district in Basirhat, will be created out of North 24 Parganas district; Ranaghat, a city and municipality in Nadia district, will become the fourth new district; a new district of Bishnupur will be carved out of the existing Bankura district; and two new districts of Baharampur and Kandi will be created out of Murshidabad district.

Sources in the state administration said the new districts were created to streamline administrative operations. "It is purely an administrative decision. The Chief Minister wanted to decentralise the system and that is why she went in for smaller districts. Earlier, the government had carved out Kalimpong from Darjeeling, Jhargram from West Midnapore and split Burdwan into East and West districts."

Dismissing reports of a possible dissolution of the state Cabinet, CM Banerjee said she would carry out a reshuffle and fill in key vacancies. She added that the new ministers -- four to five of them -- would take oath Wednesday evening.

"Subrata Mukherjee and Sadhan Pandey are no more. Partha da (Partha Chatterjee) is in

EXPLAINED

E.

Numbers going up

THE NUMBER of districts around the country has gone up over the years. The 2001 Census recorded 593 districts, which went up to 640 in 2011. At present, India has more than 775 districts. Uttar Pradesh has the most number of districts (75), followed by Madhya Pradesh (52). Goa, by contrast, has only two districts. However, the number of districts in a state is not always a function of the area of a state, or of its population. West Bengal, for example, has 42 Lok Sabha constituencies but only 30 districts even after the addition of the seven new ones.

jail. They had held important departments like panchayat, industry, consumer affairs and many more. I cannot take any more pressure. So I have to get some new faces in the Cabinet. Some leaders will be sent to the party organisation too."

Sources also said the revamped Cabinet will have TMC national general secretary Abhishek Banerjee's imprint, and will have young faces.

Babul Supriyo, Partha Bhowmick, Udayan Guha, Snehasish Chakraborty are among the young faces who may be included in the Cabinet.

TMC announces major reshuffle in party structure

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
KOLKATA, AUGUST 1

THE TRINAMOOL Congress (TMC) on Monday announced major organisational reshuffle in the party appointing several new office-bearers at the district level.

Most district presidents and chairpersons have been replaced according to a list issued by the party leadership.

The reshuffle has taken place at a time when senior party leader Partha Chatterjee was arrested in connection with an alleged school staff recruitment scam. The party, however, claimed that the change had nothing to do with the former minister's arrest.

A senior TMC leader said "Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee had already announced in May that the organisational overhaul will be executed in June or July. The reshuffle has been effected to synchronise the state cabinet and the party organisation. Some of those who have been relieved from the posts of district presidents may get a place in the council of ministers."

According to a party release MP Kakali Ghosh Dastidar is the new president of the Barasat organisational district, replacing Ashani Mukhopadhyay, the Barasat Municipality chairman who is considered close to Partha Chatterjee. Shaoni Singha Roy, a former Congress MLA, is the new president of the Murshidabad and Baharampur organisational districts. Khalilur Rahman has been retained as president of Jangipur organisational district. Controversial Birbhum district president Anubrata Mondal has been retained.

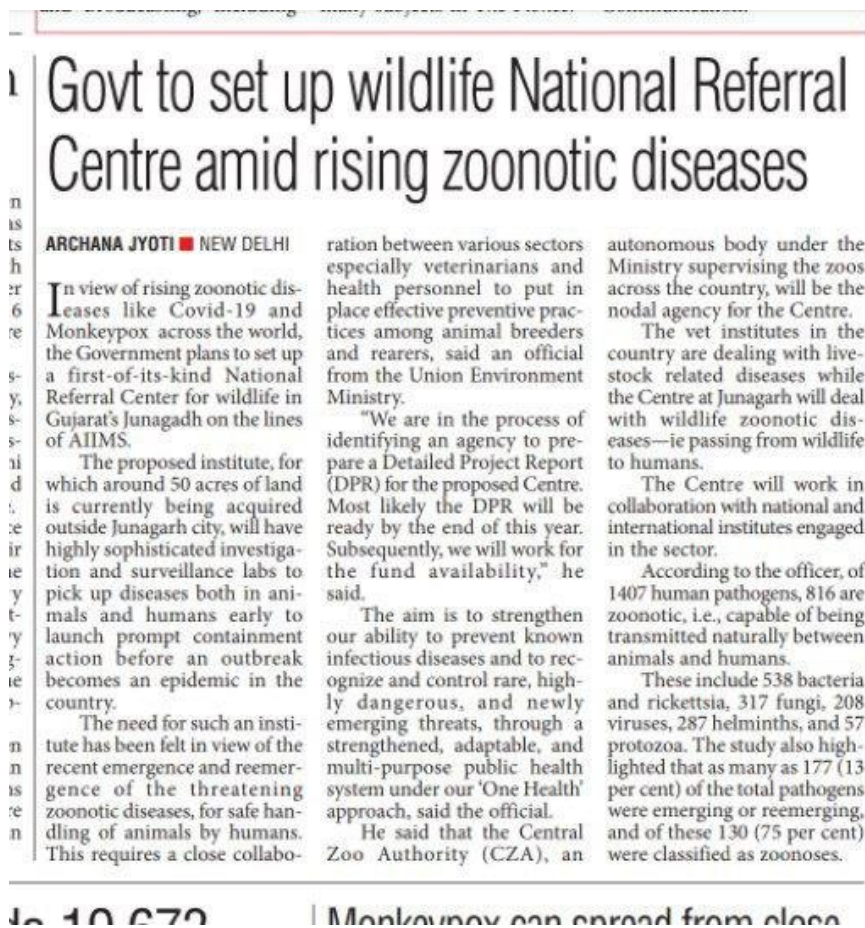
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced that the state would get seven new districts, raising the total number of districts to 30.
- The six of the seven new districts that were announced today are -- Sunderban, Ichhemati, Ranaghat, Bishnupur, Jangipur, and Behrampur. One district will be named Basirhat.
- Earlier there were 23 districts in Bengal now it has been increased to 30.

4. Recently Government announced to set up a first-of-its-kind institute along the lines of the premier AIIMS-like institute for the management of wildlife and tackling emerging and re-emerging threatening infections in _____.

- A. Jamanagar
- B. Junagadh
- C. Jabalpur
- D. Hyderabad
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- ***Amid rising zoonotic diseases like Covid-19 and Monkeypox globally as well as in India, the Government is in the process of setting up a first-of-its-kind institute in Gujarat's Junagadh on the lines of the premier AIIMS-like institute for the management of wildlife and tackle emerging and re-emerging threatening infections in the country.***
- ***The proposed National Referral Centre, for which around 50 acres of land is currently being acquired on the periphery of Junagarh, will be equipped with highly sophisticated investigation and surveillance facilities for research and to pick up diseases both in animals and humans.***
- ***The need for such an institute has been felt because of the recent emergence and re-emergence of the threatening zoonotic diseases which calls for safe handling of animals by humans.***
- ***The aim is to launch prompt containment action before an outbreak becomes an epidemic in the country.***
- ***The Central Zoo Authority (CZA), an autonomous body under the Ministry supervising the zoos across the country, will be the nodal agency for the Centre.***
- ***Currently, the vet institutes in the country are dealing with livestock-related diseases while the Centre at Junagarh will look into wildlife zoonotic diseases—ie passing from wildlife to humans.***
- ***The Centre will work in collaboration with national and international institutes in the sector.***



5. ***Bakshi Stadium*** recently seen in the news is situated in which of the following state?
- A. Arunachal Pradesh
B. Jammu & Kashmir

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- C. Ladakh
- D. Delhi
- E. None of these

- *Jammu and Kashmir's LG Manoj Sinha inaugurated the refurbished Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar.*
 - *Bakshi Stadium is one of the major Stadiums in J&K with a capacity of 45000 seats.*
 - *The renovation work of Bakshi Stadium started in 2017 under a centrally sponsored scheme by National Projects Construction Corporation.*
 - *It has hosted some of the important football matches and events held in J&K.*
 - *The stadium's football turf and outfield have been upgraded as per the norms of FIFA. The renovation work cost is Rs 40.85 crore.*
6. Recently in August _____ has installed this 72-foot-high National flag in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India (FFI).
- A. **Indo-Tibetan Border Police**
 - B. Central Industrial Security Force
 - C. Central Reserve Police Force
 - D. Border Security Force
 - E. None of these
- *The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has installed this 72-foot-high National flag in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India (FFI).*
 - *The National flag is dedicated to the martyrs of the freedom struggle.*
 - *It has been installed as part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.*
 - *On 2 August, the Indian Army hoisted a 75 feet high National Flag in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.*
 - *On 3 August, the Ministry of Culture released a 'Har Ghar Tiranga' anthem to show the spirit, strength, and diversity of India. A bike rally of MPs was also organized from Red Fort to parliament.*
 - *Flag Foundation of India is a non-profit body under the societies registration act of 1980.*
7. Recently India's coffee exports hit a new high of US\$ 1.04 billion in 2021-22. Which is the highest coffee-exporting country in the world?
- A. India
 - B. **Brazil**
 - C. Indonesia

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

D. Russia

E. None of these

Rank	Country	Production in 2020 (Million 60-kg Bags)	Total Market Share
1	Brazil	63.4	37.4%
2	Vietnam	29.0	17.1%
3	Colombia	14.3	8.4%
4	Indonesia	12.0	7.1%
5	Ethiopia	7.3	4.3%
6	Honduras	6.1	3.6%
7	India	5.7	3.4%
8	Uganda	5.6	3.3%
9	Mexico	4.0	2.4%
10	Peru	3.8	2.2%

- **India's coffee exports hit a new high of US\$ 1.04 billion in 2021-22.**
 - **It is the first time that India's coffee export has crossed the billion dollars mark.**
 - **In 2020-21, India's coffee export value was US\$ 734.98 million. Coffee shipments have increased by 42% during this period.**
 - **India export around two-thirds of the coffee it produced every year.**
 - **India exports coffee to more than 50 countries around the world. Italy, Germany, Belgium, and Russia are the largest importers of coffee from India.**
 - **India also exports coffee to Libya, Poland, Jordan, Malaysia, the US, Slovenia, and Australia.**
 - **Karnataka is the largest coffee producer in India. It produces around 70% of the total coffee produced in India. Kerala and Tamil Nadu are in the second and third positions.**
 - **Arabica and Robusta types of coffee are mainly produced in India. Due to its mild fragrant flavor, Arabica coffee has a higher market value than Robusta coffee.**
 - **Brazil is the highest coffee-exporting country in the world. It is followed by Vietnam, Colombia, and Indonesia.**
8. Consider the following statement regarding **Minerals Security Partnership**. Which of the following statement is incorrect
1. Minerals Security Partnership is a US-led partnership initiative of 11 countries announced in June 2022.
 2. It has been formed for strengthening critical mineral supply chains.
 3. **India is a part of this partnership.**
 4. Only 1 & 3
 5. None of these
- **Minerals Security Partnership is a US-led partnership initiative of 11 countries announced in June 2022. It has been formed for strengthening critical mineral supply chains.**
 - **Australia, Canada, Finland, United States, France, Germany, Japan, the Republic of Korea (South Korea), Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the European Commission are members of the MSP.**
 - **At present, India is not a part of this partnership. India is dependent on other countries for rare earth minerals.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The main aim of this new group is to attract investment from governments and the private sector for developing strategic opportunities.*
 - *The Minerals Security Partnership will focus on the supply chains of minerals such as Cobalt, Nickel, Lithium, and 17 'rare earth' minerals.*
 - *This group has been formed to reduce dependency on China for rare earth minerals. China produces around half of the rare earth minerals.*
 - *Cobalt, Nickel, and Lithium are very important because they are used in the batteries of electric vehicles.*
 - *Rare earth elements are used in more than 200 consumer products like mobile phones, computer hard drives, electric and hybrid vehicles, semiconductors, etc.*
 - *Critical minerals are those mineral resources that are very crucial for the economy of a country.*
9. *As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign, ahead of the 75th Independence Day, Gram Panchayat _____ in Lakhani taluka of Bhandara district of Maharashtra earned the distinction of being the first flag village in the district.*
- A. *Burhanpur*
 - B. *Diu*
 - C. *Baigoman*
 - D. ***Borgaon***
 - E. *None of these*
- *As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign, ahead of the 75th Independence Day, Gram Panchayat Borgaon in Lakhani taluka of Bhandara district of Maharashtra earned the distinction of being the first flag village in the district.*
- *This means the tricolor flag has reached all the families, government, and semi-government offices in the village.*
- *Gram Panchayat Borgaon has around 224 families. A village-level committee was formed under the chairmanship of the Sarpanch in the village to see to it that the tricolor flag reaches all the families.*
- *This committee includes all village-level employees and public representatives.*
- *The women of the 'Umeed - Self Help Group', who are very active in Gram*

Aug 07, 2022, 8:33AM

Maharashtra: Borgaon Gram Panchayat in Bhandara becomes 1st flag village in the district

As part of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign, ahead of the 75th Independence Day, Gram Panchayat Borgaon in Lakhani taluka of Bhandara district of Maharashtra earned the distinction of being the first flag village in the district. This means the tricolour flag has reached all the families, government, and semi-government offices in the village.

Gram Panchayat Borgaon has around 224 families. A village level committee was formed under the chairmanship of Sarpanch in the village to see to it that the tricolour flag reaches all the families. This committee includes all village level employees and public representatives. The women of the 'Umeed - Self Help Group', who are very active in Gram Panchayat Borgaon, along with the help of the village level committee, visited houses in the morning to create awareness regarding the importance of this program. They also prepared the flag and distributed it to all the families by going door to door and also through the sales centre in Gram Panchayat.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Panchayat Borgaon, along with the help of the village level committee, visited houses in the morning to create awareness regarding the importance of this program.

- *A grand tricolor rally was also organized in the village to mark the event. More than 300 women, school students, and villagers participated in this rally. Three other gram panchayats in the Lakhani taluka of the Bhandara district including Rajegaon, Masalmeta, and Alesur were also honored during the ceremony for becoming flag villages.*
10. Consider the following statement regarding the **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. *The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program is funded by NDMC and SANKALP, an Asian Development Bank Project, and is implemented by NSDC.*
 2. *RPL is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme.*
 3. *Both 1 & 2*
 4. *All of the above*
- *Skill India launched the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program to upskill 75,000 workers in NDMC jurisdiction.*
 - *The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program is funded by NDMC and SANKALP, a World Bank Project, and is implemented by NSDC.*
 - *Under this program, workers will be upskilled in different trades like construction, electrical, plumbing, pottery, etc. It will increase digital literacy and encourage entrepreneurship.*
 - *This program will be implemented in three phases through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs). It will be implemented in two modes- RPL through Camps and RPL at Employer's premises.*
 - *RPL is a component of the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) scheme.*
 - *The Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) program will increase employability opportunities and reduce the skill gap.*
 - *Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana: It was launched on 15 July 2015.*
 - *It was launched by the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE).*
 - *Its main objective is to encourage and promote skill development in the country.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

11. Recently, *the government has set a target to increase the Health budget* of the country to _____ percent of the GDP, which is currently at 1.9 percent.
- A. 2.1 %
 - B. 2.5 %**
 - C. 4.1 %
 - D. 3.5 %
 - E. None of these

- *Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has said, the government has set a target to increase the Health budget of the country to 2.5 percent of the GDP, which is currently at 1.9 percent.*
- *Giving details about the allocations made in the Health budget, he said, in 2014 the total health budget was to the tune of 33 thousand crore rupees which was increased continuously and now it has reached 83 thousand crore rupees in 2022-23.*
- *Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has said that the target of setting up 1.50 lakh Ayushman Bharat - Health and Wellness Centres (AB- HWC) will become functional by December this year.*
- *Replying to a debate over private member legislation namely the Right to Health Bill 2021 in the Rajya Sabha yesterday, Dr. Mandaviya said that out of the total target of setting up 1.50 lakh such Centres, one lakh 22 thousand are now functional.*
- *He said, at these Health and Wellness Centres, screening of 13 non-communicable diseases will be conducted in addition to three types of cancers including breast and oral cancer.*

Aug 06, 2022, 9:07AM

Health Budget of the country to be hiked to 2.5 percent of GDP from existing 1.9 percent : Mansukh Mandaviya

Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya has said, the government has set a target to increase the Health budget of the country to 2.5 percent of the GDP, which is currently at 1.9 percent. Giving details about the allocations made in the Health budget, he said, in 2014 the total health budget was to the tune of 33 thousand crore rupees which was increased continuously and now it has reached 83 thousand crore rupees in 2022-23.



12. Consider the following statement regarding the "*PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME Scheme)*". Which of the following statement is incorrect?
- 1. The scheme is operational for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs. 20,000 Crore.**
 2. Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is the nodal ministry of the scheme

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

3. On June 29, 2020, Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, launched a Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme

4. Only 2

5. None of these

- Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) is implementing a centrally sponsored "PM Formalisation of Micro food processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme" for providing financial, technical, and business support for setting up / upgradation of micro food processing enterprises in the country.
- On June 29, 2020, Prime Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, launched a Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme
- The scheme is operational for a period of five years from 2020-21 to 2024-25 with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 Crore.
- Nodal Ministry: Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI).
- The expenditure under the scheme would be shared in a 60:40 ratio between Central and State Governments, in a 90:10 ratio with North Eastern and the Himalayan States, a 60:40 ratio with UTs with the legislature, and 100% by the Centre for other UTs.
- Upgradation of Individual Micro Food Processing Units: Existing individual micro food processing units desirous of upgrading their units can avail of credit-linked capital subsidy at 35% of the eligible project cost with a maximum ceiling of Rs.10 lakh per unit.
- Seed Capital to SHG: Initial funding of Rs. 40,000- per Self Help Group (SHG) member would be provided for working capital and the purchase of small tools.

13. Which state government has launched 'Panchamrut Yojana' for doubling farmers' income?

A. Haryana

B. Uttar Pradesh

C. Maharashtra

D. Jharkhand

E. None of these

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched the 'Panchamrut Yojana' for achieving the goal of doubling farmers' income.
- Under this scheme, farmers will grow oilseeds, pulses, and vegetables along with sugarcane for additional income.
- The main objective of the scheme is to reduce the production cost of sugarcane and to increase productivity and the fertility of the land.
- The scheme aims to reduce the costs through saving water and maximum use of stubble and leaves of sugarcane.
- It will also help in reducing the use of fertilizers and pesticides.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The Government will also give ‘Uttam Sugarcane Farmer’ awards to farmers who implement the Panchamrut scheme.*
 - *The government will also encourage farmers to adopt new techniques of agriculture for increasing income.*
14. *Donyi Polo Airport* recently seen in the news is situated in which of the following state?
- A. Assam
 - B. Mizoram
 - C. Nagaland
 - D. Arunachal Pradesh**
 - E. None of these
- *Arunachal Pradesh Cabinet approved the naming of the under-construction Greenfield Airport as “Donyi Polo Airport, Itanagar”.*
 - *The government of India accorded approval for setting up of the Greenfield Airport under the Capital Connectivity Scheme to build up fixed wing air connectivity facility to the State Capital which was a long cherished dream of the people of the State.*
 - *according to the state government, the name of the lone Airport in the Capital city will symbolize the age-old tradition and rich cultural heritage of the tribal State and also will reflect the people’s age-old indigenous reverence for the Sun (Donyi) and the Moon (Polo).*
15. The *Tamil Nadu government announced the introduction of a portal _____ to facilitate farmers know the soil fertility status, obtain soil health cards and implement schemes for paddy, millet, pulses, and oilseeds to increase foodgrain production.*
- A. Tamil Rakshak
 - B. Tamil Man Valam**
 - C. Tamil Kelam
 - D. Tamil Velur
 - E. None of these
- *The Tamil Nadu government will soon introduce a portal ‘Tamil Man Valam’ to facilitate farmers to know the soil fertility status, obtain soil health cards and implement*

TN to launch portal to check soil fertility, launch farm schemes

The announcement was made at Foodpro 2022 event

OUR BUREAU
Chennai, August 6

The Tamil Nadu government will soon introduce a portal, ‘Tamil Man Valam’, to facilitate farmers know the soil fertility status, obtain soil health card and implement schemes for paddy, millet, pulses and oilseeds to increase production.

This was announced at the Foodpro 2022 event organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here on Saturday.

Delivering the special address, Tamil Nadu Agriculture Minister MRK Panneerselvam said the State government is making efforts to get a fair price for farm produce and would implement various schemes to enhance farmer income.

“This can only be possible with more food processing parks and units coming up inside the State. There is an increase in the total cultivated area in Tamil Nadu from 60 per cent to 75 per



MRK Panneerselvam, Tamil Nadu Minister for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare

for 15 per cent, ranking third, producing over 8,000 products. To promote food processing, in the last financial year, 227 units in the State were given incentives worth ₹ 28.18 crore and loans of ₹112.72 crore were also sanctioned.”

C. Samayamoorthy, Agricultural Production Commissioner and Secretary to the Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Department, said, “A separate food processing and agri exports department would be set up by the government to help enhance agri exports from the State.”

cent or 116.63 lakh acres of cultivable land. Tamil Nadu is the only State to have a separate agriculture budget and in its second edition, the focus was on digital agriculture and emerging technologies aimed at helping farmers grow and earn more,” he added.

In his special address, Minister for Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) TM Anbarasan, said, “Out of the total number of MSMEs registered in India, Tamil Nadu accounts

BusinessLine

Disclaimer: Readers are requested to verify & make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THE PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director's, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

schemes for paddy, millet, pulses, and oilseeds to increase foodgrain production.

- *This was announced during the Foodpro 2022 event organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).*
- *The state has seven agroclimatic zones including the Cauvery delta. It has a high rainfall region, rain shadow region, and hilly and high-altitude regions.*
- *Artificial intelligence will be used to monitor pest infestation in crops and instantaneous management measures will be delivered to farmers through SMS advisories.*

16. Recently in August _____ *state government launched the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) Nano Urea Spraying Scheme statewide from Isanpur Mota village through drone technology.*

- A. Haryana
- B. Punjab
- C. Gujarat**
- D. Uttarakhand
- E. None of these

- *Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel on Friday launched the Indian Farmers' Fertilizer Cooperative Limited (IFFCO) Nano Urea Spraying Scheme statewide from Isanpur Mota village of Gandhinagar district through drone technology.*
- *The scheme is a 100 percent state-funded scheme for promoting the use of drones in the agricultural sector and is supposed to cut down the agricultural cost and increase the income of the farmers.*
- *The use of drones in spraying the Nano urea will cut down the agricultural cost substantially which will increase the income of the farmers. The provision of 35 crore rupees has been made for the scheme in the current financial year.*
- *India, the world's largest buyer of urea and di-ammonium phosphate, aims to become self-sufficient by 2025 and is expected to save Rs 40,000 crores with domestically produced Nano-urea by IFFCO. IG Drones joined hands with IFFCO to start the field trial of Nano urea Liquid spraying using drones.*
- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on May 28 this year, inaugurated the world's first nano urea liquid plant at Kalol in Gujarat. IFFCO, Nano Urea is the solely Nano fertilizer authorized using the Government of India and covered in the Fertilizer Control Order (FCO). It is developed and patented by using IFFCO.*

17. Consider the following statement regarding *Asia's tallest temple based on Gita's teaching*. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. *Asia's first and tallest temple to be based on the teaching of Bhagavad Gita, is named Gyan Mandir.*
2. *It is being constructed on the banks of Brahma Sarovar in Haryana's Kurukshetra.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

3. It will be an eighteen-storied temple with a height of 260 feet.

4. None of the above

Asia's tallest temple based on Gita's teaching to come up in Kurukshetra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 6 AUGUST

Gyan Mandir, Asia's first and tallest temple to be based on the teaching of Bhagavad Gita, is being constructed on the banks of Brahma Sarovar in Haryana's Kurukshetra.

Gyan Mandir will be a monument dedicated to Indic knowledge, ethos, and wisdom. The temple is supposed to be the first of its own kind based on the teachings of the holy

It will be an eighteen-storied temple with a height of 260 feet

Gita.

It will be an eighteen-storied temple with a height of 260 feet. On the eve of 75th Anniversary of India's independence, Gyan Mandir is also going to celebrate "Azadi ka Amir Mahotasav" on August 13 in its premises.

The temple is being con-



structed by Sri Brahampuri Annakshetra Ashram Trust, which has been allotted three acres of land by the Kurukshetra

Development Board.

The idea of a temple on the teachings of the Gita was conceived by Swami Chiranjeepuriji Maharaj Kurukshetra for showcasing the scriptural and spiritual heritage of India.

The swami moved to Kurukshetra in 1987 on the occasion of a solar eclipse and set up the Sri Brahampuri Annakshetra Ashram. For the last 40 years, he has been subsisting only on cow milk.

- *Gyan Mandir, Asia's first and tallest temple to be based on the teaching of Bhagavad Gita, is being constructed on the banks of Brahma Sarovar in Haryana's Kurukshetra.*
- *Gyan Mandir will be a monument dedicated to Indic knowledge, ethos, and wisdom. The temple is supposed to be the first of its kind based on the teachings of the holy Gita.*
- *It will be an eighteen-storied temple with a height of 260 feet. On the eve of the 75th Anniversary of India's independence, Gyan Mandir is also going to celebrate "Azadi ka Amir Mahotasav" on August 13 on its premises.*
- *The temple is being constructed by Sri Brahampuri Annakshetra Ashram Trust, which has been allotted three acres of land by the Kurukshetra Development Board.*
- *The idea of a temple on the teachings of the Gita was conceived by Swami Chiranjeepuriji Maharaj Kurukshetra for showcasing the scriptural and spiritual heritage of India.*
- *The swami moved to Kurukshetra in 1987 on the occasion of a solar eclipse and set up the Sri Brahampuri Annakshetra Ashram. For the last 40 years, he has been subsisting only on cow milk.*

18. Recently in August Centre has planned to launch a new programme _____ primarily aimed at providing nutritional support to TB patients.

- A. Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan
- B. Pradhan Mantri Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan
- C. Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Yojna
- D. Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh India Abhiyan
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Even as tuberculosis, one of the biggest killers, saw a 19 percent increase in 2021, the Centre has now planned to launch a new program -- Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) -- that will encourage financial contributions from not only non-governmental organizations (NGOs) but also private sector corporates and the community.*
- *Driven primarily by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the program, to be formally launched on August 20, is primarily aimed at providing nutritional support to TB patients.*
- *One of the main thrust areas of the program will involve encouraging the adoption of TB patients so that their nutritional needs are met.*
- *The new program would be an expansion of the Union Health Ministry's focus on TB eradication. The central government implements the NTEP under the aegis of the National Health Mission (NHM).*
- *Recently, Union Health Minister Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya alluded to launching a new program to eliminate TB.*
- *While the government's financial contribution to a TB patient's nutrition is a meager Rs 500 a month under the Nikshay Poshan, the PMTBMBA aims to build an indicative list of nutrition that would include 3.5 kg cereals, 1.5 kg pulses, 1 liter of cooking oil, 1.5 kg of groundnut or milk powder or eggs per patient per month.*

19. Recently in August **Government decided to set up 'Indian Institute of Heritage' (IIH) as a Deemed to be University as per UGC (Institutions deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 at _____.**

- A. Pune
- B. **Noida**
- C. Hyderabad
- D. Mumbai
- E. None of these

- *The government has decided to set up the 'Indian Institute of Heritage' (IIH) as a Deemed to be University as per UGC (Institutions deemed to be Universities) Regulations, 2019 at Noida, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Uttar Pradesh.*
- *It will be one of its kind in the country providing higher education and research in the fields of Indian heritage and conservation and the Government have no plan to create more such institutions in the country.*
- *The Institute is being set up as Deemed to be University by integrating*
- *Institute of Archaeology (Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute of Archaeology),*
- *School of Archival Studies under National Archives of India, New Delhi,*
- *the National Research Laboratory for Conservation of Cultural Property (NRLC), Lucknow,*
- *National Museum Institute of History of Art, Conservation and Museology (NMICHM) and*
- *Academic Wing of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi.*
- *These shall become various schools of Institute.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Indian Institute of Heritage will be a world-class university that would focus on the conservation and research of India's rich tangible heritage while offering research, development, and dissemination of knowledge associated with heritage.*

20. Consider the following statement regarding 'Badhe Chalo'. Movement.

1. *Ministry of Culture, has decided to create a youth-centric activation for greater outreach of Amrit Mahotsav named 'Badhe Chalo'.*
2. *Badhe Chalo is being held across 10 cities every day from 5th August to 11th August 2022.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *To connect with the youth of the nation, and to instill a deeper sense of patriotism among them, the Ministry of Culture has decided to create a youth-centric activation for greater outreach of Amrit Mahotsav named 'Badhe Chalo'.*
- *It is designed to involve the youth of the country encouraging them to come forward and imbibe the true spirit of our democracy and celebrate 75 years of India's independence with youthful fervor.*
- *Through this mass movement or 'Jan Bhagidari' initiative, the Ministry of Culture also intends to amplify and support the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' movement.*
- *This movement has been initiated by the Honourable Prime Minister and Home Minister and it calls upon every Indian to hoist a Tiranga in their homes between August 13th– 15th, 2022.*
- *To connect and to bring the youth and people together from across the country on one platform, Badhe Chalo will feature Flash Dances, where dancers will perform on a specially created 'Youth Anthem'.*
- *Badhe Chalo is being held across 10 cities every day from 5th August to 11th August 2022. These events will culminate with a Grand Finale on 12th August, 2022 at Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi.*

21. Recently *Ministry of Ayush* signed an MoU with _____ *for the Introduction of Ayush Systems in 5 Railways Hospitals resulting in the establishment of Ayush units.*

- A. *Ministry of housing and urban affairs*
- B. *Ministry of Jal Shakti*
- C. *Ministry of Railways*
- D. *Ministry of communication*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

E. None of these

- Ministry of Ayush signed an MoU with the Ministry of Railway for the Introduction of Ayush Systems in five Railways Hospitals resulting in the establishment of Ayush units at 5 Railway zonal hospitals at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, and Guwahati.
- Ministry of Ayush has collaborated with the Ministry of Defence resulting in the establishment of Ayurveda OPDs at 12 AFMS (Armed Force Medical Services) Hospitals and 37 Cantonment Board Hospitals. These facilities are successfully operational with effect from the 1st week of June 2022.
- Ministry of Ayush had a Central Sector Scheme namely Champion Services Sector Scheme for Medical Value Travel. There were three components of this scheme i.e. (1) Establishment of Ayush Super specialty Hospitals / Daycare Centres, (2) Skill development in the Ayush sector, and (3) Establishment of Ayush Grid.
- Ministry of Ayush has developed a Central Sector Scheme i.e. Ayurwashya Yojana in which there is a component called Up-gradation of facilities to Centre of Excellence (CoE). The main objective of the CoE component is to support the establishment and upgradation of both functions and facilities of reputed institutions to strengthen Ayush professionals in education, technology, research & innovation, and other fields necessary for the promotion of Ayush in National as well as International level.

22. Consider the following statement regarding Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana.

1. In 2016, MoFPI introduced an umbrella Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters or SAMPADA,
2. In 2017, SAMPADA was renamed as the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- SAMPADA is a comprehensive package to create modern infrastructure with efficient supply chain management from farm gate to retail outlet. In May 2017, the central govt. had launched SAMPADA (Scheme for Agro-Marine Processing and Development of Agro-Processing Clusters) with an allocation of Rs 6,000 crore. The scheme was renamed PMKSY in August 2017.
- It is an umbrella scheme incorporating ongoing schemes of the Ministry like Mega Food Parks, Integrated Cold Chain and Value Addition Infrastructure, Food Safety and Quality Assurance Infrastructure, etc.
- The food processing ministry of the central government on 7 February 2022 said its flagship scheme Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY) has been extended till March 2026 with an allocation of Rs. 4,600 crores.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

23. Recently _____ state government signed a *tripartite MoU with NITI Aayog for school education transformation.*

- A. Assam
- B. Arunachal Pradesh**
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Jharkhand
- E. None of these

- *Arunachal Pradesh government signed a tripartite MoU with NITI Aayog for school education transformation.*
- *The main aim of MoU is to bring large-scale transformation in school education in Arunachal Pradesh.*
- *The MoU is a three-year partnership for improving the learning outcome of students across more than 3,000 government schools.*
- *The school education transformation project will be implemented under the NITI Aayog's Development Support Services for States (DSSS) initiative.*
- *Development Support Services for States (DSSS):*
- *It aims to build institutional and organizational capacities of State and State-level institutions.*
- *It establishes the Centre-State partnership model for cooperation.*

24. Consider the following statement regarding the *startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).*

1. *Rs. 375.25 crores approved to 102 incubators under Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) as on 30th July 2022*
2. *The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) is being implemented by the Government with effect from 1st April 2021.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *As on 30th July 2022, of the corpus of Rs. 945 crores, Rs. 375.25 crore have been approved to 102 incubators under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS).*
- *Also, 378 DPIIT recognized startups have been approved a total sum of Rs. 81.45 crores by the approved incubators under the Scheme.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Specifically, from the North Eastern States (Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, and Tripura), as on 30th July 2022, two incubators (one each from Sikkim and Assam) have been approved a total sum of Rs. 5 crores under the Scheme.
- Also, 9 DPIIT recognized startups from the North Eastern States have been approved a total sum of Rs. 1.15 crore by the approved incubators under the Scheme.
- The Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS) is being implemented by the Government with effect from 1st April 2021.
- It provides financial assistance to eligible Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recognized startups for proof of concept, prototype development, product trials, market-entry, and commercialization.

25. Consider the following statement regarding **World's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant**.

1. The world's largest floating solar power plant will be built on **Omkareshwar Dam on the Kaveri River in Khandwa**.
2. The floating power plant is expected to **generate about 600 Megawatt of power by 2022-23**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- The world's largest floating solar power plant will be built on **Omkareshwar Dam on the Narmada River in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh at an estimated cost of over Rs 3000 crores**.
- The floating power plant is expected to generate about 600 Megawatt of power by 2022-23.
- The world's largest floating solar power in India is being built to increase the power generation capacity and address electricity problems in Madhya Pradesh.
- The world's largest floating solar power plant will be spread over 100 square kilometers.
- The hydel project will involve producing energy from water.

Country's largest floating solar plant project begins



600 MW Omkareshwar floating solar project at the reservoir of Narmada river is being constructed in two phases. It will be MP's first and country's largest floating solar project. Project agreements were signed between Madhya Pradesh Power Management Company Ltd and Project Developers on August 4. Till now, solar projects were developed on land, but innovative steps have been taken by the state government and RUMSL to give concrete shape to the concept of developing solar projects on water too.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The new floating solar plant will make Khandwa the only district in Madhya Pradesh to have all three things- thermal power station, hydel and solar power.*
- *This will enable the generation of over 4,000MW of power from a single district.*

26. Consider the following statement regarding **Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0**.

1. **Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021**
2. **58 airports are covered under Krishi Udan 2.0 till now**
3. **Recently, Prayagraj airport is included under Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 2
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

- *Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0 was announced on 27 October 2021 enhancing the existing provisions, mainly focusing on transporting perishable food products from the hilly areas, North-Eastern States, and tribal areas. For facilitating and incentivizing the movement of agri-produce by air transportation, the Airports Authority of India (AAI) provides a full waiver of Landing, Parking charges, and Terminal Navigational Landing Charges (TNLC).*
- *Further, after evaluation of Krishi Udan 2.0, five more airports have been included, making it to 58 airports.*
- *Krishi Udan Scheme is a convergence scheme where eight Ministries/Departments namely the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Department of Commerce, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) would leverage their existing schemes to strengthen the logistics for transportation of Agri-produce.*
- *Currently, Prayagraj airport is included under Krishi Udan Scheme 2.0. All perishable commodities are covered under Krishi Udan Scheme in the country. The scheme assists farmers in transporting agricultural products so that it improves their value realization.*

27. Consider the following statement regarding **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021**.

1. **Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021 seeks to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.**
2. **The Bill reduces the total number of schedules to four [from six earlier - specially protected plants (1), specially protected animals (4), and vermin species (1)]**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Recently, the Lok Sabha passed the Wildlife (Protection) Amendment Bill, 2021.
- The bill seeks to implement the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
- Also known as the Washington Convention, CITES is an international agreement between governments to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten the survival of the species.
- CITES entered into force on 1 July 1975.
- Its secretariat is situated in Geneva, Switzerland.
- With 184 Parties today (India since 1976), CITES is one of the conservation treaties with the largest number of members.
- The Bill amends the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 which regulated the protection of wild animals, birds, and plants.
- The Bill reduces the total number of schedules to four [from six earlier - specially protected plants (1), specially protected animals (4), and vermin species (1)]
- The bill empowers the central government to regulate or prohibit the import, trade, and proliferation of invasive alien species.
- Alien species refers to plant or animal species not native to India and whose introduction may adversely impact wildlife or its habitat.

28. Recently, PM Modi inaugurated various projects of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur in which of the following states of India?

- A. Gujarat**
- B. Rajasthan
- C. Haryana
- D. Madhya Pradesh
- E. None of these

Lok Sabha passes Bill to implement global norms on endangered species

HARIKISHAN SHARMA
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

LOK SABHA on Tuesday passed by voice vote the Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Bill-2021 that seeks to provide for implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).

The Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17, 2021. It seeks to amend the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Replying to the debate on the Bill, Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said 41 members participated in the debate and all of them unanimously welcomed the amendments proposed to the Bill.

Elaborating the objectives of the Bill, Yadav said a management committee is necessary for proper exports as per the CITES agreement. "When we export a product from our country, we will certify that no poaching of endangered species has been undertaken for that item," he said.

Dispelling members' apprehensions about elephants being taken by a trust in Jamnagar, Yadav referred to a judgment of the Karnataka High Court that was upheld by the Supreme Court.

"There has been a religious and cultural tradition in the country. If we had reared elephants, it would have been done with respect. We have adopted elephants with our lifestyle in Kerala and other places also. Regulation will be done by the central board but we will follow our tradition, cultural tradition to continue the protection of elephants," Yadav said.

Responding to Congress



Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav. File

leader Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury's remarks, Yadav said the government has drafted the Bill after having consultations with all stakeholders.

Earlier, participating in the debate, Chowdhury said that the Bill should have been opened for more time in order to garner public views. He also asked the government what measures it will take to curb the smuggling of wildlife.

Initiating the debate, Congress member Pradyut Bordoloi said that this is one of the "rare" Bills that has been referred to the Standing Committee. "Consultation is a very important part of democracy. In the UPA regime, about 71 per cent Bills were referred to the Standing Committees for discussion. But unfortunately, that figure has now come down to 11 per cent," Bordoloi said.

Raising the issue of transportation of a large number of elephants to Jamnagar by a prominent industrialist, Bordoloi said, "A scientific study has to be done to see whether elephants can survive in a non-family atmosphere and that is very important."

BJP member Kirti Vardhan Singh said the Bill not only fulfils the provisions of the CITES but also covers all aspects of conservation, protection and management of wildlife in the country.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *PM Modi inaugurated various projects of Shrimad Rajchandra Mission, Dharampur in Gujarat on 04 August 2022.*
- *He inaugurated Shrimad Rajchandra Hospital at Dharampur in Valsad district, Gujarat.*
- *The entire project costs around 200 crore rupees. It is a 250-bed multispecialty hospital.*
- *He also laid the foundation stone of Shrimad Rajchandra Animal Hospital.*
- *He also laid the foundation stone of the Shrimad Rajchandra Center of Excellence for Women.*
- *It will employ over 700 tribal women. It will provide a livelihood to thousands of others.*
- *Shrimad Rajchandra Mission Dharampur is a spiritual movement for inner transformation. It was founded by Gurudevshri Rakeshji. It works through 196 centers on five continents.*
- *Shrimad Rajchandra (1867 – 1901) was a Jain poet, mystic, philosopher, scholar, and reformer. He wrote much philosophical poetry including Atma Siddhi. He is best known for his teachings on Jainism and his spiritual guidance to Mahatma Gandhi.*

29. *Tsungremmong festival* recently seen in the news was celebrated by which of the following state?

- A. Nagaland**
- B. Manipur
- C. Mizoram
- D. Meghalaya
- E. None of these

- *Tsungremmong is a pre-harvest festival that marks the end of rigorous plantation in the Indisen village of Nagaland's Dimapur district. It is celebrated by the AO tribe of Nagaland.*
- *During the festival, young boys and girls are seen dancing to the tunes of traditional songs, and playing games while being dressed in colorful attires.*
- *It is believed that the celebrations of festivals like Tsungremmong foster a spirit of unity and peace among the people of the state.*

30. Which of the following state **government has launched 'Mission Bhumi Putra'**, a digital way to issue digitalized caste certificates to students?

- A. Assam**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- B. Mizoram
- C. Nagaland
- D. Meghalaya
- E. None of these

- Himanta Biswa Sarma launched 'Mission Bhumi Putra', a digital way to issue digitalized caste certificates to students.
- The Chief Minister inaugurated a Bhumi Putra Portal at a program held at Srimanta Sankardev Kalakshetra.
- Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'Mission Bhumi Putra' and its portal, which is being implemented by the departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice and Empowerment.
- Implemented by the Departments of Tribal Affairs (Plain) and Social Justice Empowerment, the mission has been implemented to carry forward the government's mission of easy public service to the public.
- The certificates will be available in the Digi locker under the IT Act and digitally signed by the respective Deputy Commissioners.

31. Consider the following statement regarding India updated nationally determined commitments or NDCs to the United Nations. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. India plans to achieve net zero by 2050.
2. India had argued that it should get \$1 trillion in climate funding out to 2030.
3. India planned to cut emissions intensity of its GDP to 45%, by 2030, from 2005 levels,
4. To achieve about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.
5. India's updated NDC will be implemented over the period 2021-2030

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to be

Cabinet nod for climate pledges

However, India's updated NDC does not include all the promises made at COP26

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

India ratified pledges made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Glasgow last November to accelerate the country's reliance on renewable energy to power the economy and be effectively free from use of fossil fuels by 2070. However, the approved pledges were fewer than those Mr. Modi committed to.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Mr. Modi, on Wednesday approved an update to India's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). Mr. Modi had laid out five commitments, or *Panchamrit*, as the government references it, namely: India will increase its non-fossil energy capacity to 500 GW (gigawatt) by 2030; will meet 50% of its energy requirements from "renewable energy" by 2030; will reduce the total projected carbon emissions



Net zero: India aims at putting an end to dependence on fossil fuels by 2070. **AP**

by one billion tonnes from now till 2030; will reduce the carbon intensity of its economy by more than 45%; and will achieve the target of "net zero" by the year 2070, when there will be no net carbon dioxide emitted from energy sources. A press statement, following the Cabinet approval, only mentions two of these promises, namely that India is committed to reduce emissions intensity of its

GDP by 45% by 2030, from the 2005 level and achieving 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. Independent experts said that while the NDCs reflected India's commitment to sustainable development they were a climbdown from the ambition India had expressed at Glasgow.

"India's updated NDC

10 more Indian wetlands sites get Ramsar tag

NEW DELHI
India has added 10 more Ramsar sites, or wetlands that are of international importance, taking the number of such sites to 64, Environment Minister Bhupendra Yadav said on Wednesday. The 10 new Ramsar sites include six in Tamil Nadu and one each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

does not include all the promises made at COP26 in Glasgow," Vibhuti Garg, Energy Economist & India Lead, Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis, said in a statement.

Madhura Joshi, Senior Associate, India Energy Transition Lead, ESG, said: "A reiteration of the renewables focus would have provided a fresh impetus for the renewables sector."


**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

- India at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP26) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Glasgow, United Kingdom expressed to intensify its climate action by presenting to the world five nectar elements (Panchamrit) of India's climate action.

PM Modi's 5 Big Goals for India:

1. Achieving net-zero by 2070
2. Reducing total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes starting now till 2030
3. Increasing renewable energy component to 50% of our total energy requirements by 2030
4. Reducing carbon intensity by 45% by 2030
5. Increasing non-fossil energy capacity to reach 500 GW by 2030



A STEP TOWARDS 'NET ZERO' BY 2070

Commitments under updated NDC of 2022:

- Achieve about 50% cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030
- Reduce emissions intensity (emission per unit of GDP) by 45% by 2030 from 2005 levels (citizen-centric approach to combat climate change)
- Propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE'- 'Lifestyle for Environment' – as a key to combat climate change

What does earlier (first) NDC of 2015 say:

It has three quantitative targets up to 2030

- Cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40%
- Reduce emissions intensity of GDP by 33-35% compared to 2005 levels
- Creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover
- It was submitted to the UNFCCC on October 2, 2015

- Earlier, India submitted its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to UNFCCC on October 2, 2015. The 2015 NDC comprised eight goals; three of these have quantitative targets up to 2030 namely, cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil sources to reach 40%; reduction of the

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

emissions intensity of GDP by 33 to 35 percent compared to 2005 levels, and creation of additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO₂ equivalent through additional forest and tree cover.

- *As per the updated NDC, India now stands committed to reducing the Emissions Intensity of its GDP by 45 percent by 2030, from the 2005 level, and achieving about 50 percent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030.*
- *The updated NDC reads "To put forward and further propagate a healthy and sustainable way of living based on traditions and values of conservation and moderation, including through a mass movement for 'LIFE'– 'Lifestyle for Environment' as a key to combating climate change".*
- *Recognizing that lifestyle has a big role in climate change, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, at COP 26, proposed a 'One-Word Movement', to the global community. This one word is LIFE...L, I, F, E, i.e. Lifestyle For Environment.*
- *The updated NDC also represents the framework for India's transition to cleaner energy for the period 2021-2030.*
- *India's updated NDC will be implemented over the period 2021-2030.*
- *The Net Zero target by 2030 by Indian Railways alone will lead to a reduction of emissions by 60 million tonnes annually. Similarly, India's massive LED bulb campaign is reducing emissions by 40 million tonnes annually.*
- *The cabinet's decision to update its NDCs comes ahead of the next round of global climate talks in Egypt in November.*
- *Rich nations have said that they will only be able to meet a 2020 goal to provide \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer countries in 2023.*

32. Consider the following statement regarding the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium'.

1. *Bhupender Yadav inaugurated the country's largest online herbarium database, the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal.*
2. *It has been developed by the Botanical Survey of India under the framework of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India'.*
3. *The Central National Herbarium (CAL) is located at Howrah.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Indian Virtual Herbarium, biggest database of country's flora, is a global hit

The portal, with nearly one lakh images of specimens, recorded two lakh hits from 55 countries since its July 1 launch; site to host all of India's herbaria by 2024

SHIV SAHAY SINGH
KOLKATA

With details of about one lakh plant specimens, the Indian Virtual Herbarium, the biggest virtual database of flora in the country, is generating a lot of interest and turning out to be an eye-catching endeavour. While herbarium specimens are considered important tools for plant taxonomy, conservation, habitat loss and even climate change, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has recently described the Indian Virtual Herbarium as an example of how digital tools can help us connect to our roots.

In the *Mam Ki Baat* episode on July 31, Mr. Modi spoke about the novel initia-

tive, and said that the herbarium was an interesting collection of plants and preserved parts of plants. "The virtual herbarium also presents a rich botanical diversity of the country. I am convinced that the Indian Virtual Herbarium will turn out to be an important resource for research on plants in the country," he said.

Developed by scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), the herbarium was inaugurated by Union Minister of Environment Forest and Climate Change Bhupendra Yadav in Kolkata on July 1. Since then, the portal ivh.bsi.gov.in has had nearly two lakh hits from 55 countries.



Flora files: Plant specimens on display at the Indian Virtual Herbarium. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Each record in the digital herbarium includes an image of the preserved plant specimen, scientific name, collection locality, and col-

lection date, collector name, and barcode number. The digital herbarium includes features to extract the data State-wise, and us-

ers can search plants of their own States, which will help them identify regional plants and in building regional checklists.

The portal includes about one lakh images of herbarium specimens. BSI Director A.A. Mao said that by 2022-end, the number of digitised species will increase to two lakh.

"By 2024, we plan to provide a platform to all the herbaria in the country so that they can display their herbarium collection on the platform," Dr. Mao said.

Scientists say that there are approximately three million plant specimens in

Chandra Bose Indian Botanic Garden at Howrah in West Bengal.

"Work on the digitisation of the specimens started in 2019, and most of the digitisation has been done by the BSI. About 52% of our type specimens are from foreign nations and collected from 82 countries of the world during the British-era," Kumar Avinash Bharati, scientist, BSI said.

The Indian Virtual Herbarium is also deeply linked with the botanical history of the country. The portal provides most valuable historical collections of botanists like William Roxburgh, Nathaniel Wallich and Joseph Dalton Hooker, considered the founding fathers

of botany in India.

The digital herbarium has some of the oldest botanical specimens dating as early as 1696. *Cyperus procerus* was collected between June 15 and 20, 1696, near Chennai. The oldest type specimen *Lepidagathis scariosa* was collected in 1817 by Robert Wight. Type specimens are those collections that help in new discoveries and are considered of great significance by botanists and taxonomists. Researchers need to examine the types of the names in order to confirm their identities. As a priority, the Indian Virtual Herbarium has digitised information with images of 29,615 type specimens on its platform.

SPECIAL

the country which are with different herbaria located at zonal centres of the BSI and at the Central National Herbarium at Acharya Jagadish

- Recently, Union Environment Minister inaugurated the country's largest online herbarium database, the 'Indian Virtual Herbarium' web portal.
- Developed by: Botanical Survey of India under 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Digital India'.
- Aim: To provide information on herbarium specimens, and floral diversity of India and other countries through online access.
- The portal includes various images of herbarium specimens with metadata comprising all digitized images of type specimens, Wallich specimens, Orchid specimens, and other specimens.
- It will aid the research studies and provide valuable insight for global plant research.
- An herbarium is a collection of plant samples with associated data for long-term study.
- The Central National Herbarium (CAL) located at Howrah, was established in 1795 and comprised about 2,000,000 (2 million) specimens.
- The first herbarium in the country is one of the most important Asian Herbaria.

33. **Swatantra Bharat Vajrotsavalu initiative** which was seen in the news recently is an initiative by which of the following state government?

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Telangana**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **The Telangana government will kickstart Swatantra Bharata Vajrotsavalu at Hitex International Convention Centre here on Monday. Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will inaugurate the 15-day celebrations.**
- **The Chief Minister has called for a Dwisaptaham (fortnight) fete to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee grandly. About 2,000 people are slated to attend the inaugural function of the Vajrotsavalu.**
- **Under the banner “Swatantra Bharata Vajrotsavaalu” (Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Independent India), the state government plans to distribute national flags to all 1.2 crore households free of cost.**
- **The state also plans to conduct various cultural events, and competitions for school and college students for a fortnight from August 8 to 22, named ‘Swatantra Bharata Vajrotsava Dwisaptaham’.**
- **Richard Attenborough’s Academy Award-winning film, Gandhi would also be screened every day in theatres for students of government and private institutions.**



34. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil an umbrella healthcare program on 15 August that will subsume existing flagship schemes. What is the name of the scheme?**
- A. **PM Samagra Swasthya Yojana**
 - B. **Heal In India**
 - C. **PM Jan Arogya Yojana**
 - D. **PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission**
 - E. **None of these**
- **Prime Minister Narendra Modi will unveil an**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

umbrella healthcare program on 15 August that will subsume existing flagship schemes.

- **The new scheme, tentatively called the PM Samagra Swasthya Yojana, will aim to provide universal access to equitable, affordable, and quality healthcare.**

Modi to launch three health schemes on 15 August

FROM PAGE 1

cial, one of the three people cited above.

"This new scheme will have a saturation approach, which means it will cover all healthcare services so that every individual can get them easily. It will be the biggest healthcare scheme, with a holistic and comprehensive approach. This umbrella scheme will be IT-enabled and absorb all major flagship schemes of the government such as PM-JAY, ABDM and PM-ABHIM," the official said.

According to the second official, a detailed presentation was made before the prime minister recently about all three initiatives.

Heal in India will be the country's first institutional mechanism to promote medical tourism, the third official said. "The idea is to create a platform that will facilitate international patients coming to India for treatment. This will give liberty to foreign and overseas patients to choose hospitals in India as per the package rate, facilities, and kind of services in any part of the country they want to get the treatment. For example,



Treatment costs in India are 65-90% below the cost in the US. MINT

Kerala is running one such portal, but the health ministry's platform on medical value travel will be a comprehensive one. Patients can report their grievances and also give feedback ratings to the hospital. Even patients can contact the hospital and take telemedicine before coming to India. This platform will cater to foreign patients, with a list of high-end hospitals to less expensive hospitals as per their requirement," the official said.

Heal in India will be the country's first institutional mechanism to promote medical tourism

"The Heal By India initiative will provide an opportunity for our doctors and other medical professionals to travel to other countries to perform surgeries, providing a way to a healthy global society. The National Health Authority's health professional registry (HPR) and hospital facility registry (HFR) are supporting us in building this platform," the official added.

Queries emailed to the spokesperson for Prime Minister's Office, and the health

ministry on Saturday remained unanswered.

Dr Naresh Trehan, chairman and managing director of Medanta Hospital, said: "India has huge potential to serve overseas patients because of world-class treatment and facilities. They get at a price which is one-tenth of the price in the US, and the quality is the same. But they have little awareness when they come to India. So, we need to facilitate them as they should know about the hospitals in India; a medical visa should be available; medical channel at the airport should be available. Hospitals should pick them up from the airport for treatment and get them back on the plane. So, if we make the whole circle seamless, with a positive experience, then India's potential is unlimited."

As far as Heal By India is concerned, Dr Trehan said, "Currently, many Indian doctors and nurses are serving overseas very successfully in very high positions. Most of them are deputed in the National Health Service (NHS) run by the UK government. There are countries which are requesting us to send teams of

doctors and nurses to come and operate in their health facilities till they develop such well-equipped systems, and we are already helping them. We are also collaborating with many countries to bring their doctors for training. So, India's position in the field of high-end medicines and complicated procedures at a reasonable cost is very high. So, we need to capitalize it."

Dr Satyender Goel, founder and chief executive of India Health Link, a health tech company, said, "The Union government has launched multiple healthcare schemes in the past couple of years, and these cover different aspects of the health system. So, if all of these schemes come under one roof, that will complete the system."

India is currently ranked 10th among the top 46 countries in the Medical Tourism Index 2020-21.

Treatment costs in India are 65-90% below the cost in the US. In India, there are 39 Joint Commission International and 657 National Accreditation Board for Hospitals accredited hospitals, which are considered equal to or better than global quality standards.

- **Apart from this, Modi will also launch two more schemes—Heal by India to send doctors abroad to perform medical procedures; and Heal in India to promote medical tourism in the country.**
- **The Samagra Swasthya Yojana will absorb schemes, including PM Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY), Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and PM Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).**
- **The new umbrella scheme will be a rebranding of the National Health Mission (NHM), or an advanced version of it.**

35. Consider the following statement regarding "TirangaUtsav".

- 1. Ministry of Culture organized "TirangaUtsav" to celebrate the contribution of PingaliVenkayya to the nation on the occasion of his 146th Birth Anniversary.**
- 2. The Tiranga Utsav also witnessed the release of 'Amar Chitra Katha' in the memory of revolutionary Tribal fighters of the Indian freedom struggle.**
- 3. The Tiranga Anthem was also launched.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

E. None of these

- **The Ministry of Culture organized “TirangaUtsav” -an evening filled with cultural and musical performances to celebrate the contributions of PingaliVenkayya to the nation on the occasion of his 146th Birth Anniversary in New Delhi.**
- **The commemorative Postal Stamp in the honor of Pingali Venkayya was released by Shri Amit Shah during the event. The Tiranga Utsav also witnessed the release of ‘Amar Chitra Katha’ in the memory of revolutionary Tribal fighters of the Indian freedom struggle.**
- **The Tiranga Anthem was also launched.**
- **The anthem features many Indian athletes including former Indian skipper Virat Kohli, Olympic medallist Mirabai Chanu, former Indian women’s skipper Mithali Raj, MC Mary Kom, and more**
- **Apart from athletes, the song also features many Bollywood celebrities like megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Anupam Kher, Prabhas, and Anushka Sharma among others.**
- **On the occasion, the Minister of Culture, Tourism and Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Shri G. Kishan Reddy welcomed the dignitaries and said that on this date in 1876, the unsung hero Shri Pingali Venkayya, the man who designed the national flag, was born and played an important role in different movements including Swadeshi Andolan under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi.**
- **PingaliVenkayya, a freedom fighter and the designer of India’s National Flag was a follower of Gandhian principles, and it was upon the request of Mahatma Gandhi that he designed the Indian National Flag with saffron, white and green colors with chakra in the middle.**

‘World looks at Tricolour with respect’

Amit Shah launches the Tiranga anthem

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi had worked to improve India’s standing in the world, and today the world looked at India and the national flag with respect, Home Minister Amit Shah said on Tuesday.

Mr. Shah launched the “Tiranga” anthem and released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the birth anniversary of Pingali Venkayya, who designed the Tricolour, as a part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign



In tribute: Amit Shah releases a commemorative postal stamp honouring Pingali Venkayya during ‘Tiranga Utsav’. •PTI

organised by the Culture Ministry. The campaign promotes the hoisting of the national flag in all households from August 13 to 15 to mark 75 years of Independence.

“Today the world looks at

India and its national flag with respect. From 2014 till 2022, our dear Prime Minister Narendra Modi has increased India’s respect in the whole world. Today if there is any problem in the world,

till India’s Prime Minister, Narendra Modi does not make a statement, the world does not decide its stance on the problem. Lakhs and lakhs of people gave their sacrifice to see this day,” Mr. Shah said.

‘Woken up from sleep’

Addressing the youth of the country, Mr. Shah said the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign was theirs. He asked everyone to hoist the Tricolour at home to send the message that India had “woken up from sleep” and was on the way to become “mahaan” (great). He asked everyone to change their social media display pictures to the Tricolour from Tuesday.

36. **PARVEZ - Market Linkage scheme** which aims to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables through Air Cargo is a scheme of which of the following state?

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

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- D. Maharashtra
- E. None of these

- *The innovative Market Linkage scheme- PARVAZ possesses tremendous potential for uplifting the economic conditions of the farmers across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.*
- *The scheme was launched by the Government to create market linkage support for the shipment of Agriculture and Horticulture perishables being harvested in Jammu and Kashmir through Air Cargo.*
- *Under the scheme, a 25 percent subsidy on freight charges is given for carrying perishable fruits harvested in Jammu and Kashmir for shipment through Air Cargo. The subsidy is provided to farmers through DBT mode.*
- *Jammu & Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC), the implementing agency of the scheme is regularly creating awareness among the farmers about the significance of this scheme so that an ample number of them can take benefit from it.*
- *This scheme tends to benefit the farmers by doubling their income thereby ensuring their economic and social welfare the scheme the farmers will get the price of their produce directly in their bank account with no intermediary in between.*

37. Recently _____ state police announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Level-1 blockchain network, 5ire, to make it the first paperless police state in India.

- A. **Goa**
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Punjab
- D. Haryana
- E. None of these

Goa Police in pact with 5ire to record all official police activities

New Delhi: Goa Police will use blockchain to build a paperless document and evidence storage system that is secure and transparent. The technology for it will be provided by Indian blockchain startup 5ire, which became a unicorn last month after raising \$100 million in a Series A round. Prior to this, 5ire worked with Muzaffarnagar police on a pilot project to test a blockchain-based record and evidence logging system. **TECHCICLE**

- *5ire signs a pact with Goa Police to make it the first paperless police state in India.*
- *Goa Police has announced that it has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with 5ire, a fifth-generation blockchain network company, at its crime branch office in Ribandar to go digital.*
- *Through this collaboration, the MoU aims to create a public-private partnership between 5ire and Goa Police to implement a smart policing solution to improve transparency and efficiency in policing, which will help streamline procedures that reflect all events for all stakeholders. The MoU seeks to help in the digitization and digitalization of offline systems.*
- *5ire's solution of smart policing for Goa police is one of the solutions in India that can be deployed on a public sector scale in a manner that the solutions that are currently available.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

38. Recently _____ state government adopted 31 cows in the government and private goshalas, one in each district under the “Punyakoti Dattu Yojana” (cow adoption) portal.
- A. Maharashtra
 - B. Uttarakhand
 - C. **Karnataka**
 - D. Uttar Pradesh
 - E. None of these
- Karnataka animal husbandry minister Prabhu B Chavan said he adopted 31 cows in the government and private goshalas, one in each district under the “Punyakoti Dattu Yojana” (cow adoption) portal.
 - Adopting 31 cows on this day and helping them in their nutrition and care is the motive of my past birth virtue.
 - After the enactment of the Prohibition of Cow Slaughter Act, a government cowshed has been established in the districts. Karnataka is the first state in the country to implement the Punyakoti Adoption Scheme.
 - The scheme aims to make cowsheds financially sound with the cooperation of the public.
39. Consider the following statement regarding the “8 years of MyGov” event in New Delhi. Which of the following statement is incorrect
- 1. The Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw also launched ‘Responsible AI for Youth 2022’.
 - 2. **Responsible AI for Youth was created by the National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration with IBM and with the support of the Ministry of Education.**
 - 3. MyGov (mygov. in), the Government of India’s citizen engagement platform, was launched on 26th July 2014
 - 4. has been built on the three pillars of ‘Do’, ‘Discuss’ and ‘Disseminate’.
 - 5. None of these
- Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Electronics and IT kicked off a daylong event to celebrate “8 Years of MyGov” in New Delhi on July 30, 2022.
 - The Union Minister Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw also launched ‘Responsible AI for Youth 2022’. Responsible AI for Youth was created by the National E-Governance Division, Ministry of Electronics & IT in collaboration with Intel India and with the support of the Ministry of Education.
 - The Program will be open to all school students studying in classes 8-12 across India to foster a deeper understanding of AI-tech and encourage youngsters to become human-centric designers.
 - MyGov (mygov. in), the Government of India’s citizen engagement platform, was launched on 26th July 2014 by Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi and has been built on the three pillars of ‘Do’, ‘Discuss’ and ‘Disseminate’.
40. Consider the following statement regarding MoWCD Guidelines for ‘Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0’. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

1. *Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 is an Integrated Nutrition Support Programme.*
2. *A child's Aadhaar card is not mandatory for availing benefits under the Anganwadi services and it can be accessed using the mother's Aadhaar card,*
3. *Under Poshan 2, the scheme for adolescent girls has been revised and the targeted beneficiaries have been revised to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years.*
4. *Under the guidelines, the Chief Secretaries will be the nodal point in the district for monitoring nutritional and quantity standards.*
5. *None of these*

- *A child's Aadhaar card is not mandatory for availing of benefits under the Anganwadi services and it can be accessed using the mother's Aadhaar card, according to the guidelines for the new 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2 scheme' released.*
- *The 'Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2 scheme' is an integrated nutrition support program approved by the government last year for five years.*
- *The scheme seeks to address the challenges of malnutrition in children, adolescent girls, pregnant women, and lactating mothers.*
- *According to the guidelines issued by the department of women and child welfare, the Anganwadi services scheme under Poshan.2 is open to all eligible beneficiaries on demand on the condition that the beneficiary is registered at the nearest Anganwadi center.*
- *Under Poshan 2, the scheme for adolescent girls has been revised and the targeted beneficiaries have been revised to adolescent girls in the age group of 14 to 18 years in aspirational districts of states including Assam and North Eastern States instead of out-of-school girls in the age group of 11-14 years was mandated earlier.*
- *Millets should be mandatorily supplied at least once a week and suitably integrated into take-home ration and hot-cooked meals in a palatable form.*
- *According to the guidelines, only jaggery should be used for sweetening, and "white sugar should not be used in the meals" provided to the beneficiaries.*
- *The scheme also integrates the AYUSH (Ayurveda Unani Siddha Homeopathy) system for wellness and nourishment.*
- *Under the guidelines, the district magistrate will be the nodal point in the district for monitoring nutritional and quantity standards. Chief Secretaries will coordinate the activities of various departments through a state-level steering committee to ensure effective convergence between various schemes/programs and review the progress.*

41. Consider the following statement regarding **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY)**.

1. **Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme set up by the Government of India (GoI) through MUDRA (a subsidiary of SIDBI).**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

2. Loans under the scheme are extended across three categories, viz. *Shishu* (loans up to Rs. 50,000), *Kishore* (loans above Rs. 50,000 and up to Rs. 5 lakh), and *Tarun* (loans above Rs. 5 lakh and up to Rs. 10 lakh).

3. Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY) is a scheme launched by the Hon'ble Prime Minister on April 8, 2015, for providing loans up to 10 lakh to non-corporate, non-farm small/micro enterprises.
- These loans are classified as MUDRA loans under PMMY.
- These loans are given by Commercial Banks, RRBs, Small Finance Banks, Cooperative Banks, MFIs, and NBFCs.
- Under the aegis of PMMY, MUDRA has created three products namely 'Shishu', 'Kishore', and 'Tarun' to signify the stage of growth/development and funding needs of the beneficiary micro unit/entrepreneur and also provide a reference point for the next phase of graduation/growth.
- Quantum of loan (Min/Max)
- Maximum loan amount: Upto Rs 10 lacs
- Loans up to Rs.50,000 are categorized as SHISHU
- Loans from Rs.50,001 to Rs.500,000 are categorized as KISHORE
- Loans from Rs.500,001/- to Rs.10,00,000/- are categorised as TARUN
- Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoLE) has conducted a sample survey at the national level to estimate employment generation under PMMY.
- As per the findings of this survey, the Minister stated, on an overall basis, that loans under the Shishu category accounted for 66% of additional employment generated by establishments owned by MUDRA beneficiaries followed by Kishore (19%) and Tarun (15%) categories. Further, as on 01.07.2022, more than 7.66 crore loans amounting to Rs. 6.12 lakh crore have been extended to New Entrepreneurs/Accounts under PMMY, since the inception of the Scheme.

LS passes Bill to set up Gati Shakti University

First varsity after roll-out of NEP

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Lok Sabha on Wednesday passed the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022, which seeks to establish the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya as a Central University, changing the form of the National Rail and Transportation University which is currently a deemed to be institution in Vadodara. The Bill also seeks to expand the scope of the deemed university from beyond the railways to cover the entire transport sector to support the ambitious growth and modernisation in the field.

Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya would be a multi-disciplinary and multi-dimensional institute, and the first Cen-

tral university after the roll-out of the National Education Policy.

“The plan is to unify different departments to create a new infrastructure where various transport sector elements – railways, road, waterways, aviation and port along with information and technology – will coordinate with each other on the platform of Gati Shakti Mission,” Mr. Pradhan said. The proposed global standard institute aimed at not producing job-seekers but job-creators, he added.

The establishment of the Vishwavidyalaya would address the need of talent in the strategically important and expanding transportation sector and meet the demand for trained talent to fuel the growth and expansion of the sector, he said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

42. Consider the following statement regarding the *Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022*.

1. The *Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022* seeks to amend the *Central Universities Act, 2009*, inter alia, to provide for the establishment of *Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya* as a body corporate under the said Act.
2. It seeks to convert the *National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI)*, a deemed-to-be university, into the *Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya*, an autonomous Central university.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan introduced the Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, which seeks to convert the National Rail and Transportation Institute (NRTI), located in Vadodara a deemed-to-be university, into the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, an autonomous Central university.*
- *The Bill seeks to expand the scope of the university from beyond just the Railways to cover the entire transport sector and support growth and modernization in the field.*
- *The new university, once the Bill clears both Houses of Parliament, will be funded and administered by the Ministry of Railways.*
- *The Central Universities (Amendment) Bill, 2022 seeks to amend the Central Universities Act, 2009, inter alia, to provide for the establishment of Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya as a body corporate under the said Act.*
- *The establishment of the Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya would address the need for talent in the strategically important and expanding transportation sector and meet the demand for trained talent to fuel the growth and expansion of the sector.*
- *PM Gati Shakti: The Prime Minister Gati Shakti – National Master Plan was announced in 2021 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.*
- *It is essentially a digital platform to bring 16 Ministries including Railways and Roadways together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects.*
- *The multi-modal connectivity will provide integrated and seamless connectivity for the movement of people, goods, and services from one mode of transport to another.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

43. In August _____ was the only city in India that was invited to participate in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and showcase its rich culture and craft traditions.

- A. Srinagar
- B. Mumbai
- C. Jaipur
- D. Hyderabad
- E. None of these

- Artisans and designers from across the world got an opportunity to learn about Jaipur's terracotta art and its sculptors at a workshop hosted recently by UNESCO Creative Cities Network. The three-day workshop organized at a UNESCO Creative City Chiang Mai in Thailand concluded.
- The theme was 'Creative Ceramic, Sculpted City'.
- Jaipur was the only city in India that was invited to participate in the event and showcase its rich culture and craft traditions.
- Jaipur has lined up several local master craftsmen to participate in a boot camp program to be organized by UNESCO Creative Cities Network in October this year.

Jaipur artisans link with UNESCO Creative Cities network

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
JAIPUR, 5 AUGUST

Terracotta craft persons and artisans from Jaipur district attended a virtual international capacity enhancement workshop for artisans and craftsmen with the UNESCO Creative Cities Network on Friday.

Jaipur was the only city from India which was invited to participate in the event and showcase its culture and craft tradition.

The workshop was organized by the UNESCO creative city Chiang Mai in Thailand where more than 500 people from different countries par-

ticipated. The workshop aimed to strengthen sister city collaboration among the global creative cities. This event was a part of the activity to develop creative cities and districts at the international level. The workshop featured renowned artists, designers, craft persons, academia, and policymakers. The opening remarks were presented by Ms. Wannasri Panyaprachum, Director of Education Office Religion and culture, Chiang Mai Provincial Administrative Organization, Thailand.

The workshop consisted of many experienced speakers from UNESCO Creative

Cities who generated engaging discussions on "Creative Ceramic, Sculpted City"; under the two sub-themes: conservation and restoration and contemporary and development.

The delegates from Jaipur presented the district's emphasis on arts and crafts. The artisans also shared information on the genesis of the craft, its socio-cultural importance, processes, knowledge transmission, the role of stakeholders, and the measures taken for safeguarding the crafts.

Jaipur's delegation included artisans-master craftsman Parsuram Behra, National

Awardee Maheshwar Ojha, and Narendra Rana, SHG members Jayanti Behra, Ranglata Behra, Malati Rana and Parbati Behra.

Jaipur collector Chakravarti Singh Rathore congratulated all the artisans and said it will boost the confidence of our dynamic art and craft community and help Jaipur be a hub of creativity.

"The district administration is taking several initiatives to recognize weavers and craft persons. The district has developed collaborative engagement with a number of UNESCO Creative Cities for sister city col-

laborations and knowledge exchange. The district will continue similar exchanges through the International Craft Summit and Exhibitions", he said.

Moreover, Jaipur has lined up multiple master craft persons from UCCN Creative Cities to participate in the Boot Camp programme, which will be a series of international craft boot camps beginning in October this year.

Notably, Jaipur district is famous for its various arts and crafts, including Tussar handloom, terracotta, golden grass, and stone works. The district is home to over 3500 weavers and artisans.

44. Consider the following statement regarding United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC).

1. India will host diplomats of the 15-nation UN Security Council in October for a special meeting on counter-terrorism.
2. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established in 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.
3. China chairs the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 3**
- B. Only 2**
- C. Both 1 & 2**
- D. None of the above**

India to host UNSC meet on counterterrorism

Meeting in October to bring representatives of 15 countries, including China and Russia, for talks on emerging threats

SUHASINI HAIDAR
NEW DELHI

In a first, India will host diplomats and officials from all 15 countries of the United Nations Security Council, including China, Russia and the U.S., for a special meeting on terrorism, in Delhi and Mumbai in October.

The meeting of the Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC), which India is chairing for 2022 as a member of the UNSC, will focus particularly on challenges such as terrorism financing, cyber-threats and the use of drones, said officials.

New Delhi is expected to highlight cross-border threats from Pakistan and Afghanistan at the meeting, which will come two months before India completes its tenure as an elected member of the UNSC (2021-22). In ad-

dition, India has been pushing for the UN members to adopt a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (first proposed in 1996), which is likely to be raised during the meeting.

"The event will showcase India's role as a victim of terrorism as well as a country at the forefront of global counter-terrorism efforts," said an official involved in the planning.

New challenges

Sources said that while terror financing was now recognised and dealt with through mechanisms such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), it was necessary to build templates and "codes of conduct" for newer threats, including financing through cryptocurrency and the use of drones for terror



Making a point: S. Jaishankar chairing the UNSC meeting on counterterrorism in August 2021 in New York. •PTI

attacks. They said the CTC meeting in India could also pave the way for a possible visit to New York by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in December, when India will be the President of the UNSC for the entire month.

In August 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mr. Modi had chaired a UNSC special session on Enhancing Maritime Security virtually, in which several leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin, had attend-

ed. Officials said India's UN Mission, where Permanent Representative Ruchira Kamboj presented her credentials on Tuesday, would be working on ensuring maximum participation at the event, in case the Prime Minister decides to travel.

An earlier plan to travel to Washington in December for the Democracy Summit to be convened by U.S. President Joe Biden may be put off, as the summit is likely to be postponed.

Announcing the visit of the delegates, the United Nations said that the special meeting had been convened on October 29 in India, in view of "the increasing threat posed by the misuse of new and emerging technologies". "The special meeting will specifically focus on three significant areas

where emerging technologies are experiencing rapid development, growing use by Member States (including for security and counter-terrorism purposes), and increasing threat of abuse for terrorism purposes, namely (a) the Internet and social media, (b) terrorism financing, and (c) unmanned aerial systems," the UN said.

Officials told *The Hindu* that the details of the visit were still being finalised, including whether the visiting delegates would include Permanent Representatives or Ministers at the respective missions of the member states. The meeting, which is normally held in New York, had been discussed and planned since early this year, said sources, as part of the events to mark the 75th anniversary of Independence.

- **India is halfway through the second year of its two-year term as an elected non-permanent member of the UN Security Council.**
- **India's tenure at the Council will end in December this year when the country will also preside as President of the powerful UN organ for the month.**
- **India chairs the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022 and will in October host diplomats of the 15-nation Security Council, including the US, China, and Russia, for the counter-terrorism committee's special meeting.**
- **Current members of the Security Council are Albania, Brazil, Gabon, Ghana, India, Ireland, Kenya, Mexico, Norway, and the UAE, along with five permanent members China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US.**
- **The most recent special meeting of the CTC outside of United Nations headquarters took place in Madrid, Spain, in July 2015, focusing on foreign terrorist fighters (FTFs).**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The special meeting would be conducted in the six official languages of the United Nations and be open to the wider United Nations membership and other relevant stakeholders.*
 - *India's then Permanent Representative to the UN Ambassador T S Tirumurti in January this year assumed the Chair of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee for 2022. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, the country's new envoy to the UN, now assumes that role.*
 - *The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) was established in 2001 in the wake of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) established the Counter-Terrorism Committee as a subsidiary body of the Council.*
 - *As the Chair of the CTC for 2022, India will make determined efforts to further enhance the role of the CTC in strengthening the multilateral response to counter-terrorism.*
45. As per **National Statistical Office (NSO)**, **Real GDP growth in 2021-22 stands at _____ percent which is 1.5 percent higher than the real GDP of 2019-20.**
- A. 8.7 %**
 - B. 6.9 %**
 - C. 8.9 %**
 - D. 9.2 %**
 - E. None of these**
- Real GDP growth in 2021-22 stands at 8.7 per cent, 1.5 per cent higher than the real GDP of 2019-20
- Central Government reduced Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel to boost consumption and keep inflation low
- **As per provisional estimates released by National Statistical Office (NSO), the Indian economy in 2021-22 has fully recovered the pre-pandemic real GDP level of 2019-20.**
- Posted On: 01 AUG 2022 7:58PM by PIB Delhi
- As per provisional estimates released by National Statistical Office (NSO), Indian economy in 2021-22 has fully recovered the pre-pandemic real GDP level of 2019-20. This was stated by Union Minister of State for Finance Shri Pankaj Chaudhary in a written reply to a question in Lok Sabha today.
- Giving more details, the Minister stated that as per provisional estimates released by National Statistical Office (NSO), Indian economy in 2021-22 has fully recovered the pre-pandemic real GDP level of 2019-20. The real GDP growth in 2021-22 stands at 8.7 per cent, 1.5 per cent higher than the real GDP of 2019-20. Owing to recent global crisis, various international agencies, for FY 2022-23 and FY 2023-24, have revised downward the growth projections of several countries including India but the revised growth for India is still higher than that of major advanced and emerging market economies, the Minister stated.
- The Minister stated that the Central Government reduced the Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 8 and Rs. 6 per litre respectively effective from May, 2022 to give a further fillip to the economy and to boost consumption and keep inflation low; thus helping the poor and middle income classes.
- At the same time, the Minister stated that the Government's recent initiatives such as an increase in customs duty on gold imports from 10.75 per cent to 15 per cent, imposition of cess of Rs. 17,000 per tonne (by way of special additional excise duty-SAED) on domestic crude and SAED / cess on exports of diesel and aviation turbine fuel shipments at the rate of Rs 11 per litre and Rs 4 per litre, are likely to have a positive impact on Government's tax collections.
- **The real GDP growth in 2021-22 stands at 8.7 percent, 1.5 percent higher than the real GDP of 2019-20. The Minister stated that the Central Government reduced the Central Excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 8 and Rs. 6 per liter respectively effective from May 2022 to give a further fillip to the economy and boost consumption and keep inflation low, thus helping the poor and middle-income classes.**
 - **Real GDP (gross domestic product) is a measure of all the goods and services produced in a nation adjusted for inflation or deflation, expressed in dollars.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

46. As per the Government of India, *India has signed a bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) with _____ foreign countries.*

- A. 120
- B. 116**
- C. 118
- D. 110
- E. None of these

- *India has signed ASAs with 116 foreign countries.*
- *Any designated foreign airline can operate to/from a point in India if it is designated as a point of call in the bilateral Air Services Agreement (ASA) signed between India and the country which has designated the airline.*
- *Indian designated carriers are free to mount scheduled operations to/from any international airport, including Kannur International Airport, under the ambit of bilateral ASAs concluded by India with foreign countries.*
- *Currently, due to a significant imbalance in the number of points of call in favor of foreign carriers, the Government of India is not granting any non-metro airport as a new point of call to any foreign carrier to operate passenger services.*

47. Recently *Unesco has added a 106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's _____ district to its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world.*

- A. Purnea
- B. Muzaffarpur**
- C. Patna
- D. Bodhgaya
- E. None of these

Bihar college astro lab on Unesco heritage list

BK Mishra | TNN

Patna: Unesco has added a 106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's Muzaffarpur on its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world—raising hopes of reviving the neglected edifice that has little to show of its glorious past.

National Commission for His-

tory of Science member and Delhi University's former modern history professor JN Sinha said his constant push to draw Unesco's attention towards the observatory, first of its kind in eastern India, finally bore fruit.

Sinha said the observatory was built in 1916 in the 123-year old college, now affiliated to Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University.

"A planetarium, probably the first in India, was also set up in the college in 1946. The observatory and planetarium functioned satisfactorily up to early 1970s. But started declining gradually with the passage of time. At present, it is lying completely dysfunctional and most of the costly machines in the observatory have either been lost or become junk," he said.

Woman throug

- *Unesco has added a 106-year-old astronomical observatory at Langat Singh College in Bihar's Muzaffarpur to its list of important endangered heritage observatories of the world—raising hopes of reviving the neglected edifice that has little to show of its glorious past.*
- *National Commission for History of Science member and Delhi University's former modern history professor JN Sinha said his constant push to draw Unesco's attention towards the observatory, the first of its kind in eastern India, finally bore fruit.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- The observatory was built in 1916 in the 123-year-old college, now affiliated with Bhim Rao Ambedkar Bihar University.
- A planetarium, probably the first in India, was also set up in the college in 1946.
- The observatory and planetarium functioned satisfactorily up to the early 1970s. But started declining gradually with time.
- At present, it is lying completely dysfunctional and most of the costly machines in the observatory have either been lost or become junk.

International / Report News

48. Recently in August _____ signed an MoU with the Bangladesh Roads and Highways department in Dhaka for the emergency supply of petroleum goods via Bangladesh territory to India.
- A. NTPC Limited
 - B. Power Grid Corporation
 - C. Indian Oil Corporation
 - D. NLC India Limited
 - E. None of these
- The Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed an MoU with the Bangladesh Roads and Highways department in Dhaka for the emergency supply of petroleum goods via Bangladesh territory to India.
 - This is an interim setup to facilitate an urgent supply of petroleum products due to damage caused by the flood in Assam this year, said the Indian High Commission in a tweet.
 - The petroleum tankers will enter from Meghalaya and will go to Tripura crossing through the Bangladesh territory.
 - The IOCL will bear all the administrative fees, charges, and local taxes including road usage fees for use of the Bangladeshi territory.
 - MoU has been signed in the spirit of good neighborly relations to allow Indian vehicles to transport the fuel from Assam to Tripura by Road which has been severely disrupted due to the recent floods in Assam and Tripura.
49. Recently in August Indonesia and the United States, with additional participation from Australia, Japan, and Singapore, kicked off a joint military exercise named _____ in a show of defense partnership amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.
- A. Pacific Rim
 - B. Garuda Shield

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- C. Shakti Meet
- D. Diamond Pearl
- E. None of these

- **Indonesia and the United States, with additional participation from Australia, Japan, and Singapore, kicked off a joint military exercise in a show of defense partnership amid rising tensions in the Indo-Pacific region.**
- **The annual joint exercise “Super Garuda Shield” is “significantly larger in scope and scale than previous exercises, with many nations participating or observing for the first time.**
- **The exercise comes as China announced a series of live-fire drills in the South China Sea amid rumors of a planned visit to Taiwan by the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi.**
- **Traditionally, the Garuda Shield exercises only involved the army and paratroopers but Super Garuda Shield 2022 also involves the navies of expanded participants, including Japan and Singapore.**

U.S., Indonesia hold joint military drills amid China concerns

Over 5,000 soldiers participate, which will last till Aug. 14

ASSOCIATED PRESS
JAKARTA

The United States and Indonesian militaries began annual joint combat exercises Wednesday on Indonesia's Sumatra island, joined for the first time by participants from other partner nations, signalling stronger ties amid growing maritime activity by China in the Indo-Pacific region.

More than 5,000 soldiers from the U.S., Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore were participating in this year's exercises, making them the largest since the drills were established in

2009. The exercises are designed to strengthen interoperability, capability, trust and cooperation in support of a free and open Indo-Pacific, the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta said in a statement.

“It's a symbol of the U.S.-Indonesia bond and the growing relationship between land forces in this consequential region,” Gen. Charles Flynn, Commanding General of U.S. Army Pacific, said in the statement. “Because land forces are the glue that binds the region's security architecture together.”

Gen. Flynn and Indone-

sia's Military Chief Gen. Andika Perkasa opened the joint drills with a ceremony on Wednesday morning in Baturaja, a coastal town in South Sumatra province. The exercises will last until August 14, encompassing Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine drills.

The planned two-week drills opened after China's Defence Ministry said on Tuesday night it would conduct a series of targeted military operations to “safeguard national sovereignty” in response to U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit to self-governed Taiwan.

50. According to **UNAIDS and UNICEF new report titled “Global AIDS Update 2022** “reveals that only _____ children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment globally.

- A. 50%
- B. 52 %**
- C. 64 %
- D. 72 %
- E. None of these

- **The World Health Organization (WHO) along with other global partners including UNAIDS and UNICEF announced on Tuesday that reveals that only half (52%) of children living with HIV are on life-saving treatment globally. According to the UNAIDS Global AIDS Update 2022 released, this statistic among children is far behind adults where three quarters (76%) are receiving antiretrovirals.**
- **The new Global Alliance for Ending AIDS in Children by 2030 was announced by leading figures at the International AIDS Conference taking place in Montreal, Canada.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *In addition to the United Nations agencies, the alliance includes civil society movements, including the Global Network of People living with HIV, national governments in the most affected countries, and international partners, including PEPFAR and the Global Fund.*
 - *Twelve countries have joined the alliance in the first phase: Angola, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.*
 - *The alliance will run for the next eight years until 2030, aiming to fix one of the most glaring disparities in the AIDS response. Alliance members are united in the assessment that the challenge is surmountable through partnership.*
 - *In October this year, Nigeria will host the alliance's political launch in Africa at a Ministerial meeting.*
51. Recently as per the government as a part of the **Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative to promote self-sufficiency in Diammonium Phosphate (DAP)**, India announced to start mining in _____ country, and Production of DAP will be done in India.
- A. Australia
 B. **Senegal**
 C. Brazil
 D. Argentina
 E. None of these
- *As part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative to promote self-sufficiency in Fertilisers, the Government of India has been advising and supporting the Indian fertilizer companies to strengthen their backend supply chain.*
 - *Coromandel International Ltd, India's leading phosphatic fertilizer player, formalized the acquisition of a 45% equity share in Baobab Mining and Chemicals Corporation (BMCC), a rock phosphate mining company based in Senegal.*
 - *The mining will be done in Senegal and production of DAP will be done in India. 10 LMT of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (NPK) will be manufactured.*

+ Coromandel Int'l picks up 45% stake in Senegal's rock phosphate miner BMCC

PRABHUDATTA MISHRA
 New Delhi, August 3

Coromandel International, India's leading phosphatic fertiliser player, has formalised the acquisition of 45 per cent equity share in Baobab Mining and Chemicals Corporation (BMCC), a rock phosphate mining company based in Senegal, the government said.

"As part of the Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiative to promote self-sufficiency in fertilisers, government has been advising and supporting the Indian fertiliser companies to strengthen their back-end supply chain. Given the nation's high dependence on raw material like rock phosphate and phosphoric acid, India plans to secure its supplies and hedge against price rises by expanding its footprint in mineral-rich countries through investments and multi-year import deals," the fertiliser ministry said in a statement.

Mutual benefit
 Fertiliser Minister Mansukh Mandaviya, who presided over the event wherein officials from BMCC handed over the acceptance letter from



Given the nation's high dependence on raw material like rock phosphate and phosphoric acid, India plans to secure its supplies and hedge against price rises

the Government of Senegal to Coromandel, said that the investment in the rock mines in Senegal will be mutually beneficial for both the nations and will further strengthen the friendship. "The mining will be done in Senegal and production of DAP will be done in India—10 lakh tonnes (lt) of Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) and Nitrogen-Phosphorus-Potassium (NPK) will be manufactured," said Mandaviya.

Security goals
 He further said, "India is

strengthening its raw material supply security by investing in mineral rich geographies. Government has been partnering with the industry to enable such investments to achieve supply security goals for meeting the country's fertiliser needs. We are committed to ensure availability of fertilisers for our farmers and will continue to work towards ramping up domestic production and establishing partnerships with other countries." The investment in BMCC will secure up to one-third of the rock phosphate requirement of Coromandel and also help diversify its sourcing base, said executive Vice-Chairman, Arun Alagappan.

The country's DAP import increased 12 per cent to 54.62 lt in 2021-22 from the previous year. The country imports about 80 per cent of its phosphatic fertiliser requirements for which the government subsidy has increased substantially this year as well as last year. Despite the global price hike, the government has ensured retail price at about ₹1,350-1,400 per 50-kg bag of DAP.

52. Consider the following statement regarding **Chabahar port**.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

1. Chabahar is a port located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman.
2. Chabahar port will be part of the International North-South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
3. It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantri and Shahid Beheshti.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these

- Union Minister Sarbanand Sonowal inaugurated the Chabahar Day conference in Mumbai.
- Representatives from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, and Afghanistan took part in the conference.
- Chabahar port will be part of the International North-South Transport Corridor network connecting India.
- Chabahar port will open new avenues for India and Eurasian countries and it is an important pillar of India's Indo-Pacific vision to connect Eurasia with the Indian Ocean Region.
- In May 2016, India and Iran signed a bilateral agreement in which India would refurbish one of the berths at Shahid Beheshti port, and reconstruct a 600-meter-long container handling facility at the port.
- In October 2017, India's first shipment of wheat to Afghanistan was sent through the Chabahar Port.
- Chabahar Port: Chabahar is a port located on the coast of the Gulf of Oman.
- It consists of two separate ports named Shahid Kalantri and Shahid Beheshti.
- It is strategically important for India as it provides connectivity to Iran and Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.
- It is jointly developed by India, Iran, and Afghanistan.

53. Recently which of the following international organization has published External Sector Report 2022 that said the RBI's intervention in the currency market should be limited to addressing disorderly market conditions?
- A. World Bank
 - B. Asian Development Bank
 - C. International Monetary Fund**
 - D. Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
 - E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Recently published External Sector Report 2022 by IMF has said that the RBI's intervention in the currency market should be limited to addressing disorderly market conditions.*
 - *International Monetary Fund (IMF): The IMF is an international financial institution (headquartered in Washington D.C., US).*
 - *It works to achieve sustainable growth and prosperity for all of its 190 member countries. It is governed by and accountable to its member countries.*
 - *Formed in 1944 at the Bretton Woods Conference, IMF came into formal existence in 1945 to reconstruct the international monetary system.*
 - *The Fund has forecast India's current account deficit (CAD) to worsen to \$108 billion (3.1% of its GDP) in FY23 from \$38 billion (1.2% of GDP) in the last fiscal.*
54. Recently in **which city did the 1st meeting of the India-Mauritius High-Powered Joint Trade Committee conclude?**
- A. Hyderabad
 - B. Chennai
 - C. Kanpur
 - D. New Delhi**
 - E. None of these
- *1st meeting of the India-Mauritius High-Powered Joint Trade Committee concluded in New Delhi.*
 - *Dr. Srikar K Reddy co-chaired the High-Powered Joint Trade Committee's first session, held in New Delhi from 1-3 August.*
 - *The High-Powered Joint Trade Committee between India and Mauritius has been formed under the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA).*
 - *The committee reviews the general functioning and implementation of the CECPA between India and Mauritius. CECPA between India and Mauritius came into force on 1 April 2021.*
 - *Both sides agreed to include the General Economic Cooperation (GEC) Chapter and Automatic Trigger Safeguard Mechanism (ATSM) in CECPA.*
 - *The GEC chapter will enhance cooperation in the fields of Investments, Financial Services, Textile, Small and Medium Enterprises, Handicrafts, etc.*
 - *Both sides also agreed to initiate discussion on the Customs Mutual Administrative Assistance Agreement (CMMA).*
 - *Both countries also identified bilateral focal points for improving bilateral institutional cooperation.*
 - *The trade between India and Mauritius has increased from USD 690.02 million in 2019-20 to USD 786.72 million in 2021-22.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

55. In August _____ became the first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade*,

- A. Washington DC
- B. California
- C. Indiana**
- D. New York
- E. None of these

- **Indiana became the first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade*, as the Republican governor quickly signed a near-total ban on the procedure shortly after lawmakers approved it.**
- **The ban, which takes effect on Sept 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10 weeks post-fertilization; to protect the life and physical health of the mother; and if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly. Victims of rape and incest would not be required to sign a notarized affidavit attesting to an attack, as had once been proposed.**
- **Under the bill, abortions can be performed only in hospitals or outpatient centers owned by hospitals, meaning all abortion clinics would lose their licenses. A doctor who performs an illegal abortion or fails to file required reports must also lose their medical license — wording that tightens current Indiana law that says a doctor “may” lose their license.**
- **Senator Sue Glick of LaGrange, who sponsored the bill, said that she does not think “all states will come down at the same place” but that most Indiana residents support aspects of the bill.**

Indiana becomes 1st state to approve abortion ban post Roe

AP ★ INDIANAPOLIS (US)

Indiana on Friday became the first state in the nation to approve abortion restrictions since the US Supreme Court overturned *Roe v Wade*, as the Republican governor quickly signed a near-total ban on the procedure shortly after lawmakers approved it.

The ban, which takes effect Sept 15, includes some exceptions. Abortions would be permitted in cases of rape and incest, before 10-weeks post-fertilisation; to protect the life and physical health of the mother; and if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly. Victims of rape and incest would not be required to sign a notarized affidavit attesting to an attack, as had once been proposed.

Under the bill, abortions can be performed only in hospitals or outpatient centres owned by hospitals, meaning all abortion clinics would lose their licenses. A doctor who performs an illegal abortion or fails to file required reports must also lose their medical licence — wording that tightens current Indiana law that says a doctor “may” lose their licence.



“I am personally most proud of each Hoosier who came forward to courageously share their views in a debate that is unlikely to cease any time soon,” Gov Eric Holcomb said in the statement announcing that he had signed the measure. “For my part as your governor, I will continue to keep an open ear.”

His approval came after the Senate approved the ban 28-19 and the House advanced it 62-38. Indiana was among the earliest Republican-run state legislatures to debate tighter abortion laws after the Supreme Court ruling in June that removed constitutional protections for the procedure. But it is the first state to pass a ban through both

chambers, after West Virginia lawmakers on July 29 passed up the chance to be that state.

“Happy to be completed with this, one of the more challenging things that we’ve ever done as a state General Assembly, at least certainly while I’ve been here,” Senate President Pro-Tem Rodric Bray told reporters after the vote. “I think this is a huge opportunity, and we’ll build on that as we go forward from here.”

Senator Sue Glick of LaGrange, who sponsored the bill, said that she does not think “all states will come down at the same place” but that most Indiana residents support aspects of the bill.

56. Consider the following statement regarding the **first shipment of Ukrainian grain under a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey.**

1. The first ship carrying Ukrainian grain **set out from the port of Odesa.**
2. The **name of the ship is Razoni**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

3. On July 22, *Ukraine and India signed a landmark deal with Turkey and the United Nations aimed at easing a global food crisis.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1 & 3
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these

- *The first shipment of Ukrainian grain was set to leave the port of Odessa under a deal aimed at relieving a global food crisis following Russia's invasion of its neighbor.*
- *The departure of the cargo ship Razoni flying under the flag of Sierra Leone and loaded with maize will leave the port of Odessa bound for Lebanon (Port Of Tipoli)*
- *According to the Marine Traffic website, the Razoni was still docked in Odessa at 0500 GMT. Built-in 1996 and measuring 186 meters (610 feet) in length and 25 meters in width, the vessel has a capacity of 30,000 tonnes.*
- *On July 22, Ukraine and Russia signed a landmark deal with Turkey and the United Nations aimed at easing a global food crisis caused by blocked Black Sea grain deliveries.*

UN CHIEF WARNS WORLD IS ONE STEP FROM 'NUCLEAR ANNIHILATION'
First ship with grain leaves Odesa port under UN deal

AGENCIES
Kyiv, 1 August

A ship carrying grain left the Ukrainian port of Odesa for Lebanon on Monday under a safe passage agreement, Ukrainian and Turkish officials said, the first departure since the Russian invasion blocked shipping through the Black Sea five months ago.

Ukraine's foreign minister called it 'a day of relief for the world', especially for countries threatened by food shortages and hunger because of the disrupted shipments.

The sailing was made possible after Turkey and the United Nations brokered a grain-and-fertiliser export agreement between Russia and Ukraine last month — a rare diplomatic breakthrough in a conflict that is grinding on with no resolution in sight.

The Sierra Leone-flagged ship Razoni will head to the port of Tripoli, Lebanon, after transiting through the Bosphorus Strait with its cargo 26,527 tonnes of grain.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24 has led to a worldwide food and energy crisis and the United Nations has warned of the risk of multiple famines this year.

Russia and Ukraine account for nearly a third of global wheat exports. But Western sanctions on Russia and military action along Ukraine's eastern seaboard had prevented grain ships safely



'RELIEF FOR WORLD': Sierra Leone-flagged cargo ship Razoni carrying Ukraine grain

Russians lob rockets using nuke reactor as cover

Along most of the front line in Russia's war in Ukraine, when one side lets loose with an artillery attack, the other shoots back.

But not in Nikopol, a city deep in southern farm country where the Ukrainian military faces a new and vexing obstacle as it prepares for a major counteroffensive: a nuclear power station that the Russian Army has turned into a fortress.

Nikopol, controlled by the Ukrainians, lies on the west bank of the Dnipro River. On the opposite bank sits a gigantic nuclear power plant — Europe's largest — that the Russian Army captured in March. The Russians have been firing from the cover of the Zaporizhzhia station since mid-July, Ukrainian military and civilian officials said, sending rockets over the river at Nikopol and other targets. NYT

leaving ports.

The United Nations chief warned the world Monday that "humanity is just one misunderstanding, one miscalculation away from nuclear annihilation." Secretary-General Antonio Guterres gave the dire warning at the opening of the long-delayed high-level meeting to

review the landmark 50-year-old treaty aimed at preventing the spread of nuclear weapons and eventually achieving a nuclear-free world. He cited especially the war in Ukraine and the threat of nuclear weapons to conflicts in the Middle East and Asia, two regions "edging towards catastrophe."

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Turkey formally opened a special joint coordination center to oversee the exports in Istanbul, which is being staffed by civilian and military officials from the two warring parties and delegates from Turkey and the UN.
- Kyiv is Ukraine's capital and largest city, Currency is Hryvnia
- The pound or lira is the currency of Lebanon, Capital: Beirut
- The United Nations is an intergovernmental organization whose purposes are to maintain international peace and security.
- Founded: 24 October 1945, Headquarters: New York, New York, United States.

57. Recently _____ became **India's third-largest coal supplier in July**,

- A. **Russia**
- B. US
- C. Bangladesh
- D. UAE
- E. None of these

- Russia became India's third-largest coal supplier in July, with imports rising by over a fifth compared with June to a record 2.06 million tonnes, data from Indian consultancy Coal-mint showed.
- Russia has historically been the sixth-largest supplier of coal to India, behind Indonesia, South Africa, Australia, and the United States, with Mozambique and Colombia alternatingly featuring in the top five.
- India's imports from Russia have jumped nearly five times to over \$15 billion ever since Russia invaded Ukraine. India, the world's second-largest producer, importer, and consumer of coal, has historically imported more coking coal.
- Indonesia was the top supplier, while South Africa was marginally ahead of Russia, the data showed.

● **DISCOUNTS INCENTIVISED HIGHER BUYING**

Russia becomes India's third-largest coal supplier

Imports from Russia have jumped nearly five times to over \$15 billion since it invaded Ukraine on Feb 24

NEW DELHI, August 4

RUSSIA BECAME INDIA'S third-largest coal supplier in July, with imports rising by over a fifth compared with June to a record 2.06 million tonne, data from Indian consultancy Coalmint showed.

Russia has historically been the sixth-largest supplier of coal to India, behind Indonesia, South Africa, Australia, and the United States, with Mozambique and Colombia alternatingly featuring in the top five.

India expects its central bank's recent approval to allow payments for commodities in the Indian rupee to provide a major fillip to bilateral trade with Russia. India's imports



■ Thermal coal imports from Russia jumped 70.3% in July, compared with June, to a record 1.29 million tonne

■ India expects RBI's recent approval to allow payments for commodities in rupee to provide a major fillip to bilateral trade with Russia

from Russia have jumped nearly five times to over \$15 billion ever since Russia invaded Ukraine.

India, the world's second-largest producer, importer and consumer of coal, has historically imported more coking coal — used mainly in steel-making — from Russia, with Australia being the other key supplier.

However, steep discounts offered by Russian suppliers to Indian consumers in the recent months have incen-

tivised higher buying of thermal coal — used mainly in power generation — especially as global prices have traded at near-record highs due to western sanctions choking traditional trade.

Thermal coal imports from Russia jumped 70.3% in July, compared with June, to a record 1.29 million tonne, while coking coal imports rose by over two-thirds to more than 280,000 tonnes, Coalmint data showed.

Indonesia was the top sup-

plier, while South Africa was marginally ahead of Russia, the data showed. Higher coal imports from Russia were mainly driven by cement manufacturers and steelmakers, two Indian traders said.

Overall Indian coal imports, including shipments of anthracite and PCI coal, were nearly 10% lower in July at 23.8 million tonnes, compared with record imports of 26.29 million tonnes in June, the Coalmint data showed.

—REUTERS

58. Recently seen in the news **Khayyam satellite** is a satellite of which of the following country?

- A. **Russia**
- B. Kazakhstan
- C. South Korea

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

D. Iran

E. None of these

- **Russia will launch an Iranian remote sensing satellite into orbit next Tuesday.**
- **In cooperation with Russia, the Khayyam satellite will be launched next week from the Baikonur space station in Kazakhstan by a Soyuz satellite carrier.**
- **The satellite, apparently named after 11th-12th century Persian polymath Omar Khayyam, aims to "monitor the country's borders, enhance agricultural productivity and monitor water resources and natural disasters**
- **Russia is putting the satellite into space but it will be guided and controlled from ground stations in Iran.**
- **In October 2005, Iran's Sina-1 satellite, which aimed to study and observe the Earth, was deployed from Russia's Plesetsk cosmodrome.**
- **Iran insists its space program is for civilian and defense purposes only and does not breach the 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, or any other international agreement.**

59. Recently India signed six agreements with the Maldives for broad-based ties in key areas. How many lines of Credit have been announced by Modi for the Maldives?

A. USD 100 million

B. USD 200 million

C. USD 400 million

D. USD 500 million

E. None of these

India, Maldives ink 6 pacts; PM offers \$100 mn line of credit

SANDEEP DIKSHIT
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 2

In the middle of a bitter political fight with his ally and the poster-boy of democracy in the island nation, Mohammed Nasheed, Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih inked six agreements to expand cooperation in several key areas with Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Tuesday.

Videos of Nasheed's brother performing sexual intercourse with a foreign citizen have been circulating on social media in the Maldives, where homosexuality is an offense. Last week, the police arrested a police officer, former parliamentarian and high-profile lawyer under court warrants.



President Droupadi Murmu with Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

SOLIH FIRST FOREIGN DIGNITARY TO MEET PREZ

President Droupadi Murmu on Tuesday met Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, her first interaction with an overseas dignitary after becoming the country's First Citizen. The President said she was happy to receive a close friend of India and an eminent leader under whose leadership the Maldives had emerged as a stable and prosperous nation. She was happy to note that India's need-based financial and development assistance is supporting Maldives government's development priorities, said a Rashtrapati Bhavan news release. TNS

The political fight between the two pro-India figures comes at a time when former

pro-China Maldives President Yameen, who lost to the Solih-Nasheed combine in 2018, has

stepped up the "India Out Campaign".

Coinciding with Solih taking

an aggressive stand against Nasheed, PM Modi announced that an additional \$100 million line of credit would be given to the Maldives to accelerate work on ongoing developmental projects. New Delhi also sought to politically shore up Solih by announcing it would bankroll 2,000 social housing units in addition to the 4,000 announced earlier. The day also saw the ground-breaking ceremony for India's mega connectivity project in the Maldives that will overshadow the Maldives-China Friendship Bridge as the most visible infra project in the island nation.

A 6.74-km-long bridge and causeway link over the sea will connect the national capital Male with eastern islands.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- *India signed six agreements with the Maldives for broad-based ties in key areas.*
 - *A delegation-level talk was held between PM Narendra Modi and Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih in New Delhi.*
 - *Six agreements were signed in areas, including cyber security, disaster management, and infrastructure.*
 - *India-Maldives reviewed the progress of the Addu Roads project, provision of water and sewerage facilities at 34 islands, and restoration of Hukuru Miskiy (Friday Mosque).*
 - *PM Modi announced a Line of Credit of USD 100 million for the neighboring nation for the timely completion of development projects.*
 - *MoU for Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security between CERT-India and NCIT, Maldives*
 - *MoU for cooperation in the field of disaster management between NDMA, India and NDMA, Maldives*
 - *Agreement between EXIM Bank, India, and Ministry of Finance, Maldives for USD 41 Mn Buyer's Credit Financing of Police Infrastructure in the Maldives.*
 - *Approval for the award of the EPC contract for the USD 128 Mn Hanimadhoo Airport Development project under Line of Credit*
 - *Approval of DPR and commencement of the tendering process of the USD 324 Mn Gulhifahlu Port development project under Line of Credit*
 - *Approval of Feasibility Report and financial closure for the USD 30 Mn Cancer Hospital project under Line of Credit*
 - *USD 119 Mn Buyer's Credit financing by Exim Bank of India for additional 2,000 social housing units in Hulhumale*
 - *Capital: Male , Currency: Maldivian Rufiyaa*
60. Consider the following statement *regarding Water Expo 2022'*
1. *Bangladesh is the country partner at the event.*
 2. *India and Israel set to strengthen ties in the water sector.*
 3. *An international conference on innovative and sustainable water and environmental technologies has been launched at the Water Expo.*
- Which of the following statement is correct?
- A. *Only 1 & 2*
 - B. *Only 2 & 3*
 - C. *Only 1 & 3*
 - D. *All of the above*
 - E. *None of these*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **The Ambassador of Israel to India, HE Naor Gilon inaugurated the ‘17th Everything About Water Expo 2022’ at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday, further strengthening the cooperation between Israel and India in the water sector.**
- **Israel is the country partner at the event, which will be held till August 6. Four high-level water experts from Israel took part in the event.**
- **An international conference on innovative and sustainable water and environmental technologies has been launched at the Water Expo in which four high-level water experts from Israel participated.**
- **Both countries signed two major water agreements to increase cooperation in water conservation and state water utility reform.**
- **India is the only country wherein Israel has the position of Water Attache to help share Israeli best practices and technologies for advancements in India’s water management sector.**

India, Israel set to strengthen ties in water sector; 17th expo opened

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Ambassador of Israel to India, HE Naor Gilon inaugurated the ‘17th Everything About Water Expo 2022’ at the Pragati Maidan in New Delhi on Thursday, further strengthening the cooperation between Israel and India in the water sector. Israel is the country partner at the event, which will be held till August 6. Four high-level water experts from Israel took part in the event.

They shared their knowledge in a session that focused on the Israeli model for water management, policy regulations, technologies, R&D implementation and the Israel-India water partnership.

The session was chaired by G Asok Kumar, Director-General, National Mission for Clean Ganga. Speaking on the occasion, Ambassador Naor Gilon said, “We are happy to bring four Israeli water experts as speakers to this expo. They took part in a conference, where they shared their experience and technical know-how about advanced technologies and Israel-India partnership in the field of water. The visit of these experts to India has further deepened the ongoing water partnership between our two countries.”

The four Israeli experts included Sally Levy, CEO of Meniv Rishon Ltd, Tahel Brandes, Senior Deputy Legal Adviser of the Governmental Authority For Water And Sewage, Professor Hadas Mamane, head of the environmental engineering programme and the water-energy lab, School of Mechanical



Engineering in Tel Aviv University and Lior Asaf, Water Attache, Embassy of Israel. The importance of the water partnership between Israel and India can be understood from the fact that both countries signed two major agreements to increase cooperation in water conservation and water utility reform during Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Israel in 2017. Also, India is only country wherein Israel has the position of Water Attache to help share Israeli best practices and technologies for advancements in India’s water management sector.

Banking / Economy News

61. Consider the following statement regarding **Donations to political parties through electoral bonds (EBs)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. An electoral bond is like a financial tool used for making donations to political parties.
 2. SBI is the only bank authorized to sell these bonds.
 3. EBs have a life of only 20 days during which they can be used for donating only to the political parties
 4. According to data available from the State Bank of India (SBI), parties received Rs 389.5 crore through such bonds in the 21st sale of EBs conducted between July 1 and 10.
 5. None of these
- **Donations to political parties through electoral bonds (EBs) have crossed the Rs 10,000-crore mark with a total of Rs 10246 Cr Since 2018.**
 - **According to data available from the State Bank of India (SBI), parties received Rs 389.5 crore through such bonds in the 21st sale of EBs conducted between July 1 and 10.**
 - **An electoral bond is like a financial tool used for making donations to political parties.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The general public can also issue these bonds to fund eligible political parties.*
- *The bonds play a similar role as banknotes that are payable to the bearer free of interest and demand.*
- *An individual party can purchase these bonds digitally or with the help of a DD or cheque.*
- *The electoral bond scheme was launched by the Union government in 2018.*
- *A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India is eligible to purchase the bond.*
- *EBs are issued/purchased for any value, in multiples of Rs 1,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 1,00,000, Rs 10,00,000 and Rs 1,00,00,000 from the specified branches of the State Bank of India (SBI).*
- *SBI is the only bank authorized to sell these bonds.*
- *EBs have a life of only 15 days during which they can be used for donating only to the political parties registered under section 29A of the Representation of the Peoples Act, 1951.*
- *The party must have secured not less than one percent of the votes polled in the last general election to the Lok Sabha or a State Legislative Assembly.*
- *The bonds shall be available for purchase for 10 days each in January, April, July, and October as may be specified by the Central Government.*
- *The bond can be encashed by an eligible political party only through a designated bank account with the authorized bank.*
- *The donor's name is not mentioned on the bond.*
- *Donors who contribute less than Rs 20,000 to political parties through the purchase of electoral bonds need not provide their identity details such as PAN, etc.*

62. Recently In August 2022, **RBI decided to bring one of the following under the Internal Ombudsman framework.**

- A. Small Finance Banks
- B. Credit Information Companies**
- C. Payment Banks
- D. REITs
- E. None of these

- *RBI has allowed primary dealers to take part in more foreign exchange-related business activities.*
- *Standalone primary dealers can now offer all foreign exchange market-making facilities that only category-I authorized dealers are allowed to undertake.*

Credit information firms now under ombudsman mechanism

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, August 5

THE RESERVE BANK on Friday decided to expand the scope of the internal ombudsman framework by including credit information companies (CICs), to strengthen the grievance redressal system.

The Reserve Bank-Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS) has improved the customer grievance redressal mechanism. The turnaround time under RB-IOS has declined considerably, the central bank said in a statement.

“With a view to strengthen the internal grievance redress by CICs themselves, it has been decided to mandate CICs to have their own Internal Ombudsman (IO) framework,” RBI governor Shaktikanta Das said after unveiling the bi-monthly monetary policy. The RB-IOS 2021 covers regulated entities such as scheduled commercial banks including urban cooperative banks, non-banking financial

WIDENING SCOPE

■ The RB-IOS 2021 currently covers **regulated entities**

■ Bringing CICs under its ambit will provide a **cost-free alternate redressal mechanism** to customers

■ CICs will also be brought under the **internal ombudsman framework** to strengthen internal grievance redressal

companies (NBFCs) and non-scheduled primary co-operative banks with a deposit size of ₹ 50 crore and above. Bringing CICs under its ambit will provide a cost-free alternate redressal mechanism to customers of regulated entities for grievances against CICs, the statement said. The RBI said regulated enti-

ties are increasingly using outsourcing as a means to reduce costs and to avail expertise not available internally. Although outsourcing of a permissible activity is an operational decision, it exposes regulated entities to various risks.

“In view of the increasing trend of outsourcing, the framework for regulated entities to manage the associated risks needs to be suitably strengthened. Therefore, to harmonise and consolidate the extant guidelines, a draft Master Direction on Managing Risks and Code of Conduct in Outsourcing of Financial Services will be issued shortly for comments from stakeholders,” Das said.

The statement further said standalone primary dealers (SPDs) at present are permitted to undertake foreign currency business for limited purposes. It is proposed to enable SPDs to offer all foreign exchange market-making facilities as currently permitted to Category-I authorised dealers, it said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **As per RBI's Statement on Developmental Regulatory Policies, the step will bring them on par with banks operating primary dealer businesses.**
- **Presently, there are seven standalone and 14 bank primary dealers in India.**
- **RBI has also allowed standalone primary dealers to carry out foreign currency settled overnight indexed swap (FCS-OIS) transactions, directly with non-residents and other market-makers.**
- **According to RBI's bi-monthly Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, BBPS is currently accessible only to the residents of India.**
- **RBI has proposed to enable BBPS to accept cross-border inward payments to facilitate the Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in carrying out utility, education, and other bill payments on behalf of their families in India.**
- **RBI has also decided to bring Credit Information Companies under the internal Ombudsman framework.**

63. _____ is the first corporate company to sign an MoU with National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for transcontinental relocation of 'Cheetah' in its historical range in India.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Indian Oil**
- C. Tata Group
- D. Reliance Industries
- E. None of these

- **Indian Oil signed an MoU with National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) for the transcontinental relocation of 'Cheetah' in its historical range in India.**

IOC to support project Cheetah with ₹50 cr to NTCA

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

For the smooth settlement of the new guests, Cheetahs—which are all set to arrive in India before August 15—oil major Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has inked a pact with the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), promising Rs. 50.22 crore over four year towards the introduction of the wild cat, its habitat management and protection among others.

Indian Oil is the first corporate which has come forward to support the "Project Cheetah" under CSR, as the project has not only national importance but is also essential for balancing the ecosystem.

Under this project, a source population of 8-10 Cheetahs will be flown in from Namibia and South Africa and will be introduced at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh. It is a national project involving National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Govt. of India and the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.

Indian Oil will contribute its CSR funds to NTCA, which shall coordinate with Madhya Pradesh government and other agencies involved in the project.

"Cheetah has a very special significance for the national conservation ethic and ethos. Understanding this, Indian Oil is aiding the cause of bringing the Cheetah back to India, which would have equally important con-



The MoU was signed by Indian Oil Chairman SM Vaidya (Right) and Addl. Director General (Project Tiger) and Member Secretary (NTCA), Dr SP Yadav on Tuesday

servation ramifications," said an official from the PSU. In fact, Indian Oil last year adopted Indian Single Horned Rhino as its mascot and has been engaged in the country's Rhino conservation endeavors.

During the pact signing occasion, Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Housing & Urban Affairs, Hardeep Singh Puri and, Union Environment Minister, Bhupender Yadav, MoS, Ministry of Environment, Ashwini Kumar Choubey and MoS, Petroleum & Natural Gas and Labour & Employment Rameswar Teli.

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- *This is in continuation with the MoU signed on 20th July 2022 between the Government of India and the Government of the Republic of Namibia on wildlife conservation and sustainable biodiversity utilization, for establishing the cheetah into the historical range in India.*
- *Indian Oil will be contributing Rs.50.22 crore in 4 years for the project components viz. Cheetah Introduction, its Habitat Management & Protection, Eco Development, Staff Training, and Veterinary Healthcare.*
- *Indian Oil is the first corporate which has come forward to support “Project Cheetah” under CSR, as the project has not only national importance but is also essential for balancing the ecosystem. Cheetah has a very special significance for the national conservation ethic and ethos. Understanding this, Indian Oil is aiding the cause of bringing the Cheetah back to India, which would have equally important conservation ramifications.*
- *It may be noted that Indian Oil adopted Indian Single Horned Rhino as its mascot last year and, since then, has been at the forefront of India's Rhino conservation endeavors.*
- *Under this project, a source population of 8-10 Cheetahs will be flown in from Namibia and South Africa and will be introduced at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh. It is a national project involving the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), Govt. of India, and the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh.*
- *NTCA is the nodal agency authorized by MoEF&CC for funding, supervision, and hand holding. Indian Oil will contribute its CSR funds to NTCA, which shall coordinate with the State Govt. of Madhya Pradesh and other agencies involved in the project.*

64. Consider the following statement regarding the *Indian startup ecosystem*.

1. *India achieves a landmark milestone, with over 100000 startups recognized so far.*
2. *49% of startups are from Tier II & Tier III cities*
3. *India is the 3rd largest startup ecosystem.*

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- A. Only 1**
- B. Only 2 & 3**
- C. All of the above**
- D. None of the above**

- **India has achieved an important milestone by recognizing more than 75,000 start-ups.**
- **The last 10000 startups have been recognized in 156 days while the initial ten thousand startups were recognized in 808 days.**
- **Recognizing more than 75 thousand start-ups is a milestone in the order of 75 years of independence.**

a percentage. The higher the _____ The FRP is governed by _____ in 2022-23. _____ sugar in June 2018.

India home to 75,000 startups: Goyal

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 3

AS MANY AS 75,000 startups have been recognised by the government and about 49% of them are from the tier-II and tier-III cities, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal said on Wednesday.

"These numbers tell the power of a vision. A vision to see innovation & enterprise drive growth. India is now home to 75,000 startups in the 75th year of Independence and this is only the beginning," Goyal said in a tweet on Wednesday.

According to the data compiled by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), about 12% of the startups belong to



Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal

- About 49% of startups recognised by the govt are from tier-II and tier-III cities
- Nearly 7,46,000 jobs have been created by the start-up ecosystem
- A total of 12% of the startups belong to the IT services and 9% to healthcare

the IT services, 9% to health-care and life sciences, 7% to education, 5% to professional and commercial services and 5% to agriculture.

About 7,46,000 jobs have been created by the startup ecosystem, having recorded a 110% annual increase over the last six years.

While the initial ten thousand start-ups were recognised in 808 days, the latest ten thousand were achieved in only 156 days. With more than 80 startups getting

recognised per day, the highest rate in the world, the future of the startup culture is "very promising and encouraging," according to an official statement.

The Startup India programme, launched in January 2016, was rolled out to provide an enabling environment for budding entrepreneurs to flourish. Through the programme, the government provides tax incentives to eligible start-ups and support them intellectual property rights and public procurement.

Several rules have been eased, especially in labour and environment, to help them start operations.

'Game of chance makes _____ Attention Investors _____

- **Around 80 Startups getting recognized per day, which is the highest rate in the world.**
- **India has the 3rd largest ecosystem for startups. Around 7.46 lakh jobs have been created by the Indian startup ecosystem and 49% of startups are from Tier II & Tier III cities.**
- **Out of the total recognized startups, 12% are from IT services, 9% are from Healthcare and Life Sciences, 7% are from education and 5% are from professional and commercial services.**
- **The Government has supported the startups from funding to tax incentives.**
- **The government eased public procurement and regulation of taking part in international fests and events.**

65. Recently in August **Achieving Women Equity (AWE) Funds** launched its first India-focused fund of _____.

- A. ₹300-crore**
- B. ₹350-crore**
- C. ₹400-crore**
- D. ₹450-crore**
- E. None of these**

- **Achieving Women Equity (AWE) Funds has launched its first India-focused fund of ₹350-crore.**
- **The fund will make an investment in about 15 startups over the next five years.**
- **The fund is registered with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Achieving Women Equity (AWE) Funds is a gender-smart investment platform.*
- *It aims to empower 30 million women by 2030 through investment in companies owned, led, or influenced by women.*

66. Recently in August **RBI imposed a penalty of ₹32 lakh** on one of the following banks for breach of directions on classification and reporting of frauds.

- A. *HDFC Bank*
- B. *Axis Bank*
- C. *Indian Bank***
- D. *ICICI Bank*
- E. *None of these*

RBI imposes Rs 3.2-mn penalty on Indian Bank for non-compliance

The Reserve Bank of India today imposed a penalty of 3.2 mln rupees on Indian Bank for non-compliance with certain provisions of frauds classification and reporting norms. The central bank had carried out a statutory inspection of the bank with respect to its financial position as of Mar 31, 2019. It had found that the bank failed to comply with the examination of the risk assessment report, inspection report and all related correspondence, the central bank said in a release.

- *RBI has imposed a penalty of ₹32 lakh on Indian Bank.*
- *The penalty has been imposed on Indian banks for breach of directions on classification and reporting of frauds.*
- *RBI has also imposed a penalty of ₹82 lakh on Jupiter Capital Private Ltd, for breach of norms on submission of credit information.*
- *Jupiter Capital Private Ltd is a Bengaluru-based private equity and debt investment firm.*
- *Indian Bank: It was founded in 1907. Its headquarters are in Chennai. Shanti Lal Jain is its MD & CEO.*
- *From 1 April 2020, Allahabad bank has been merged with Indian Bank.*

67. Recently in August _____ has **announced world's first metaverse ATM**.

- A. *Decentraland***
- B. *Adobe Atmosphere*
- C. *Entropy Universe*
- D. *Metaplace*
- E. *None of these*

- *Virtual reality platform Decentraland has announced the world's first metaverse ATM.*
- *Decentraland has partnered with Transak payment gateway and Metaverse Architects studio.*
- *This has been done to allow users to easily purchase Mana or any other cryptocurrency.*
- *Mana is used as an in-game currency. Users can purchase and sell items within the game using cryptocurrency.*
- *The metaverse ATM is intended to ease the user experience.*
- *J.P. Morgan earlier launched its first metaverse lounge on Decentraland.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Decentraland: It is a 3D virtual world browser-based platform.*
 - *Users can buy virtual plots of land on the platform as a non-fungible token (NFT) via the MANA cryptocurrency.*
 - *It is powered by the Ethereum blockchain. It allows users to create, experience, and monetize their content and applications.*
68. According to the government data _____ states contributes maximum to total trade value on government's e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) platform.
- A. Madhya Pradesh
 - B. Bihar
 - C. Haryana**
 - D. Rajasthan
 - E. None of these
- *Haryana contributes maximum to total trade value on the government's e-NAM (National Agriculture Market) platform.*
 - *Value of trade in agriculture produced by 18 States and three union territories on the e-NAM platform till June 30 has been ₹2.04 lakh crore.*
 - *Haryana's contribution was ₹62,757 crore. Haryana was followed by Rajasthan (₹38,794 crore share) and Andhra Pradesh (₹30,890 crore share).*
 - *States and union territories must make three reforms in their respective State Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) Acts for integrating their mandis with the e-NAM platform.*
 - *The reforms are provisions for e-trading, a single-point levy of market fees, and a unified single trading license for the State.*
 - *A total of 1,000 mandis have been integrated with the platform. Rajasthan led the list of integrated mandis with 144 mandis. It was followed by Uttar Pradesh at 125 and Gujarat at 122.*
 - *Out of the 1.73 crore farmers registered on the e-NAM platform, Uttar Pradesh came first by registering 33 lakh farmers. Madhya Pradesh and Haryana are ranked second and third, respectively.*
 - *Out of the 2.26 lakh traders registered on the platform, Rajasthan came first by registering 82,359 traders. Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are ranked second and third, respectively.*
69. What was the GST revenue collected in July 2022?
- A. ₹1,44,995
 - B. ₹1,48,995**
 - C. ₹1,46,995

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1st August – 8th August 2022)

D. ₹1,49,995

- The gross GST revenue collected in July 2022 is ₹1,48,995 crore of which CGST is ₹ 25,751 crore,
- The revenues for July 2022 are 28% higher than the GST revenues in the same month last year of ₹ 1,16,393 crore.
- For five months in a row now, the monthly GST revenues have been more than ₹ 1.4 lakh crore, showing a steady increase every month. The growth in GST revenue till July 2022 over the same period last year is 35% and displays a very high buoyancy.

At ₹1.49 trn, GST mop-up second-highest in July

Collections cross ₹1.4-trn mark for fifth straight month

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 1

THE GOODS AND services tax (GST) collections came in at ₹1.49 trillion in July (June transactions), up 28% on year, thanks to resurgent economic activities, improved compliance, high inflation and a broadening of the tax base. The collections crossed the ₹1.4-trillion mark for the fifth straight month. The July mop-up was also the second-highest in any month.

The monthly average mop-up in April-July was an impressive ₹1.5 trillion, up 35% on year. If this pace is sustained through March 2023, gross GST receipts in the current financial year, including compensation

ON THE RISE

FY23 gross GST receipts (₹ trillion)



Extra collections likely over BE*



*Net to the Centre may be ₹82,000 crore higher than relevant BE after factoring in 41% devolution to states



cess proceeds, may exceed the estimate by a neat ₹3 trillion, allowing the Centre to appropriate an additional ₹80,000 crore after devolution to the states.

The gross GST collections by the Centre and states, going

by the Union Budget, are estimated at ₹14.76 trillion — ₹6.6 trillion as central GST, ₹6.96 trillion as state GST, and cess of ₹1.2 trillion.

Continued on Page 2

70. In August 2022 _____ has collaborated with Hatchlab Research Centre, TBI of SRM University-AP to launch 'IND Spring Board', an initiative for financing start-ups and MSMEs.

- A. Dhanalakshmi Bank
- B. Indian Bank**
- C. Bank Of Baroda
- D. State Bank Of India
- E. None of these

- Indian Bank has collaborated with Hatchlab Research Centre, TBI of SRM University-AP to launch 'IND Spring Board', an initiative for financing start-ups and MSMEs.
- The bank will extend loans of up to Rs 50 crore to start-ups incubated at SRM Hatchlab for their working capital requirements or purchase of machinery and equipment. This collaboration is one of its kind in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- Hatchlab Research Centre, the technology and livelihood business incubator of SRM University-AP facilitates the incubation of student start-ups.

71. Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML) signed a Unit Transfer Agreement (UTA) for the acquisition of FIPL's manufacturing plant situated at Sanand, Gujarat for a total consideration of _____.

- A. Rs 582.9 Cr
- B. Rs 725.7 Cr**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- C. Rs 963.5 Cr
- D. Rs 820 Cr
- E. None of these

- **Electric Mobility Limited (TPEML), a subsidiary of Tata Motors, and Ford India Private Limited (FIPL), on Sunday, signed a Unit Transfer Agreement (UTA) for the acquisition of FIPL's manufacturing plant situated at Sanand, Gujarat, which inter-alia includes: (i) entire land & buildings; (ii) Vehicle Manufacturing Plant along with machinery and equipment situated therein; and (iii) transfer of all eligible employees of FIPL's vehicle manufacturing operations at Sanand, for a total consideration, exclusive of taxes, of Rs 725.7 crore.**
- **This acquisition for Tata Motors will unlock a state-of-the-art manufacturing capacity of 300,000 units per annum which is scalable to 420,000 units per annum.**
- **FIPL will continue to operate its Powertrain Manufacturing Facility by leasing back the land and buildings of the Powertrain Manufacturing Plant from TPEML on mutually agreed terms. TPEML has agreed to offer employment to the eligible employees of FIPL's Powertrain Manufacturing Plant in the event of FIPL's cessation of such operations.**

72. According to **India's competition law, India proposes mandating antitrust scrutiny for mergers and acquisitions valued above _____.**

- A. Rs 500 Cr
- B. Rs 1000 Cr
- C. Rs 2000 Cr**
- D. Rs 5000 Cr
- E. None of these

- **India proposes mandating antitrust scrutiny for mergers and acquisitions valued above Rs 2,000 crore (\$250 million), according to a draft law, a move lawyers said appeared aimed at global tech companies with a substantial local business.**
- **The proposal is part of a larger overhaul of India's competition law in a bill set to be introduced in parliament on Friday. Reuters reviewed a copy of the draft bill.**
- **Under current law, the Competition Commission of India (CCI) reviews mergers and**

prices have been softening of **Continued on Page 2** rally high, they are at pre-Covid

Bill proposes prior CCI nod for M&As above ₹2,000 cr

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 5

THE GOVERNMENT HAS sought Parliament's consent to amend the Competition Act, 2002, to ensure that mergers and acquisitions (M&As) involving global tech giants and potentially having an "appreciable" effect on Indian markets don't escape the country's antitrust scrutiny.

The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, introduced in Parliament on Friday, proposes that all deals worth over ₹2,000 crore be subject to the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) prior approval if the firms have "substantial business operations" in India. It also lays out process to ascertain whether an entity has "substantial business operations" in India or not.

According to sources, the Bill also provides for a slew of other changes to the Act to incorporate

■ The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, was introduced in Parliament on Friday

■ Provides for a slew of changes to further empower the Competition Commission



new market realities, including a reduction in the time limit for approval of combinations from 210 days to 150 days. Further, it seeks to put in place a settlement mechanism concerning contraventions related to certain "anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance".

An application for settlement may be filed only after receipt of investigation report and before passing of final order by the CCI. The commission may determine the norms for computing settlement amounts.

Continued on Page 2

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

acquisitions that surpass thresholds for asset size or turnover.

- *But many high-value deals between technology firms with a major presence in India have escaped scrutiny in the country because the companies involved have had few assets and low turnover.*
- *Facebook's acquisition of WhatsApp in 2014 for \$19 billion, for example, required no CCI clearance, even as WhatsApp counted India as a major market, lawyers say.*
- *As part of the broader revamp of competition law, the government also proposes reducing the time limit for approving mergers to 150 days from 210 days.*

73. *Consider the following statement regarding The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022.*

1. *It includes a limitation period of three years for filing information on anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position before the CCI.*
2. *It proposed reducing the time limit for approval of combinations to 150 days from the current 210 days.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Competition (Amendment) Bill, 2022, introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday, has also proposed provisions for having 'value of transaction' as a criterion for notifying combinations to the Competition Commission of India (CCI).*
- *Other amendments suggested include a limitation period of three years for filing information on anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position before the CCI, changes in certain definitions like 'enterprise', 'relevant product market', 'group', and 'control' to provide clarity.*
- *The provision providing for a penalty up to Rs 1 crore or imprisonment up to three years or both in case of contravention of any order of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal would be replaced with the provision for contempt, as per the bill.*
- *Another change proposed is reducing the time limit for approval of combinations to 150 days from the current 210 days and also requiring the CCI to form a prima facie opinion within 20 days for expeditious approval of combinations.*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- The government also plans to introduce a "Settlement and Commitment framework to reduce litigations" and incentivize parties in an ongoing cartel investigation in terms of lesser penalties to disclose information regarding other cartels.
- The Competition Act was enacted in 2002. The Competition Law Review Committee, set up by the corporate affairs ministry which is implementing the Act, had suggested various changes to the law.

+ Govt moves to arm competition panel with powers to scrutinise M&A deals of over ₹2,000 cr

Competition law amendment Bill targets offshore digital transactions of high valuation but not involving large assets or turnover

NEW DELHI, August 5
The government has proposed significant amendments to the Competition Act to empower the Competition Commission of India (CCI) to scrutinise mega M&A deals of over ₹2,000 crore. The ₹2,000-crore threshold spell out in the Competition (Amendment) Bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha on Friday, is expected to have the most impact on high-profile transactions in the evolving digital industry as well as new-age enterprises, said competition law experts. Many digital business transactions, especially the Big Tech's off-shore ones, do not involve large assets or turnover but are consummated at high valuation. Un-

til now, these deals did not fall under the CCI purview although the companies involved had substantial business interests in India. They have not come under the CCI scrutiny as the merger control criteria in the existing competition law hitherto were based on "assets" and "turnover" thresholds. They did not cover deal values as a criterion. Now, that situation will change with the proposed introduction of a new "value of transaction" threshold, said experts. Under the "value of transaction" threshold criteria, companies looking to acquire control shares, voting rights, etc. must seek the Competition Commission's approval if the value of the



transaction exceeds ₹2,000 crore. Shweta Shroff Chopra, Partner, Competition Law, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas & Co, said this is one of the most important changes proposed under the Bill. "This likely stems from the CCI's inability so far to review a number of transactions in the digital and infrastructure space that were not reportable as the assets and/or turnover value were below the de minimis target exemption threshold. While this change will increase the CCI's merger review jurisdiction, a lot will depend on how the CCI determines "substantial local

revenue". Anisha Chand, Partner, Khaitan & Co., said the value criterion will "result in a higher number of transactions requiring approval from the CCI, especially in the digital tech space where transaction values are enormous compared to the actual revenues the company may be generating." Most jurisdictions have recognised an "enforcement gap" when it comes to high-profile transactions in the evolving digital industry, which may not have large sized assets or turnover but substantial valuations. **Other key changes** The amendment Bill also proposes the introduction of settlement and commitment mechanisms in cases of investigation in relation to anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominance. This will help in the early

closure of investigations and reduce litigation, said Prithika Kumar, Founder of Cornelia Chambers. Besides broadening the scope of anti-competitive agreements, the Bill also seeks to speed up approvals of M&As and reduce litigation. The Bill proposes reducing the time limit for approval of combinations from 210 days to 150 and 20 days for the Commission forming a prima facie opinion for the expeditious approval of combinations. The Bill proposes the introduction of a limitation period of three years for filing information on anti-competitive agreements and abuse of dominant position before the Commission. The Bill proposes to incentivise parties in an ongoing cartel investigation in terms of a reduced penalty for disclosing information on other cartels.

RB NF
Allo... on b fami bille
OUR BU
member... The Re Friday the Bi tem, a cross-t payme
The non-re to pay other i famiH platfo maru "Stateo menta Polite Insti on "short

74. Recently in August Ministry of Culture partnered with _____ to start the initiative, India ki Udaan' to celebrate the unwavering, undying, spirit of India and its achievements in the past 75 years.
- Meta
 - Google
 - Amazon
 - Paytm

- Ministry of Culture and Google kick-started the initiative, India ki Udaan' to celebrate the unwavering, undying, spirit of India and its achievements in the past 75 years.
- This event is a continuation of decade -long partnership between the Ministry of Culture and Google.
- This joint venture was organized under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- The showcase displayed India's biggest achievements using ground-breaking augmented reality technology, including Indian handicrafts and also the stories of India's women achievers.

Google launches 'India Ki Udaan' to mark 75 years of Independence

New Delhi: Capturing the milestones India has achieved in its journey of 75 years since Independence, software giant Google on Friday unveiled a vibrant online project drawing from rich archives and featuring artistic illustrations to tell the story of the country.

Named 'India ki Udaan', the project executed by Google Arts & Culture celebrates the country's achievements and is "themed on the unwavering and undying spirit of India over these past 75 years".

The project was officially launched at a glittering event held at the Sunder Nursery here in the presence of Union Culture and Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy and senior officials of the Culture Ministry



and Google.

As part of the countrywide celebrations, Google also announced its collaboration with the Ministry of Culture focused "on reaching informative online content that showcases the contributions of Indians and the evolution of India since 1947 to support the Government's year-long 'Azadi

Ka Amrit Mahotsav' programme", the search giant said in a statement.

It also announced that its popular Doodle4Google contest for 2022, themed on 'In the next 25 years, my India will ...', is now open for entries to students of classes 1-10.

"The winner of this year's Doodle4Google will see their artwork on the Google homepage in India on November 14, and win a Rs 5,00,000 college scholarship, a Rs 2,00,000 technology package for their school/non-profit organisation, a recognition of achievement, Google hardware, and fun Google collectibles. Four group winners and 15 finalists will also win exciting prizes," it said in the statement. **PTI**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

75. **NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL) will set up India's first Green Hydrogen Fuelling Station in**

- _____.
- A. Pune
 - B. Hyderabad
 - C. **Leh**
 - D. Jamanagar
 - E. None of these

- **National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Ltd (NTPC REL), NTPC's wholly owned subsidiary has invited a domestic tender to set up India's first green hydrogen fuelling station in Leh, Ladakh.**
- **NTPC REL and NVVN would jointly be executing the green mobility project in the union territory of Ladakh. A dedicated 1.25 MW solar plant is also being set up in Leh by NTPC REL to make the hydrogen fuelling station completely green.**
- **NTPC has plans to ply five hydrogen buses, to start with, in the region and the company will be setting up a solar plant and a green hydrogen generation unit in Leh towards this end.**
- **This will put Leh as the first city in the country to implement a green hydrogen-based mobility project.**

76. **Consider the following statement regarding the PLI Scheme of ACC Battery Storage. Which of the following is not among the companies that have signed the Program Agreement under the (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage?**

- A. Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL)
- B. Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited
- C. Rajesh Exports Limited
- D. **Adani Green Power**
- E. None of these

- **Reliance Industries Ltd's (RIL) New Energy arm, Ola Electric Mobility Private Limited, and Rajesh Exports Limited are the three companies that have signed the Program Agreement under (PLI) Scheme for Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) Battery Storage.**
- **These companies will receive incentives under India's ₹18,100 crore program. In addition to the capacities allocated by the Ministry of Heavy Industries under the PLI Program, private players are expected to create battery manufacturing capacity to the tune of ~95 GWh.**
- **The companies were among four bidders selected by the government in March to build a total of 50-gigawatt hours (Gwh) of battery storage capacity under a production-linked incentive program.**
- **A total of 10 bids were received from companies with a manufacturing capacity of 128 GWh under the PLI Scheme of ACC Battery Storage.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Under the ACC PLI program, the manufacturing facility would have to be set up within two years.*
- *The incentive will be disbursed thereafter over five years on the sale of batteries manufactured in India.*

77. Consider the following statement regarding **Agriculture Infra Fund awards**.

1. **State Bank of India** achieved the **first position among the best performing banks**
2. **Bank of Baroda** achieved the **first rank in the valuable contribution category**.
3. In the **state category**, **Madhya Pradesh** has been adjudged the **best-performing state**.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2
- B. Only 1 & 3
- C. Only 2
- D. All of the above
- E. None of these

- *Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Narendra Singh Tomar, presented Agriculture Infra Fund awards.*
- *The awards felicitate the contribution of various Banks and States and different field functionaries to the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund (AIF) scheme.*
- *State Bank of India achieved the first position among the best performing banks. It is followed by Punjab National Bank and Bank of India.*
- *In the second category, banks were awarded for their valuable contribution. In this category, the Bank of Baroda achieved the first rank.*
- *It is followed by the Central Bank of India, Canara Bank, and Kotak Mahindra Bank.*
- *In the Target Achievers Category, Punjab National Bank, Canara Bank, HDFC Bank, Bank of Maharashtra, Punjab & Sind Bank, and Karnataka Bank were awarded.*
- *Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank was best among the best performing Regional Rural Banks.*
- *It was followed by Madhyanchal Gramin Bank, Maharashtra Gramin Bank, and Baroda Rajasthan Kshetriya Gramin Bank.*
- *In the state category, Madhya Pradesh has been adjudged the best-performing state.*
- *Andhra Pradesh is recognized as the best performer in the sanction of PACS applications.*
- *As the best performer in the faster disposal of PACS applications, Karnataka was awarded.*
- *Rajasthan was declared the Rising State under AIF.*
- *Agri Infra Fund:*
- *Its second foundation day will be celebrated next month. It was launched two years ago under Aatmanirbhar Bharat Package.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- It was launched as a dedicated Central Government scheme that provides a medium-long term credit facility for investment in the creation of post-harvest management infrastructure and community farming assets.
- This credit facility comes with financial support by way of a three percent Interest subvention from the Government and a credit guarantee by the Credit Guarantee fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE) fee of up to two crore rupees.

78. Which of the following will be able to make utility, education, and other bill payments for their families in India through Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) as per the RBI proposal?

- A. Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)
- B. Persons of Indian origin (PIO)
- C. Overseas Citizens of India (OCI)
- D. None of the above

- Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) will be enabled to accept cross-border inward payments.
- As per the RBI proposal, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) will be able to make utility, education, and other bill payments for their families in India through BBPS.
- According to RBI's bi-monthly Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies, BBPS is currently accessible only to the residents of India.
- RBI has proposed to enable BBPS to accept cross-border inward payments to facilitate the NRIs in carrying out utility, education, and other bill payments on behalf of their families in India.
- RBI has also decided to bring Credit Information Companies under the internal Ombudsman framework.
- Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS) is an RBI conceptualized ecosystem driven by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- NPCI functions as the authorized Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU). BBPS was launched in the year 2017.

RBI opens Bharat Bill Payment System for NRIs to pay bills; no need for NRE A/C

Allows NRIs to pay on behalf of their families; 20,000 billers on-boarded

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 5

The Reserve Bank of India on Friday widened the scope of the Bharat Bill Payment System, enabling it to accept cross-border in-bound bill payments.

The move will facilitate non-resident Indians (NRIs) to pay utility, education, and other bills on behalf of their families in India on the BBPS platform in an interoperable manner, the RBI said in its 'Statement on Developmental and Regulatory Policies'.

Instructions will be issued on the announcement "shortly," it added.



At the post-Monetary Policy conference, RBI Deputy Governor T Rabi Sankar said the measure is aimed at making bill payments convenient for non-resident Indians and their relatives staying in India.

Sankar said the move will give an NRI access to the full suite of more than 20,000 bill payment options available on this system. Further, NRIs will no longer need to

have an NRE account in India to pay bills.

Focused on convenience
"The idea is that they will be able to pay any bill, insurance, electricity, or any utility, through a system, an interface that will be provided by exchange houses or banks. The focus is on convenience," he said.

Over 20,000 billers have been on-boarded on the Bharat Bill Payment System, with more than eight crore transactions being processed every month. The platform is currently accessible only to residents in India.

"This is a big boost for digital payments. It will also streamline the overall system and encourage consumers to make payments digitally," said Kunal Jhunjhunwala, Founder and MD of airpay.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

79. Recently **BOB Financial Solutions** has announced the launch of its credit card servicing mobile app, **bobcard'** which has been **designed in collaboration** with _____ to help customers with a one-stop solution to manage their Bank of Baroda credit card services.

- A. **IBM**
- B. Tech Mahindra
- C. Tata Limited
- D. Infosys
- E. None of these

- **BOB Financial Solutions** has announced the launch of its credit card servicing mobile app, 'bob card' to help customers with a one-stop solution to manage their Bank of Baroda credit card services.
- **BOB Financial Solutions** is a non-banking financial company that is wholly owned by the Bank of Baroda, an Indian public sector bank.
- The app has been designed in collaboration with **IBM**. It is a smart digital platform that offers a battery-saver dark-themed interface along with secured access with face ID, fingerprint lock & PIN, and a smart eye feature to ensure that card details of the customers remain private.
- The mobile servicing app, bob card will help customers manage their card usage limit, redeem reward points instantly, convert high-value transactions into smart EMIs and pay credit card bills on time.

80. Recently in August _____ **partnered with Indian Railways** to boost its delivery services in the country.

- A. India Post Payment Bank
- B. **Amazon**
- C. Flipkart
- D. Paytm
- E. None of these

- **Amazon India** has engaged with **Indian Railways** to boost its delivery services in the country.
- Through this partnership, the e-commerce firm said it will be able to transport packages on more than 110 inter-city routes, ensuring one to two-day delivery for its customer.
- Amazon began working with the Indian Railways in 2019. The company has increased its transportation lanes five-fold.
- It is the first online delivery company to work with the Indian Railways to build an express transportation product via rail in 2019.

Amazon ties up with Railways to deliver packages across India

Amazon India has engaged with the Indian Railways to transport customer packages in more than 110 inter-city routes, ensuring one to two-day delivery for its customers, the e-retail giant said on Wednesday. Since its operational engagement with the railways in 2019, Amazon has increased its transportation lanes five-fold, it said. Amazon was the first company in the Indian e-commerce space to work with the Indian Railways to build an express transportation product via rail in 2019. Since then, Amazon India has worked with railways to scale up its network.

BS REPORTER

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

81. _____ became *India's first private sector company to produce and deliver wheeled armored combat-ready vehicles* for the Indian armed forces.
- A. **Tata Advanced Systems Limited**
 - B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
 - C. Larsen & Turbo
 - D. Bharat Dynamics Limited
 - E. None of these
- *To bolster the operational capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces, Tata group's Aerospace and Defence Arm, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) has successfully delivered the indigenously developed Quick Reaction Fighting Vehicle-Medium (QRFV) to the Indian Army.*
 - *As per TASL, the Made-in-India combat vehicle will enhance the operational capabilities of the Indian Army in future conflicts and war-like scenarios.*
 - *In the first-ever development in the Indian defense ecosystem, Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) became India's first private sector company to produce and deliver wheeled armored combat-ready vehicles for the Indian armed forces in April this year.*
 - *Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV) has been developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In addition to supply, TASL will provide 24x7 support to maintain the vehicles at the deployment locations.*
 - *Infantry Protected Mobility Vehicle (IPMV) has been developed by Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) along with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). In addition to supply, TASL will provide 24x7 support to maintain the vehicles at the deployment locations.*
82. Recently in August _____ *state government in collaboration with the Life India Corporation (LIC), is set to roll out 'Nethanna Beema' in the state that provides Rs 5 Lakh insurance cover to the weavers.*
- A. Odisha
 - B. Andhra Pradesh
 - C. Tamil Nadu
 - D. **Telangana**
 - E. None of these
- *In collaboration with the Life India Corporation (LIC), the Telangana government is set to roll out 'Nethanna Beema' in the state that provides Rs 5 Lakh insurance cover to the weavers.*
 - *The state government's handlooms and the textile department will act as the nodal agency to implement the scheme at the grass-root level.*
 - *Through this scheme, as many as 80,000 weavers working in the state will be benefitted from the insurance cover. The project will be launched on National Handlooms Day, which is observed on August 7.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The Minister of Industries of Telangana said that the deceased's family would be extended with the support of Rs 5 Lakh. The same will be credited to a family member's account within ten days of the death.*
- *The minister said, "On the lines of the 'Rythu Beema' scheme for farmers, the state government is introducing the 'Nethanna Beema' scheme to provide financial support to the bereaved families of handloom and power loom weavers. It's to uplift the weavers' community in the state."*
- *The Government has allocated ₹50 crores for this scheme and has already released ₹25 crores.*
- *The State Department of Handlooms and Textiles will be the nodal agency for the implementation of this scheme.*
- *The Government will set up State level and district committees to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme.*

83. **State Bank of India (SBI) has reported year-on-year (YoY) dip of _____ per cent in net profit to ₹6,068 crore in Q1FY23 against ₹6.504 core in Q1FY22.**

- A. 5.2 %
- B. 6.7 %**
- C. 7.1 %
- D. 8.2 %
- E. None of these

- *Beating the street estimates by a huge margin, the State Bank of India (SBI) has reported a year-on-year (YoY) dip of 6.7 percent in net profit to ₹6,068 crores in Q1FY23 against ₹6.504 core in Q1FY22.*
- *India's largest commercial bank has reported a rise in its net interest income (NII) from ₹27,638 crores in Q1FY22 to ₹31,196 crores in Q1FY23, logging a near 12.87 percent rise on a YoY basis.*

84. **Recently which among the following launched *Moonlighting policy*, an industry-first that lets employees take up external projects?**

- A. Uber
- B. Zamota
- C. Swiggy**
- D. Flipkart

SBI net drops 6.7% to ₹6,068 cr. as mark-to-market losses drag

Bank delivered reasonable results in business, profitability, asset quality: Khara

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
MUMBAI

The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) on Saturday reported a 6.7% drop in its standalone profit after tax (PAT) to ₹6,068 crore for the quarter ended June, on account of mark-to-market (MTM) losses.

On a consolidated basis, its PAT stood at ₹7,325.11 crore as against ₹7,379.91 crore a year earlier.

SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara said during the quarter the bank had delivered reasonable outcomes in business, profitability and asset quality. "While net profit and operating profit have been impacted by the MTM losses due to hardening of bond yields, our core revenue streams have remained intact with good growth over previous year," Mr. Khara told reporters.



Stable growth: Core revenue streams were intact, with 'good' growth over the previous year, says Khara. •FILE PHOTO

The lender took a hit on account of MTM losses amounting to ₹6,549 crore on its investment book.

Mark-to-market (MTM) losses occur when the financial assets held are valued by the market at a price lower than the purchase price.

Mr. Khara said as government securities yields soften, the bank would be able to recover most of the MTM losses during this year.

"We have done some kind of sensitivity analysis. If we go by the government securities yield of 7.3%, which was yesterday's [Friday's] closing, we can write back ₹1,900 crore of MTM provision, which we have already created," he said.

NII climbs 12.9%
Net Interest Income (NII) increased by 12.9% to ₹31,196 crore, from ₹27,638 crore. Domestic net interest margins (NIM) improved by 8 bps to 3.23%, from 3.15%.

Asset quality also improved, with gross non-performing assets (GNPA) at 3.91% as against 5.32% in the same quarter of the previous year. Net NPA stood at 1% compared with 1.77%.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

E. None of these

- On-demand convenience platform Swiggy has introduced an industry-first Moonlighting policy for its employees.
- Under the policy, Swiggy employees can take up external projects for pro-bono or economic consideration based on internal approvals.
- This could encompass activity outside of office hours or on weekends that does not impact their productivity on the full-time job or have a conflict of interest with Swiggy's business in any way.

85. Recently in August _____ has become the first bank to list its Payment Gateway platform on the TIN 2.0 platform of the Income Tax Department.

- A. IndusInd Bank
- B. Federal Bank**
- C. Axis Bank
- D. Yes Bank
- E. None of these

- Kerala-based Federal Bank has become the first bank to list its Payment Gateway platform on the TIN 2.0 platform of the Income Tax Department.
- The TIN 2.0 platform went live on July 1 this year and the "Payment Gateway" has been enabled, providing one more payment option to taxpayers, who can now make their payments with ease, using modes such as Credit/Debit Card, UPI, NEFT/RTGS, and Internet Banking.
- Federal Bank Limited is an Indian private sector bank headquartered in Aluva, Kochi. CEO: Shyam Srinivasan.

86. What will be the theme of the India pavilion at the upcoming COP27 at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt?

- A. LIFE**
- B. Tejas
- C. AzzadiSat
- D. Sarang
- E. None of these

- "LIFE - Lifestyle for the Environment", a global initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be the theme of the India pavilion at the upcoming COP27 at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Modi had proposed the one-word mass movement "LIFE" at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at Glasgow last November.**
- **Subsequently, he launched 'Lifestyle for the Environment - LIFE Movement' on June 5.**
- **The vision of 'LIFE' is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. The people who live such a lifestyle can be called "Pro-Planet People."**
- **India has been setting up its pavilions at COPs since 2015 to showcase its achievements in climate action. Several think tanks, civil society organizations, industry bodies, and the private sector organize side events at the India pavilion.**
- **Egypt will host COP27 from November 6 to 18.**

PM's global initiative LIFE to be India's theme at its COP27 pavilion in Egypt

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

LIFE – Lifestyle for the Environment, a global initiative launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will be the theme of the India pavilion at the upcoming COP27 at Sharm-El-Sheikh in Egypt, the Union Environment Ministry said on Saturday.

Modi had proposed the one-word mass movement "LIFE" at the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change at Glasgow last November.

Subsequently, he launched 'Lifestyle for the Environment – LIFE Movement' on June 5. The vision of 'LIFE' is to live a lifestyle that is in tune with our planet and does not harm it. The people who live such a lifestyle can be called "Pro-Planet People", the ministry said.

India has been setting up its pavilions at COPs since 2015 to showcase its achievements in climate actions. Several think tanks, civil society organisations, industry bodies and private sector organise side events at the



India pavilion.

The Union Cabinet has already approved India's updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) incorporating Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Panchamrit' strategy announced at the Glasgow conference aiming to strengthen global efforts to tackle climate change.

India aims to reduce emissions intensity of its GDP by 45 per cent by 2030, from 2005 level, and achieve about 50 per cent cumulative electric power installed capacity from non-fossil fuel-based energy resources by 2030. India also aims to reduce total projected carbon emissions by 1 billion tonnes and carbon intensity of the economy to less than 45% by 2030. Further, under the commitment India aims to achieve net zero carbon emission by 2070.

87. According to government data, India's foreign direct investment to gross domestic product ratio eased to _____ in fiscal year ending March, 31.

- A. 3.1 %
- B. 2.7 %**
- C. 3.4 %
- D. 1.5 %
- E. None of these

- **India's foreign direct investment to gross domestic product ratio eased to 2.7% in the fiscal year ending March. 31, 2022 from 3.1% in the previous financial year, according to government data.**
- **The FDI to GDP ratio, which is a metric that compares a country's fund inflows as compared to its gross domestic product, was at 2.3% in fiscal 2018, Minister of Commerce and Industry Som**

India's FDI to GDP ratio during 2021-22 stood at 2.7 per cent

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, 3 AUGUST

India's foreign direct investment to gross domestic product (FDI to GDP) ratio for the financial year 2021-22 stood at 2.7 per cent, government data showed on Wednesday.

The FDI to GDP ratio is the metric which compares a country's fund inflows as compared to its gross domestic product. The data was shared by the Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Som Parkash in the Lok Sabha.

In 2021-21, the FDI to GDP ratio was at 3.1 per cent. In 2017-18, it was 2.3 per cent.

In reply to a question about whether it is true that the central government has not achieved its foreign direct investments target, the minister replied saying the government does not fix targets for FDI inflows as it is largely a matter of commercial business decisions.

"FDI inflows into a country depends on a host of factors such as availability of natural resources, market



size, infrastructure, political and general investment climate as well as the macro-economic stability and investment decision of foreign investors," he said. To promote foreign direct investment (FDI), the government has put in place an investor-friendly policy, wherein most sectors, except certain strategically important sectors, are open for 100 per cent FDI under the automatic route. Further, the policy on FDI is reviewed to ensure that India remains an attractive and investor-friendly destination.

"Changes are made in the policy after having consultations with stakeholders including apex industry chambers, associations, representatives of industries/groups and other organizations.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Parkash informed the Lok Sabha, citing government data.

- The government has in recent years implemented an investor-friendly policy, wherein most sectors, except certain strategically important sectors, were opened for 100% FDI under the automatic route.

88. Consider the following statement regarding the Reserve Bank Of India Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) for March 2022.

1. The value of the FI Index stands at 56.4 in March 2022.
2. The Index has been constructed with 2017 as the base year
3. It comprises three broad parameters. The parameters are accessed (35% weight), usage (45% weight), and quality (20% weight).

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 2
- C. Only 2 & 3
- D. None of the above

- RBI has published the Financial Inclusion Index (FI Index) for March 2022.
- The value of the FI Index improved from 53.9 in March 2021 to 56.4 in March 2022.
- Growth has been witnessed across all the sub-indices of the FI Index.
- RBI had constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country.

RBI's Financial Inclusion Index for March up at 56.4

Reflects cumulative effort of all stakeholders over the years



The FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive gauge incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 2

The Reserve Bank of India Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index) improved to 56.4 in March vis-à-vis 53.9 in March 2021, with growth seen across all sub-indices.

The RBI had constructed a composite FI-Index to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country, in consultation with stakeholders concerned, including the government.

Comprehensive index

The annual FI-Index for the period ended March 2017 was at 43.4. The index has been constructed without any 'base year', and as such, it reflects the cumulative effort of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion.

100 indicates full financial inclusion.

The FI-Index comprise three broad parameter (weights indicated in brackets) – access (35 per cent), usage (45 per cent), and quality (20 per cent) with each of these consisting of various dimensions that are computed based on a number of indicators. The central bank said the index is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services, and quality of services, in all 9 indicators.

The RBI said the FI-Index has been conceptualised as a comprehensive gauge incorporating details of banking, investments, insurance, postal as well as the pension sector in consultation with the government and respective sectoral regulators.

The index captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value ranging between 0 and 100, where 0 represents complete financial exclusion and

In a speech last year, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das had emphasised that it was the responsibility of all stakeholders to ensure that the financial ecosystem (including the digital medium) is inclusive and capable of effectively addressing risks like mis-selling, cyber security, data privacy and promoting trust in the financial system. These efforts also have to be supported by a robust grievance redress mechanism, he added.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *RBI published it in August 2021 for the FY ending March 2021.*
- *The annual FI-Index for the period ending March 2017 was 43.4.*
- *The Index has been constructed without any 'base year. It captures information on various aspects of financial inclusion in a single value.*
- *The value may range between 0 and 100. 0 shows complete financial exclusion. 100 shows full financial inclusion.*
- *It comprises three broad parameters. The parameters are accessed (35% weight), usage (45% weight), and quality (20% weight).*
- *The index is responsive to access, usage of services, and quality of services, in all 97 indicators.*

89. Recently **National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD)** and _____ signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing entrepreneurial skills among the youth and identifying other aspects for mutual collaboration.

- A. **Hindustan Unilever**
- B. **ITC Limited**
- C. **Godrej Consumer Products**
- D. **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation**
- E. **None of these**

- *To inculcate a culture of innovation, imagination, and proactiveness among youngsters, National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (NIESBUD) and Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) for developing entrepreneurial skills among the youth and identifying other aspects for mutual collaboration.*
- *The alliance will further enhance employment generation and create sustainable livelihood opportunities, giving a major boost to nano and micro-entrepreneurship advancement in the country.*
- *HUL is also contributing INR 63,00,000 to NIESBUD to support the Skill Acquisition and Knowledge Awareness for Livelihood Promotion (SANKALP) Project, which aims at strengthening the entrepreneurship ecosystem, and bringing in better market connectivity and inclusion of marginalized sections of the society.*
- *The National Institute for Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development is a premier organization of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.*
- *Hindustan Unilever Limited is a consumer goods company headquartered in Mumbai, India. It is a subsidiary of Unilever, a British company.*

Centre raises fair prices for sugarcane harvest

It is too little, say farmers' organisations

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI
 The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, at its meeting chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here on Wednesday, has approved Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September) at ₹305 per quintal.

The amount is for sugarcane with a basic sugar recovery rate of 10.25%. The Centre has also announced a premium of ₹3.05 per quintal for each 0.1% increase in recovery of sugar over and above 10.25% and reduction in FRP by ₹3.05 per quintal for every 0.1% decrease in recovery.

The FRP for last season was ₹290 per quintal with a basic recovery rate of 10%. While the Centre claimed the increase will protect the interest of sugarcane farmers, the farmers' organisations said the FRP is too low when compared to the increase in input cost and the increase of 0.25% in recovery rate is a blow to them. The Centre has also decided that there shall not be any deduction in case of sugar mills where recovery is below 9.5%.

General secretary of Maharashtra State unit of All India Kisan Sabha Ajit Nawale said the cost of production has surged due to increase in fuel and fertilizer price.

A ND-NDE

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Mr. Sanjiv Mehta, Chairman & Managing Director of Hindustan Unilever Limited.**

90. Recently Cabinet Committee on **Economic Affairs approved the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September) at _____.**

- A. Rs. 390/qrtl
- B. Rs. 250/qrtl
- C. Rs. 305/qrtl**
- D. Rs. 410/qrtl
- E. None of these

- **The central government has approved the highest ever FRP of Rs 305 per quintal for sugarcane farmers.**
- **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the FRP of sugarcane for sugar season 2022-23 (October - September).**
- **The FRP for sugar season 2022-23 is 2.6% higher than the current sugar season 2021-22.**
- **The decision will benefit five crore sugarcane farmers and five lakh workers employed in the sugar mills and related activities.**
- **In the past eight years, Fair and Remunerative Price has increased by more than 34%.**
- **The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) is announced by the Central government.**
- **It is announced based on recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) in consultation with the State Governments and after taking feedback from sugar industry associations.**
- **About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP): In October 2009, Sugarcane (Control) Order 1966 was amended.**
- **The Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane was replaced by the FRP of sugarcane for the sugar season 2009-10 and onwards.**
- **It is the benchmark price. No sugar mill can purchase cane from sugarcane farmers below this price.**
- **Some state governments announce State Advised Price (SAP) which is usually higher than FRP. These states are Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Tamil Nadu.**

91. Consider the following statement regarding the **Competition Commission of India (CCI) approval In August.**

CCI clears \$573 mn IDFC stake sale deal

PTI
feedback@livemint.com

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Tuesday approved the proposed ₹4,500 crore (\$573 million) deal wherein the Bandhan Financial Holdings-led consortium will buy stakes in IDFC Asset Management and IDFC AMC Trustee.

The consortium includes private equity firm Chrys Capital and Singapore's sovereign fund GIC.

The transaction includes acquisition of 99.96% stake in IDFC Asset Management Company Ltd and 100% shareholding in IDFC AMC Trustee Company Ltd.

The stakes would be acquired by Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd, Lathe Investment Pte. Ltd, Tangerine Investments Ltd and Infinity Partners, according to a release.

In April, the Bandhan Financial Holding-led consortium entered into a definitive agreement to acquire IDFC Asset Management Company and IDFC AMC Trustee Company for ₹4,500 crore.

IDFC AMC is the asset management company of IDFC Mutual Fund which operates a portfolio management business and IDFC Trustee is a trustee company of IDMF.

Bandhan Financial Holdings Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bandhan Financial Services Ltd and the promoter of private sector lender Bandhan Bank Ltd.

Lathe is wholly-owned by Singapore-based GIC Ventures Pvt Ltd and Tangerine Investments is a subsidiary of Chrys Capital Group while Infinity Partners is a partnership firm.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

1. *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between Shriram Group Companies under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.*
2. *CCI approves the acquisition of a stake in IDFC Asset Management Company Limited and IDFC AMC Trustee Company Limited by Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited, ChrysCapital and GIC*
3. *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of 50.1% of the equity share capital of Sanmina-SCI India Private Limited (SCIPL) by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL).*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of 50.1% of the equity share capital of Sanmina-SCI India Private Limited (SCIPL) by Reliance Strategic Business Ventures Limited (RSBVL).*
- *The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of 50.1% of the equity share capital of SCIPL by RSBVL.*
- *RSBVL is a subsidiary of Reliance Industries Limited. RSBVL's principal activities are trading goods, holding strategic investment interests in businesses, and providing business support services.*
- *SCIPL is an indirect subsidiary of Sanmina Corporation, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in San Jose, California, USA.*
- *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the acquisition of a stake in IDFC Asset Management Company Limited and IDFC AMC Trustee Company Limited by Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited, ChrysCapital, and GIC.*
- *The proposed combination envisages the acquisition of a 99.96% stake in IDFC Asset Management Company Limited (IDFC AMC) and a 100% stake in IDFC AMC Trustee Company Limited (IDFC Trustee) by Bandhan Financial Holdings Limited (BFHL), Lathe Investment Pte. Ltd. (Lathe), Tangerine Investments Limited (CC Entity 1) and Infinity Partners (CC Entity 2).*

- **BFHL is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Bandhan Financial Services Limited. BFHL is set up to act as the promoter of Bandhan Bank Limited and to hold the investment in Bandhan Bank as well as all other financial services entities of the group regulated by the Reserve Bank of India or other financial sector regulators.**
- **The lathe is wholly owned by GIC (Ventures) Private Limited. The lathe is part of a group of investment holding companies managed by GIC Special Investments Private Limited.**
- **IDFC AMC is the asset management company for IDFC Mutual Fund (IDMF). IDFC AMC also operates a portfolio management business and acts as an investment manager for IDFC India Equity Hedge Fund, a Category III Alternative Investment Fund. IDFC Trustee has been appointed as the trustee company of IDMF.**
- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approves the Composite Scheme of Arrangement and Amalgamation between Shriram Group Companies under Section 31(1) of the Competition Act, 2002.**
- **The proposed combination involves a composite scheme of arrangement and amalgamation (Scheme) between Shri Lekha Business Consultancy Private Limited (SBCPL), Shriram Financial Ventures (Chennai) Pvt. Ltd (SFVPL), Shriram Capital Limited (SCL), Shriram Transport Finance Company Limited (STFC), Shriram City Union Finance Limited (SCUF), Shriram LI Holdings Pvt Ltd (SLIH), Shriram GI Holdings Pvt. Ltd (SGIH) and Shriram Investment Holdings Ltd (SIHL).**

92. **Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) has divested its entire stake in SP Jammu Udhampur Highway to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for _____.**
- \$250 million**
 - \$290 million**
 - \$120 million**
 - \$390 million**
 - None of these**

Shriram group NBFCs get CCI nod for merger

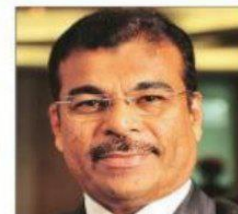
FE BUREAU
Chennai, August 2

SHRIRAM TRANSPORT FINANCE Company (STFC) received approval from the Competition Commission of India (CCI) for its merger with Shriram City Union Finance Company, on Monday. The merged entity, christened Shriram Finance, will be India's largest retail NBFC with assets under management (AUM) of ₹1.65 trillion as of June 2022.

Umesh Revankar, VC & MD of STFC said, "With this approval, we have now received approvals for the merger of Shriram City with Shriram Transport Finance from Sebi, BSE, NSE, shareholders, secured creditors, unsecured creditors, CCI and Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority and Reserve Bank of India and now only await the final go-ahead from National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT)."

The group has begun the process of assigning responsibilities to geographical unit heads and their immediate juniors besides orienting the business teams of both Shriram City and Shriram Transport to the products. Currently, the orientation process which began in April as a pilot project in about 50 branches and has now been rolled out to around additional 500 branches of both companies.

"In preparation to commence



ROAD AHEAD

■ **Umesh Revankar, VC & MD, STFC says the merger now only needs the final go-ahead from NCLT**

■ **The merged entity, christened Shriram Finance, will be India's largest retail NBFC with an AUM of ₹1.65 trillion till June 2022**

operations in the merged entity, we have launched the pilot business as a combined entity across 550 branches in all five geographical units. This endeavour will be scaled up progressively until the merger day. The teams and systems integration is progressing well and we expect business stability to be maintained, while synergy would help us in building up future firm value for all stakeholders through the merger," said Revankar.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1st August – 8th August 2022)

- **Business conglomerate Shapoorji Pallonji Group (SP Group) has divested its entire stake in SP Jammu Udhampur Highway to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for \$290 million (about Rs 2,280 crore).**
- **The deal also helps the group to reduce its consolidated debt by about Rs 1,850 crore.**
- **SP Jammu Udhampur Highway is the developer of the Jammu Udhampur Highway project, which is under a concession from the National Highways Authority of India on a build-operate-transfer basis.**

● \$290-MILLION DEAL

Shapoorji Pallonji Group sells highway project stake to NIIF

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, August 2

BUSINESS CONGLOMERATE
SHAPOORJI Pallonji Group (SP Group) has divested its entire stake in SP Jammu Udhampur Highway to National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) for \$290 million (about ₹2,280 crore). The deal also helps the group to reduce its consolidated debt by about ₹1,850 crore.

SP Jammu Udhampur Highway is the developer of Jammu Udhampur Highway project, which is under concession from the National Highways Authority of India on a build-operate-transfer basis. "This is in line with SP Infrastructure's strategy of creating long-term value by developing strategic infrastructure projects. It also demonstrates the group's versatile capabilities across the

STRATEGIC PROJECT



- SP Jammu Udhampur Highway is the developer of Jammu Udhampur Highway project
- The 64.5-km project enhances connectivity to the Vaishno Devi Shrine
- The project had raised external commercial borrowings in dollar terms

entire project life cycle involving the development, financing, operations and unlocking of value," Sanjay Date, chief executive of transportation at SP Infrastructure, said.

Anchored by the Indian government, NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for global and Indian investors and manages funds with investments in different asset classes and diversified sectors.

The 64.5-km-long four-lane Jammu Udhampur Highway is of strategic national interest and enhances connectivity to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine. Construction involved complex engineering in challenging hilly terrain under extreme weather conditions and was undertaken by Afcons Infrastructure, an SP Group company.

The project had raised external commercial borrowings in dollar terms during the construction phase and is refinancing them through listed non-convertible debentures.

"The Jammu Udhampur divestment is another milestone in SP Group's continuing journey of successfully developing, value engineering and monetising strategic projects. This transaction also results in an effective reduction of about ₹1,850 crore of consolidated group debt besides unlocking equity" Jai Mavani, group executive director (corporate finance and M&A) at SP Group, said.

Firms look to cash in on STIV **Thermax**

- **Anchored by the Indian government, NIIF is a collaborative investment platform for global and Indian investors and manages funds with investments in different asset classes and diversified sectors.**
- **The 64.5-km-long four-lane Jammu Udhampur Highway is of strategic national interest and enhances connectivity to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.**

93. Recently **Ministry of Textiles approved Pashmina Wool Development Scheme under Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) with a budget allocation of _____ for 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

- A. Rs.23.75 Cr
- B. Rs.33.50 Cr
- C. Rs.17.50 Cr
- D. Rs.29.25 Cr**
- E. None of these

Ministry of Textiles approved Pashmina Wool Development Scheme under Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) with a budget allocation of Rs.29.25 Cr for 2021-22 to 2025-26

Posted On: 03 AUG 2022 4:05PM by PIB Delhi

Government of India has implemented Reconstruction Plan for UT of Jammu & Kashmir and UT of Ladakh during financial year 2017-18 to 2021-22. Progress made on the development of Pashmina in UT of Ladakh is annexed.

The Ministry of Textiles has approved Pashmina Wool Development Scheme under Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) with a budget allocation of Rs.29.25 Cr. for implementation during FY from 2021-22 to 2025-26. Provision has been made to provide financial assistance in form of Revolving Fund for procurement/marketing of pashmina wool in UT of Ladakh and UT of J&K. A project to set up Dehairing plant along with ancillary machines at Leh, UT of Ladakh with project cost of Rs.19.75 Cr. has been sanctioned and out of it Rs.12.92 Cr. has been released. A provision has been made under the HRD component of IWDP regarding awareness and training to wool growers including UT of Jammu & Kashmir as well as pashmina Nomads of UT of Ladakh region.

A project for registering pashmina wool of Ladakh region under Geographical Indication (GI) Act with a cost of Rs.15.00 Lakh has been sanctioned in favour of Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh. An application for registering of pashmina raw wool under GI Act has already been filed in November, 2020.

Order for procurement of pashmina Dehairing Plant has been placed by the Department of Animal/Sheep Husbandry & Fisheries, UT of Ladakh, Leh and ancillary machines have been procured. Consistent efforts are being made for expediting the pre-dispatch inspection of the machines before shipment.

- **The Ministry of Textiles has approved Pashmina Wool Development Scheme under Integrated Wool Development Programme (IWDP) with a budget allocation of Rs.29.25 Cr. for implementation during FY from 2021-22 to 2025-26.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Provision has been made to provide financial assistance in form of a Revolving Fund for procurement/marketing of pashmina wool in UT of Ladakh and UT of J&K.
- A project to set up a Dehairing plant along with ancillary machines at Leh, UT of Ladakh with a project cost of Rs.19.75 Cr. has been sanctioned and out of it Rs.12.92 Cr. has been released.
- A provision has been made under the HRD component of IWDP regarding awareness and training to wool growers including UT of Jammu & Kashmir as well as pashmina Nomads of UT of Ladakh region.

94. Consider the following statement regarding **State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE)**.

1. State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE) is a new innovative scheme of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB).
2. SERB-SURE scheme provides research support to active researchers belonging to state and private universities.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- A new scheme was launched to augment the research capabilities in a structured way to create a robust R&D ecosystem in state and private universities and colleges, including self-financed institutions working within these universities.
- State University Research Excellence (SERB-SURE) is a new innovative scheme of the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB), a statutory body of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), that can foster collaboration for high-end research at state and private universities and colleges.
- The new scheme will help bring the university system, which was so far mostly limited to teaching, into mainstream research and enable the young faculty there to participate in cutting-edge research.
- In this scheme, the state universities will have a level of competition to secure research funding and present significant opportunities for strengthening of research ecosystem in state universities to upgrade their research capabilities to national and international levels.

95. In August _____ launched **India's first public transport focused payment system. Named Chalo Pay.**

- A. Brihanmumbai Electric Supply & Transport
- B. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited
- C. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- D. National Highways Authority of India

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

E. None of these

- **The BEST celebrated its Foundation Day on Sunday with the launch of a unique 'Chalo Pay' service for daily commuters in Mumbai.**
 - **Now, users will no longer need to purchase a mobile ticket before boarding a bus. They can simply board any bus and pay with their mobile, and their mobile ticket will be generated upon payment.**
 - **"It is India's first public transport-focused payment system. Named Chalo Pay, the feature is available on the BEST Chalo App. It is an offline payment system that will benefit scores of commuters**
 - **Users can recharge the mobile wallet using UPI, net banking, debit and credit cards, and other online payments, and then use the wallet balance for instant payments for their bus tickets.**
 - **As part of the Foundation Day celebrations and 75 years of municipalization, BEST GM inaugurated a mini museum on the history of BEST and a special Rangoli event.**
96. **HDFC Ltd has raised \$1.1 billion (around Rs 8,700 crore) from a clutch of investors under the 'Syndicated Social Loan Facility' to cater to the affordable housing segment in the country. Which of the following is the lead social loan coordinator for this transaction along with being one of the Mandated Lead Arrangers and Borrowers (MLAB)?**
- State Bank Of India**
 - Asian Development Bank**

'Chalo Pay' now available on Chalo App

BEST launches India's first public transport-focused payment system

KAMAL MISHRA
Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) undertaking announced the launch of India's first public transport-focused payment system – 'Chalo Pay' – on Sunday to mark the 75th anniversary of municipalisation. This feature has been made available on the BEST Chalo App. Commuters can now purchase a mobile ticket while travelling on a bus and pay the fare using their cell phone, even if they are not connected to the internet.

Other payment methods like UPI and wallets require online authorisation for payments which can take very long and rely on telecom networks, making them unsuitable for use in a bus. Hence passengers need to book their tickets before boarding the bus. The new system works fully offline inside the bus (even without the internet), thus enabling instant payment.



Old BEST bus models on display, along with information on how they work, at an exhibition organised as part of the BEST Foundation Day celebrations at Ravindranatya Mandir in Prabhadevi on Sunday.

Pic: SWAPNIL SAKHARE

"It has been implemented for NCMC (National Common Mobility Card)-compliant digital ticket solutions by Chalo – India's leading transport technology company – and is powered by Yes Bank. Users can recharge the mobile wallet using UPI, net banking, debit and credit cards, and other online payments, and

then use the wallet balance for instant payments for their bus tickets," said a BEST official. He added that passengers simply have to inform the conductor that they wish to pay using their mobile phone and hold it next to the conductor's ticketing machine, or scan the QR code to pay for their ticket.

HDFC raises ₹8,700 cr as 'social loan' to finance affordable housing segment

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd on Friday said it has raised USD 1.1 billion (around Rs 8,700 crore) from a clutch of investors under 'Syndicated Social Loan Facility' to cater to the affordable housing segment in the country.

The country's largest mortgage lender by asset size said it has raised the amount by way of external commercial borrowings (ECBs).

"This landmark financing further promotes HDFC's longstanding mission

to be the leading provider of housing finance in India. Proceeds from the social loan would go towards financing affordable housing loans," the company said in a release.

MUFG Bank Ltd (MUFG) is the lead social loan coordinator for this transaction along with being one of the Mandated Lead Arranger and Borrowers (MLAB), it said.

CTBC Bank, Mizuho Bank, State Bank of India and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are the other MLABs and joint social loan coordinators.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

C. **MUFG Bank Ltd**

D. World Bank

E. None of these

- **Mortgage lender HDFC Ltd said it has raised USD 1.1 billion (around Rs 8,700 crore) from a clutch of investors under the 'Syndicated Social Loan Facility' to cater to the affordable housing segment in the country.**
- **The country's largest mortgage lender by asset size said it has raised the amount by way of external commercial borrowings (ECBs).**
- **"This landmark financing further promotes HDFC's longstanding mission to be the leading provider of housing finance in India. Proceeds from the social loan would go towards financing affordable housing loans,".**
- **MUFG Bank Ltd (MUFG) is the lead social loan coordinator for this transaction along with being one of the Mandated Lead Arrangers and Borrowers (MLAB).**
- **CTBC Bank, Mizuho Bank, State Bank of India, and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation are the other MLABs and joint social loan coordinators.**

97. In August **Adani Ports signed MOU With AD Ports Group In Rail And Maritime Services for end-to-end logistics infrastructure and solutions in _____.**

A. Israel

B. **Tanzania**

C. Malaysia

D. Mauritius

E. None of these

Adani Ports, AD Group of Abu Dhabi ink MoU to invest in Tanzania

Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) and AD Ports Group on Thursday signed an agreement for strategic joint investments in logistics infrastructure in Tanzania.

- **Adani Ports and SEZ and AD Ports Group on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for strategic joint investments in end-to-end logistics infrastructure and solutions, which include rail, maritime services, port operations, digital services, an industrial zone, and the establishment of maritime academies in Tanzania.**
- **The duo signed the key agreement which sets in motion a series of potential country-level investments to grow, improve, and promote the logistics ecosystem which will make Tanzania a hub for the African region.**
- **The Adani Group-backed Adani Ports is the country's largest integrated ports and logistics company.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

98. Recently in August _____ signed an MOU With the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) as part of the Connect Career to Campus (CCC) campaign under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) initiative.
- A. UNDP
 - B. LinkedIn**
 - C. Meta
 - D. Amazon
 - E. None of these
- *LinkedIn, the world's largest professional network, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kerala Development and Innovation Strategic Council (K-DISC) and the ICT Academy of Kerala (ICTAK) as part of the Connect Career to Campus (CCC) campaign under the Kerala Knowledge Economy Mission (KKEM) initiative.*
 - *Kerala government said this partnership aims to boost the employability skill among the youth of Kerala and aggravate relevant jobs for them using LinkedIn talent insights and learning tools.*
 - *The state government, in a release, said, through this partnership, different products and services of LinkedIn will be made available for students.*
 - *In this partnership, LinkedIn will offer talent insights and curated learning courses to bring the youth of Kerala closer to in-demand skills.*
 - *K-DISC is a strategic think-tank and advisory body constituted by the Government of Kerala.*
 - *The KKEM is a digital platform-based strategic program launched by the Government of Kerala to transform the state into a knowledge economy.*
99. Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI') has extended the timeline for Nomination for Mutual Fund ('MF') Holders till _____ to protect the interests of investors in securities.
- A. October 01, 2022**
 - B. September 01, 2022
 - C. November 01, 2022
 - D. December 01, 2022
 - E. None of these
- *On 29-07-2022, the Securities and Exchange Board of India ('SEBI') extended the timeline for Nomination for Mutual Fund ('MF') Unit Holders till October 01, 2022, to protect the interests of*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

investors in securities and to promote the development of, and to regulate the securities market.

- *Investors, who are subscribing to mutual fund units from October 1 will have the choice of providing a nomination or opting out of the nomination.*
- *Asset Management Companies (AMCs) will have to provide an option to the unit holder to submit either the nomination form or the declaration form for opting out of the nomination in physical or online mode as per the choice of the unit holder.*
- *AMCs shall validate the forms using the e-Sign facility recognized under the Information Technology Act, 2000 or through two-factor authentication (2FA) in which one of the factors shall be a One-Time Password sent to the unit holder at his/her email/ phone number registered with the AMC.*

SEBI extends timeframe for MF investor nomination to Oct 1

Mumbai: The Securities and Exchange Board of India has extended the timeline for mutual fund investors opting out of nomination to "on or after Oct 1" from "on or after Aug 1", according to a circular.

In a circular dated Jun 15, SEBI had said investors subscribing to mutual fund units on or after Aug 1 can provide a nomination in the format specified in SEBI (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 1996, or opt out of nomination through a signed declaration

form.

Asset management companies shall allow unitholders to submit either the nomination form or the declaration form for opting out of nomination in physical or online mode.

In case of the online mode, unitholders can use the electronic sign facility to provide their consent, or two-factor authentication in which one of the factor shall be a one-time password sent to the unitholder at the email address or phone number.

100. Consider the following statement regarding the **Unified Payments Interface (UPI)**.

1. **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded over 6 billion transactions in July highest since its inception in 2016.**
2. **It is an instant real-time payment system developed by the Reserve Bank Of India.**
3. **It is regulated by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) recorded over 6 billion transactions in July. This is the highest ever transaction by India's flagship digital payments platform (UPI) since its inception in 2016.**
- **UPI reported 6.28 billion transactions amounting to Rs 10.62 trillion, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). Month-on-month, the volume of transactions was up 7.16 percent.**
- **UPI crossed 1 billion transactions for the first time in October 2019.**
- **In October 2020, UPI processed more than 2 billion transactions.**
- **Unified Payments Interface (UPI) is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI). The interface facilitates inter-bank peer-to-peer (P2P) and person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions.**

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- **UPI is an open-source application programming interface (API) that runs on top of Immediate Payment Service (IMPS).**
- **It is regulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and works by instantly transferring funds between two bank accounts on a mobile platform.**

July records 6 billion UPI transactions, highest ever

Covid-19 pandemic has fuelled the acceleration of digital payments in the country in the past two years

SUBRATA PANDA
Mumbai, 1 August

Unified Payments Interface (UPI) clocked over 6 billion transactions in July: the highest ever by India's flagship digital payments platform since its inception in 2016.

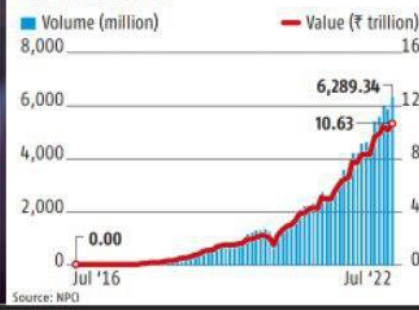
UPI reported 6.28 billion transactions amounting to ₹10.62 trillion, according to data released by the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), which operates the platform. Month-on-month, the volume of transactions was up 7.16 per cent and value increased 4.76 per cent. Year-on-year (YoY), the volume of transactions nearly doubled while value of transactions was up 75 per cent.

UPI crossed 1 billion transactions for the first time in October 2019, almost three years after its launch. The next billion came in under a year, as in October 2020, UPI processed more than 2 billion transactions. In the next ten months, UPI processed 3 billion transactions. It took only three months for the payment platform to reach 4 billion transactions per month, from 3 billion. And, the incremental one billion transactions were achieved in just six months' time. The next incremental one billion was achieved within six months.

The Covid-19 pandemic has fuelled the acceleration of adoption of digital payments in the country in the last two



ON THE RISE



September 2020, and 270.59 in March 2021.

UPI's target is to process a billion transactions a day in the next five years. The RBI's decision to allow linking of Rupay credit cards to UPI is expected to provide a huge boost to the volume as well as value of transactions in the coming months.

"We are looking at how we can expand the market. The objective is how we can go back to the 250 million users and how the bank can start doing smaller credits. Also, we are looking at how the 50 million merchants can start accepting credit. We may have to take care of the smaller merchants and protect them from the MDR (merchant discount rate). The existing credit card servicing merchants can continue to pay," said Dilip Asbe, the chief executive officer or NPCI, at an event on Rupay credit card and UPI linkage.

years. Apart from a few hiccups during the first two waves of the pandemic, UPI transactions are increasing as the broader economy recovers.

In FY22, UPI processed more than 46 billion transactions amounting to over ₹84.17 trillion, thus breaching the \$1 trillion mark. And, in FY21, it had processed 22.28 billion

transactions, amounting to ₹41.03 trillion. So, both volume and value of transactions doubled in a year's time, indicating the meteoric rise seen in the adoption of digital payments, especially UPI, in the country.

Reflecting the rapid adoption of digital payments in the country, the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) digital payments

index (DPI) rose to 349.30 as of March 2022, as against 304.06 in September 2021. Launched in January 2021, the DPI index indicates the extent of digitisation of payments across the country. In March 2019 the index stood at 153.47 and by September 2019, it rose to 173.49, followed by 207.94 in March 2020, 217.74 in

101. Recently in August _____ signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SCHWING Stetter India Pvt Ltd, one of India's major construction equipment manufacturers to broaden the Bank's MSME financing prospects.

- A. RBL Bank
- B. Yes Bank
- C. Axis Bank
- D. Karnataka Bank**
- E. None of these

- **Karnataka Bank signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SCHWING Stetter India Pvt Ltd, one of India's major construction equipment manufacturers. The collaboration with SCHWING Stetter is expected to broaden the Bank's MSME financing prospects.**
- **This MoU will allow both SCHWING Stetter and Karnataka Bank to provide consumers with customized financial solutions. With this development, the bank will be designated as a financial partner and will be able to meet the**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

needs of its customers by providing loans at competitive interest rates for the purchase of a wide range of construction equipment.

102. Consider the following statement regarding the *state bank of India's new subsidiary*. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. It will look into Financial resources (FR)-related issues.
2. The name of the subsidiary is State Bank Operations Support Services Pvt Ltd
3. Sanjeev Narayani is likely to head the HR subsidiary.
4. It's for the first time the RBI has allowed a bank to set up an HR subsidiary.
5. None of these

- The Reserve Bank of India has given in-principle approval to the operations and support subsidiary of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- The subsidiary will initially focus on managing branches in rural and semi-urban areas and is likely to be manned by a section of staff who shall be recruited by the arm on a contractual basis.
- Sanjeev Narayani is likely to head the HR subsidiary. Narayani spent 32 years with SBI before joining the Kolkata-based private sector lender Bandhan Bank in 2019.
- SBI's HR subsidiary would be the first of its kind for the Indian banking industry and other banks may follow suit. Many lenders applied to the regulator in the past for similar kinds of activities by a subsidiary but were turned down.
- SBI has received approval from the RBI for setting up an Operation Support Subsidiary for supporting RUSU (rural and semi-urban) branches in outreach for agri and MSME loan activities, etc. It will add to the bank's efforts for financial inclusion.
- Sources said staff recruited by State Bank Operations Support Services may not be eligible for the benefits that an employee of SBI is entitled to.

To manage costs, SBI set to launch HR subsidiary

RBI nod for State Bank Operations Support Services

MANOJIT SAHA
Mumbai, 7 August

In a bid to manage costs efficiently, State Bank of India (SBI), the country's largest lender, will soon start a subsidiary that will look into human resources (HR)-related issues.

The operations and support subsidiary of SBI has recently received in-principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India. The subsidiary will initially focus on managing branches in rural and semi-urban areas, and is likely to be manned by a section of staff who shall be recruited by the arm on a contractual basis.

Sanjeev Naryani, who was with Bandhan Bank until recently as its head of business, is likely to head the HR subsidiary. Naryani had been with SBI for 32 years before joining the Kolkata-based private sector lender in 2019.

SBI's HR subsidiary would be the first of its kind for the Indian banking industry and other banks may follow suit. According to sources, many lenders applied to the regulator in the past for similar kinds of activities by a subsidiary but were turned down. Now with the RBI approving SBI's proposal, some lenders are likely to revive their plans for such a venture.

"SBI has received the approval from the RBI for setting up an Operation Support Subsidiary for supporting RUSU (rural and semi-urban) branches in outreach for agri and MSME loan activities, etc. It will add to the bank's efforts for financial inclusion," said SBI, while responding to a query from *Business Standard*. Turn to Page 6 ▶



A SHOT IN THE ARM?

- Sanjeev Naryani to head the HR subsidiary
- It's for the first time the RBI has allowed a bank to set up HR subsidiary
- Initially, it will focus on managing branches in rural and semi-urban areas
- Staffers likely to be on a contractual basis
- The subsidiary is key to SBI's plan to reduce its cost-to-income ratio, which reached 61.94% in Q1 against 51.89% a year ago
- Salary accounts for 45.7% of SBI's total operating expenses in Q1

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

103. Recently in August _____ signed an agreement with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), the public-funded agency overseeing that country's innovation policy, for cooperation in technology.

- A. Reliance Industries
- B. Bharti Airtel
- C. Adani Enterprise**
- D. Tata Group
- E. None of these

- Adani Enterprises on Thursday signed an agreement with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), the public-funded agency overseeing that country's innovation policy, for cooperation in technology.
- The memorandum of understanding (MoU) will create an innovation platform allowing Adani Group businesses to access tech solutions provided by Israeli start-ups as the partnership supports innovation projects.
- The collaboration will span climate change, cyber, artificial intelligence, the internet of things, 5G, and agriculture: the core businesses of the Indian group.
- The Adani group plans to digitally integrate its businesses by linking its data centers through a network of submarine and terrestrial cables, industrial level 5G connectivity, building the largest industrial operations cloud in the world, and developing the super app.

Adani Enterprises, Israel Innovation Authority Sign MoU

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Adani Enterprises Ltd (AEL), the flagship company of the Adani Group, said on Thursday it signed a memorandum of understanding with the Israel Innovation Authority (IIA), for the creation of an innovation platform that will allow Adani businesses to access tech solutions provided by Israeli startups.

This cooperation will deepen the existing partnerships that the Adani Group has already established over the past six years in Israel, AEL said in a news release.

The collaboration will span climate change, cyber, artificial intelligence, Internet of things, 5G and agriculture, all of which are core businesses for the group.

The deal "provides us a platform to access the hundreds of cutting-edge technologies that Israel continues to produce", said Karan Adani, chief executive of group company Adani Ports & Special Economic Zone.

"What we offer in return is the broadest sandbox of multiple B2B and B2C industries from Adani to multiple tech companies in Israel. The Adani-IIA collaboration will also help to open various channels for the latest technologies from Israel to enter India and accelerate the digitisation of several other organisations," he said.

Under the provisions of Israeli industrial laws and policies that encourage research, development and technological innovation, the Adani Group will screen and select Israeli startups and other innovation companies developing new solutions in the tech space.

RT.GOTO
ictimes.com

104. _____ will wind up its UK subsidiary following termination of an agreement to sell 100 per cent of the stake to OpenPayd Holdings Ltd.

- A. Yes Bank
- B. Axis Bank**
- C. RBL Bank
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of these

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 4

Axis Bank to wind up UK arm

AXIS BANK WILL wind up its UK subsidiary following termination of an agreement to sell 100% of the stake to OpenPayd

Holdings Ltd. In March 2021, Axis Bank had informed the exchanges about entering into a share purchase agreement

with OpenPayd Holdings for sale of 100% stake in Axis Bank UK Ltd.

"In this connection, we wish

to inform you that both the parties have mutually decided not to go ahead with the aforesaid transaction and accordingly have terminated the share purchase agreement," the bank said in a regulatory filing.

- India's third largest private lender Axis Bank is winding up its subsidiary in Britain after a deal with financial firm OpenPayd failed.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Axis Bank first said in 2020 that it will be winding down its UK operations. Currently, the bank's international strategy is to focus on Indian corporates that have global operations, it said in an investor presentation in the results of the quarter ended June.*
- *Axis in March acquired Citigroup Inc's local consumer banking firm for \$1.6 billion to bulk up its credit card and retail business in the country.*
- *Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.*

104. Consider the following statement regarding **India Merchandise Trade Data of July 2022**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. *India's merchandise export in April -July 2022-23 was USD 156.41 billion.*
2. *India has achieved merchandise export of USD 35.24 billion in July 2022*
3. *India's merchandise import in July 2022 was USD 66.26 billion.*
4. *The trade deficit in July 2022 was USD 25.02 billion, while it was 100.01 billion USD during April -July 2022-23.*
5. *None of these*

- *India has achieved merchandise export of USD 35.24 billion in July 2022, almost at similar levels of USD 35.51 billion in July 2021.*
- *India's merchandise export in April -July 2022-23 was USD 156.41 billion with an increase of 19.35% over USD 131.06 billion in April -July 2021-22.*
- *India's merchandise import in July 2022 was USD 66.26 billion, an increase of 43.59% over USD 46.15 billion in July 2021.*
- *India's merchandise imports in April -July 2022-23 was USD 256.43 billion with an increase of 48.12% over USD 173.12 billion in April -July 2021-22.*
- *The trade deficit in July 2022 was USD 31.02 billion, while it was 100.01 billion USD during April -July 2022-23.*

105. Consider the following statement regarding the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) RBI Monetary Policy Review for August 2022**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. *It has decided to hike the Repo Rate by 50 basis points.*
2. *RBI's Repo Rate now stands at 5.5%.*
3. *Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate stands at 5.65%*
4. *Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) has been raised to 5.15%*
5. *None of these*

- *Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced the RBI Monetary Policy Review for August 2022.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *In its latest policy iteration, RBI's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), which is headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, has decided to hike the Repo Rate by 50 basis points.*
- *This is the third consecutive time that the Central Bank has decided to tinker with the Repo Rate, which is the rate at which it lends to commercial banks.*
- *With the latest revision, RBI's Repo Rate now stands at 5.4%.*
- *Along with a hike in the Repo Rate, RBI Governor also announced an adjustment in the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate to 5.65% while the Standing Deposit Facility, SDF has been raised to 5.15%.*
- *RBI has retained India's GDP Growth Forecast for FY23 at 7.2%. In terms of Quarterly Projections, RBI has said Q1 for the ongoing fiscal at 16.2% while the Q2 growth forecast has been retained at 6.2%, 4.1% for Q3, and 4% for Q4.*
- *RBI has kept the inflation forecast unchanged at 6.7 percent, as core inflation remains elevated. Retail Inflation in India has eased a little to settle at 7.01%,*
- *RBI Governor in his address about Monetary Policy also informed that the Central Bank has proposed that the Bharat Bill Payment System should be enabled for NRIs. This facility will allow NRIs to make bill payments for utilities, education, and other payments on behalf of their families in India.*
- *BBPS - Bharat Bill Payment System, is a national-level bill payment ecosystem that was launched in 2017 by RBI.*
- *BBPS is managed by the National Payments Corporation of India has is currently home to over 20,000 billers. Every month, around 8 crore transactions are processed under BBPS with NCPI reporting transactions worth Rs 15,154 Crores being managed in June through BBPS.*
- *Net foreign direct investment (FDI) at \$13.6 billion in Q1 FY23 was robust as compared to \$11.6 billion in Q1FY22.*

106. Consider the following statement regarding the 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains.

1. *Tech Mahindra will roll out its 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains from September 2022.*
2. *Vande Bharat Express is also known as Train 18.*
3. *The trial of the train will be conducted from Kota in Rajasthan to the Nagda section of Madhya Pradesh.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. All of the above
- D. None of the above

- *Tata Group will roll out its 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains from September 2022 and is planning to spend*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Rs 3,000 crore on research and development by 2026.

- **The steel-to-salt conglomerate is also targeting to be among the top 5 technology firms in the steel industry globally by 2030.**
- **Tata Steel's Composites division bagged a Rs 145 crore bulk order for seating systems of the Vande Bharat express that includes the supply of complete seating systems for 22 train sets, with 16 coaches in each train set.**

Tata Steel to roll out 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat

Tata Group plans to spend Rs 3,000 crore on R&D by FY26

AGENCIES
Ranchi

Tata Group is planning to spend Rs 3,000 crore on R&D by FY26 and set to roll out the 'First in India' seating system for Vande Bharat Express trains from September 2022, a top official has said. The steel-to-salt conglomerate is also targeting to be among the top 5 technology firms in the steel industry globally by 2030. Tata Steel's Composites division bagged a Rs 145 crore bulk order for seating systems of the Vande Bharat express that includes the supply of complete seating systems for 22 train sets, with 16



coaches in each train set. "These are specially designed seats, which can rotate 180 degrees and have aircraft-style passenger amenities. This is 'first-in-India' kind of a supply, which will be executed over 12 months starting September 2022," Debashish Bhattacharjee, Vice President, Technology & New Materials Business, Tata Steel, told PTI. "Composites industry in India is dominated by in-

stitutional businesses and is largely dependent on infrastructure, industrial and railway sectors. One of the key initiatives of the composites business was to convert to Fibre Reinforced Polymer (FRP) applications where steel is currently being used. Railways has been a promising customer for the FRP Composites business of Tata Steel. "The FRP used in the seats will have higher corrosion resistance and lower maintenance cost. Moreover, it will be conforming to the European standard of fire-retardant property, and will offer improved safety and comfort to passengers."

GLOBAL MARKET TRENDS, RUPEE MOVEMENT, CRUDE PR

- **Vande Bharat Express, also known as Train 18, is the second fastest train in India, which operates at a speed of 130 km/hr.**
- **"Tata Steel is setting up a greenfield facility at Khopoli, Maharashtra, in collaboration with a technology partner from the Netherlands.**
- **The facility will manufacture Aluminium honeycomb cored sandwich panels, which will be used mainly for interiors of rail and metro coaches.**
- **In a major step towards fulfilling the promise made by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 15 August last year of running 75 Vande Bharat trains in 75 weeks, the third such train will leave the Integral Coach Factory (ICF) in Chennai on 12 August for trials.**
- **The trial of the train will be conducted from Kota in Rajasthan to the Nagda section of Madhya Pradesh. The trial speed of the train will be 100 to 180 kmph.**

107. Consider the following statement regarding India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS).

- 1. National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has conducted the maiden test run of the RRTS train set on its depot tracks at Duhai in Ghaziabad.**
- 2. The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is 82 km long and will have around 70 km elevated section and 12 km underground section.**
- 3. The first train set of the RRTS was handed over to the NCRTC by Tata Steel.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1 & 2**
- B. Only 2 & 3**
- C. Only 1 & 3**
- D. All of the above**
- E. None of these**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has conducted the maiden test run of the RRTS train set on its depot tracks at Duhai in Ghaziabad.*
- *The NCRTC is establishing India's first Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) — a rail-based, high-speed regional commuter transit system — from Delhi to Meerut via Ghaziabad.*
- *The first RRTS train-set had arrived at the Duhai depot in June from its manufacturing unit in Savli in Gujarat.*
- *The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor is 82 km long and will have around 70 km elevated section and 12 km underground section.*
- *The priority section of the Delhi – Ghaziabad – Meerut RRTS corridor has five stations — Sahibabad, Ghaziabad, Guldhar, Duhai, and Duhai Depot.*
- *The first train set of the RRTS was handed over to the NCRTC by Alstom India as it rolled out of its manufacturing plant in Savli in Gujarat's Vadodara district.*
- *National Capital Region Transport Corporation or NCRTC has agreed with DB India to operate and maintain the 82-km long Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) corridor for 12 years.*
- *NCRTC is a joint venture company of the Centre and states of Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh under the administrative control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. It is mandated to implement the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) project across NCR.*

Student at the Law Faculty, Gauhati

NCRTC CONDUCTS MAIDEN TEST RUN OF RRTS TRAINS

New Delhi: The National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) has conducted the maiden test run of the RRTS train-set on its depot tracks at Duhai in Ghaziabad. The test run was conducted at Duhai depot on Saturday evening. "The NCRTC achieved an important milestone towards bringing in India's 1st Regional Rail on time, yesterday, RRTS trainset did a maiden test run on its depot tracks. The trainset was fed by recently charged NCRTC's 25 kV Traction system," the NCRTC said in a tweet on Sunday.

108. _____ has become the first city in India for which Google has published the Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data.

- A. Jaipur
 - B. Muzzafarpur
 - C. Duhai
 - D. **Aurangabad**
 - E. None of these
-
- *The Aurangabad Smart City Development Corporation Limited (ASCDCL) on Wednesday said that Aurangabad has become the first in the country to witness the official release of the Environmental Insights Explorer (EIE) data from Google.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Stating that the EIE dashboard for Aurangabad was launched by Google at a program in New Delhi, ASCDCL authorities said the data will help research organizations in framing sustainable solutions for the city.*
 - *Google has a feature called EIE, which helps cities measure the carbon emission sources, conduct analysis and identify strategies to reduce emissions that help counter air pollution.*
109. In August _____ entered into an agreement with its first fintech partner, New Street Technologies, for Micro Lending, Operations Management, and Technology Services under priority sector lending.
- A. RBL Bank
 - B. Dhanlakshmi Bank**
 - C. Jana Small Finance Bank
 - D. Unity Small Finance Bank
 - E. None of these
- *Dhanlaxmi Bank has entered into an agreement with its first fintech partner, New Street Technologies, for Micro Lending, Operations Management, and Technology Services under priority sector lending.*
 - *New Street Technologies will provide technical support to the Bank on Digital-on boarding and extend support as the business correspondent in the Micro-lending space to start the operations in southern states of India and subsequently expand to more states.*
 - *Dhanlaxmi Bank was incorporated in 1927 by a group of entrepreneurs at Thrissur located in Kerala. Bank's focus has always been on customizing services and personalizing relations.*
110. Recently Debt marketplace Yubi (formerly CredAvenue) has launched its real estate and infrastructure financing platform _____.
- A. Yubi Build**
 - B. Yubi Fire
 - C. Yuvi Ai
 - D. Yubi Core
 - E. None of these
- *Yubi (formerly CredAvenue), the world's first possibility platform for powering the discovery, execution, and fulfillment of credit, has announced the launch of its real estate and infrastructure financing platform, Yubi Build.*
 - *It has been established to unify the fragmented market and maximize its growth potential.*
 - *Yubi Build aims to reduce the turnaround time significantly by concluding processes such as signing up, discovery and analysis faster than ever before.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Yubi Build allows for fundraising through loan products specific to the Real estate and Infrastructure sectors, such as – Lease Rental Discounting (LRD), Construction Finance, Inventory Funding, Greenfield financing, etc.*

111. Recently in August _____ has entered into an arrangement with Yubi for co-lending via the Yubi Co.Lend, India's co-lending platform.

- A. Karnataka Bank
- B. RBL Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. DBS Bank
- E. None of these

- *Karnataka Bank has entered into an arrangement with Yubi for co-lending via the Yubi Co.Lend, India's co-lending platform. This collaboration will allow the bank to digitally onboard various NBFCs, lend a significant amount of money, and onboard a larger customer base as a result of their better consumer outreach.*
- *The digital Co-lending platform would enable Karnataka Bank and Yubi Co.Lend to effortlessly integrate and lend to borrowers with a faster turnaround time.*
- *Karnataka Bank Limited is an old-generation private sector bank. It is an 'A' Class Scheduled Commercial Bank based in Mangaluru in Karnataka, India.*

112. Recently in August Uber Technologies exited its entire _____ stake in food delivery platform Zomato by selling 612 million shares through multiple block deals.

- A. 6.5 %
- B. 7.8%
- C. 6.9 %
- D. 5.5 %
- E. None of these

- *Uber Technologies exited its entire 7.8% stake in food delivery platform Zomato by selling 612 million shares through multiple block deals.*
- *The American mobility service provider raised around ₹3,088 crores or \$390 million at nearly 100% profit.*
- *In January 2020, Zomato acquired Uber Eats' India operations in a non-cash deal, following which Uber received a 9.19% stake in the restaurant discovery platform for around \$200 million.*

Uber exits Zomato via block deal

RAJESH KURUP
MUMBAI, AUGUST 3

UBER TECHNOLOGIES exited Zomato through a block deal on Wednesday, selling its entire 7.8 per cent stake in the food delivery aggregator for about Rs 3,087 crore. The deal was executed at Rs 50.44 a share.

The buyers included global investment and venture capital firms such as Keysquare Capital, James Street, Templeton Global, FMR and Mirae Asset Global

STAKE SOLD

7.8%

■ Uber has sold its entire 7.8 per cent stake in Zomato for about Rs 3,087 crore. The deal was executed at Rs 50.44 a share

Investments, among others, British asset management firm Schroders and US asset manager BlackRock

also took part in the block deal, sources told FE.

Domestic funds (investors in rupee terms) included ICICI Prudential Mutual Fund, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, Nippon India Mutual Fund, Avendus Capital, HDFC Life Insurance, New Horizon and Templeton's local arm among others.

BofA Securities was the sole bookrunner to the deal.

The block deal comes after the one-year lock-in-period for pre-IPO shareholders of Zomato ended on June 23. FE

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- While Fidelity Emerging Markets Fund bought 54.4 million shares, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance Company acquired 45 million shares. The names of the other buyers weren't known.
-

113. Consider the following statement regarding the 5G Spectrum Auction 2022.

1. The 5G spectrum auction concluded successfully with a total bid amount of Rs 1,50,173 Crores.
2. Bharti Airtel was the top bidder with bids worth Rs 88,078 crore.
3. A total of 72,098 MHz of spectrum was offered for auction, out of which 51,236 MHz has been sold.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 1
- C. Only 2
- D. None of the above

- The 5G spectrum auction concluded successfully with a total bid amount of Rs 1,50,173 Crores, informed Union Telecom Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on August 1, 2022.
- The Minister stated that a total of 72,098 MHz of spectrum was offered for auction, out of which 51,236 MHz has been sold.
- The Telecom Minister informed that the fifth generation (5G) telecom services are likely to be launched in India by October 2022.
- Reliance Jio Infocomm was the top bidder with bids worth Rs 88,078 crore, accounting for 58.65 percent of the total Rs 1,50,173 crore received by the government in the 5G Spectrum auction.

5G auction ends; RIL emerges top bidder at ₹88K cr

Govt gets over ₹1.5 trn, sells 71% of the spectrum on offer

SURAJEET DAS GUPTA
New Delhi, 1 August

After seven days of bidding through 40 rounds, 5G spectrum auction has generated revenues of over ₹1.5 trillion (₹150,173 crore to be precise). While 5G was the centrepiece of the auction, the government had put up 72.09 GHz of spectrum across 10 frequency bands on sale.

The first day of the auction saw telcos buying 5G spectrum along with highly-priced 700 MHz airwaves for more than ₹1.45 trillion. In the remaining six days, the tally inched up marginally as companies got into the 4G play in some circles. On the final day of auctions, the government managed to earn only ₹43 crore in three rounds of bidding.

The total figure of ₹1.5 trillion stands out as the highest earning since mobile auctions began in 2010 with 3G. The quantum of spectrum on offer was also the highest. While the government was able to sell 71 per cent of the spectrum on offer in terms of quantity, in value terms it accounted for only around 35 per cent of the total of ₹4.3 trillion as per the base price.

Reliance Jio was top of the charts, forking out more than double of Bharti Airtel at ₹88,078 crore for 24,740 MHz of spectrum. But that includes the crucial 700 MHz band (considered key for 5G because of its coverage) apart from 1800 and the 5G bands of 3.3 GHz as well as 26 GHz. With this, they will be the only player to have bought spectrum across bands which are considered key for efficient 5G services globally. The company is also going for the advanced standalone 5G network with low latency unlike their rivals who are opting for a non-standalone network. Non-standalone 5G uses a new 5G radio (5G NR) access network overlaid on an existing 4G LTE network core while standalone 5G uses the 5G NR access network on a brand new 5G network core. Reliance Jio has spent 69 per

THE BATTLE FOR AIRWAVES

Spending big bucks

Company	Spectrum bought (in MHz)	Amount paid (in ₹ cr)
Reliance Jio	24,740	88,078
Airtel	19,868	43,084
VIL	6,228	18,799
Adani	400	212

HOW MUCH EACH BAND FETCHED

Band	Payment by telcos ₹ cr	Band	Payment by telcos ₹ cr
700 MHz	39,270	2100 MHz	3,180
800 MHz	1,050	2500 MHz	650
900 MHz	349	3300-3630 MHz	80,590
1800 MHz	10,376	26 GHz	14,709

₹150,173 cr Total

Source: DoT

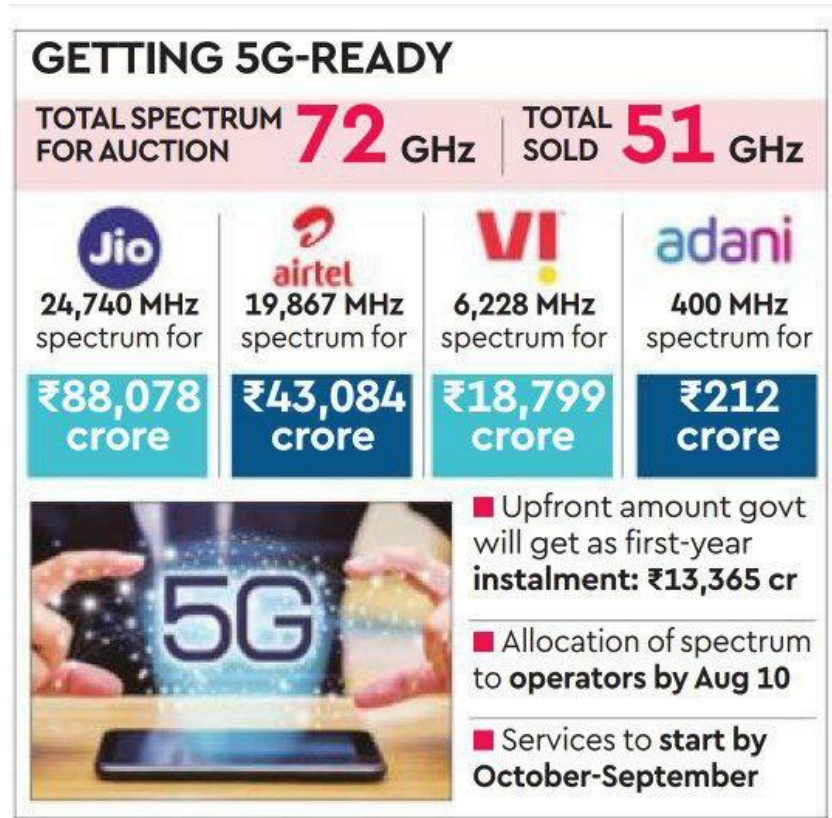


cent of its war chest based on the earnest money deposit (EMD). It will have to pay ₹7,877 crore as its first upfront payment. Airtel has been much more circumspect. It bought 19,876 MHz of spectrum in various bands including 5G for ₹43,084 crore.

Turn to Page 6

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Reliance Jio made bids to acquire 24,740 MHz (in 700 MHz, 800 MHz, 1800 MHz, 3300 MHz & 26 GHz).
- Bharti Airtel made bids worth Rs 43,084 crore to acquire 19,867 MHz spectrum in 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3300 MHz & 26 GHz bands.
- Vodafone Idea Ltd made bids worth Rs 18,799 crore to buy 6,228 MHz spectrum in 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 2500 MHz, 3300 MHz, and 26 GHz frequency bands.
- Adani Data Networks Ltd made bids worth Rs 212 crore to acquire 400 MHz spectrum in the 26 GHz frequency band.
- The four major bidders in 5G Spectrum Auction 2022 included Reliance Jio, Bharti Airtel, Vodafone Idea, and Adani Group.
- The four bidders deposited a combined amount of Rs 21,800 crore in Earnest Money Deposit (EMD), based on which they were eligible to bid up to about Rs. 1.9 lakh crores.



- Reliance Jio, which deposited Rs 14000 crore, had the highest EMD, followed by Bharti Airtel which submitted Rs 5500 crores, and Vodafone Idea which submitted Rs 2200 crores and Adani deposited Rs 100 crores.
- The EMD reflects the quantity of airwaves a company can bid for in the 5G Spectrum auction.
- Spectrum refers to radio frequencies that can carry information wirelessly for a range of services including telecommunications. These wireless signals enable us to make calls, use our social media, book an Uber, get directions or use Google maps using our mobile devices.

114. Recently RBI has listed _____ districts where the minority population component is at least 25 percent for extending priority lending schemes implemented by scheduled commercial banks in the country.

- A. 121
- B. 132
- C. 112
- D. 117
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- In a significant move, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released a list of states, Union Territories, and districts dominated by different minority communities for extending priority lending schemes implemented by scheduled commercial banks in the country.
- Presently, the Union Minority Affairs Ministry has classified Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Zoroastrians, Buddhists, and Jains as "minority communities". The RBI has listed 121 districts where the minority population component is at least 25 percent, plus the states of Punjab, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, and the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, and Lakshadweep.
- The Bharatiya Janata Party-led NDA government is desirous of special monitoring of credit flow to these minority-dominated districts, UTs, and states, and to ensure these under-represented categories "get a fair and equitable share of the credit within the overall target of the priority sector".
- The RBI list of 121 districts where the minorities are a minimum of 25 percent is led by Uttar Pradesh with 21 districts, Kerala (14), Assam (13), West Bengal (12), Maharashtra (9), Arunachal Pradesh, and Bihar (7 each), Manipur (6), Jharkhand and Sikkim (4 each), Karnataka (3), Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Mizoram, Uttarakhand, UT of Andaman & Nicobar Isles (2 each), Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Odisha, Puducherry, Rajasthan, Meghalaya, and UT of Ladakh (1 each).



115. Consider the following statement regarding the Udyam portal.

1. Around 1 crore micro small and medium enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal within 25 months.
2. The MSME ministry signed MoUs with the Ministry of Tourism and the NSIC for the sharing of Udyam data.
3. The Udyam portal is linked to the databases of CBDT and GSTN.

Which of the following statement is correct?

- A. Only 1

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- B. Only 2 & 3**
- C. All of the above**
- D. None of the above**

- **Around 1 crore micro small and medium enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal within 25 months.**
- **MSME Minister said he has given a target of 16 months to officials for achieving 2 crore registrations on the Udyam portal.**
- **The minister informed that 1 crore Udyam registrations were achieved in 25 months.**
- **The MSME ministry signed MoUs with the Ministry of Tourism and the NSIC for the sharing of Udyam data.**
- **On this occasion, the Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration was also launched.**
- **Following the adoption of the revised definition of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) on 26 June 2020, which is based on investment in plant & machinery or equipment; and turnover, the Udyam Registration Portal was launched on 1st July 2020.**
- **The Udyam portal is linked to the databases of CBDT and GSTN.**
- **It is fully online, does not require any documentation, and is a step towards Ease of Doing Business for MSMEs.**

1 crore MSMEs registered on Udyam portal in 25 months: Rane

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Around 1 crore micro small and medium enterprises have registered on the Udyam portal within a span of 25 months, Union Minister Narayan Rane said on Tuesday.

Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference, the MSME Minister said he has given a target of 16 months to officials for achieving 2 crore registrations on the Udyam portal. The Minister informed that 1 crore Udyam

registrations were achieved in 25 months. "In a span of 25 months, as many as 1 crore MSMEs have registered on the Udyam portal on a voluntary basis and declared that they employ 7.6 crore people, of which 1.7 crore are women," an official statement said. The MSME ministry signed MoUs with the Ministry of Tourism and the NSIC for the sharing of Udyam data. On the occasion, the Digi Locker facility for Udyam Registration was also launched.

115. Consider the following statement regarding the Fortune 500 list. Which of the following statements is incorrect?
1. Reliance Industries jumped 51 places to 104 on the 2022 list.
 2. LIC was ranked 98th highest among Indian corporates
 3. Amazon landed at No. 1 for the ninth straight year, trailed by Walmart
 4. Total of nine Indian companies—five of them State-owned, and four from the private sector made the list.
 5. None of these
- **Recently-listed Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) has broken into the latest Fortune Global 500 list, while Reliance Industries has jumped 51 places.**
 - **The nation's biggest life insurer with revenue of \$97.26 billion and a profit of \$553.8 million, was ranked 98th on the just released Fortune 500 list.**
 - **Reliance Industries jumped 51 places to 104 on the 2022 list.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales.
- The list, topped by US retailer Walmart, has nine Indian companies—five of them State-owned, and four from the private sector.
- Only the debutant LIC, which came out with its IPO last fiscal, was ranked higher than Reliance among the Indian corporates.
- Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) rose 28 places to 142nd rank while Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) climbed 16 places to 190.
- The list had two Tata group firms—Tata Motors at 370 and Tata Steel at 435th spot. Rajesh Exports at 437th rank was the other private Indian company on the list.
- State Bank of India (SBI) climbed 17 places to rank 236th and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd 19 places to 295.
- Walmart landed at No. 1 for the ninth straight year, trailed by Amazon, which reached its highest ranking ever. Chinese energy giants State Grid, China National Petroleum, and Sinopec rounded out the top five.

LIC breaks into Fortune Global 500 list

The list, topped by US retailer Walmart, has nine Indian companies – five of them state-owned, and four from the private sector. Chinese energy giants State Grid, China National Petroleum, and Sinopec rounded out the top five. This is the first outing of LIC on the list, which ranks listed companies by sales. Reliance, with revenue of \$93.98 billion and a net profit of \$ 8.15 billion in the latest year, has been on the list for 19 years.



Companies	Ranking
■ Walmart	1
■ LIC	98
■ RIL	104
■ Indian Oil	142
■ ONGC	190
■ Tata Motors	370
■ Tata Steel	435
■ Rajesh Exports	437
■ SBI	236
■ Bharat Petroleum	295

116. Recently in August _____ announced a partnership with SVC Co-operative Bank to extend refinance facility to facilitate improved credit flow to MSMEs.

- A. SEBI
- B. SIDBI**
- C. RBI
- D. NABARD
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Principal financial institution for MSMEs SIDBI announced a partnership, through an agreement, with Mumbai-headquartered urban co-operative bank SVC Co-operative Bank to extend refinance facility to facilitate improved credit flow to MSMEs.**
- **The partnership signed will allow SVC Bank to tap into SIDBI's refinance facility. SVC Bank is the first urban cooperative bank to enter into a refinancing partnership with SIDBI.**
- **As the nodal agency for the MSME-related schemes of the government, SIDBI provides refinance to primary lending institutions such as banks including small finance banks, non-banking finance companies, and microfinance institutions which in turn provide credit to MSMEs. SIDBI is also engaged in direct financing of small businesses through long-term loans, working-capital facilities, etc.**
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India is the apex regulatory body for the overall licensing and regulation of micro, small and medium enterprise finance companies in India.**
- **It is under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Finance, Government of India headquartered at Lucknow.**

SIDBI extends refinance to SVC Co-operative Bank

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 1

Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has decided to extend refinance facility to SVC Co-operative Bank to facilitate improved flow of credit to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs).

An agreement was signed between SIDBI and the 116-year-old multi-State scheduled co-operative bank last week.

Ashish Singhal, Managing Director, SVC Bank, said: "SVC Bank has been supporting the MSMEs... We believe that access to affordable capital will prove to be a shot in the arm for the sector."

As the principal financial institution for promotion, financing and development of the MSME sector as well as coordinator of

functions of institutions engaged in similar activities, SIDBI recently decided to extend refinance assistance to eligible scheduled Urban Co-operative Banks (UCBs) and Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), according to a joint statement by SIDBI and SVC Bank.

First of its kind

"This is the first such agreement executed with a UCB. SIDBI will sign more such agreements with other UCBs and RRBs across various States," the statement said.

Sanjeev Gupta, General Manager, SIDBI, said, SIDBI's focus is on aligning with the leaders across all segments, which can boost economic participation and upscale India's most promising aspirational MSME powerhouses.

STATES AND COMPANY LIMITED

117. Recently In August _____ signed 5G network agreements with gear makers Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung to commence deployment this month.

- A. Adani Power
- B. Airtel**
- C. Reliance Jio
- D. VI
- E. None of these

- **Within days of bidding for spectrum in auctions, Bharti Airtel announced it has signed 5G network agreements with gear makers Ericsson, Nokia, and Samsung to commence deployment this month.**
- **Airtel highlighted its long-standing relationship for connectivity and pan-India managed services with Ericsson and Nokia while stating that its partnership with Samsung will begin this year onwards.**
- **The Sunil Mittal-led firm recently acquired 19,867.**
- **8 MHZ spectrum in 900 MHz, 1800 MHz, 2100 MHz, 3300 MHz, and 26 GHz bands, bolstering its spectrum holding.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Bharti Airtel, which acquired spectrum worth Rs 43,084 crore in the just-concluded auction, had said it is well-positioned to usher in the 5G revolution in India.*

- 117. Recently In August _____ signed an agreement with the Gujarat government to invest a sum of Rs 7,000 crore to set up an IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) Park in Vadodara.
 - A. **Larsen & Toubro**
 - B. Coal India
 - C. National Thermal Power Plant
 - D. Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
 - E. None of these

- *Larsen and Toubro (L&T) signed an agreement with the Gujarat government to invest a sum of Rs 7,000 crore to set up an IT and IT-enabled Services (ITeS) Park in Vadodara.*
- *L&T under the agreement has proposed the creation of 10,000 direct and indirect employment opportunities in the coming five years.*
- *To harness potential opportunities in the information technology sector, the Gujarat government in February this year launched the Gujarat IT/ITES Policy 2022-27.*
- *The state government announced that within six months of announcing the policy, investments of Rs 2,400 crore have already been signed by 13 leading IT companies. As many as 13,750 jobs have been proposed already under these MoUs.*

- 118. Recently *Union Bank Of India has entered into a partnership with _____ to unveil India's first PSU Metaverse Lounge, called 'Uni-Verse'.*
 - A. Tata Steel
 - B. **Tech Mahindra**
 - C. Reliance Industries
 - D. Adani Power
 - E. None of these

- *Tech Mahindra entered into a partnership with Union Bank of India (UBI) to unveil India's first PSU Metaverse Lounge, called 'Uni-Verse'.*
- *The lounge would help the bank to demonstrate its digital and tech-savvy image, especially to GenZ customers, and enable them to explore its products and services in the Metaverse ecosystem.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *To set up this meta lounge, Tech Mahindra would leverage its network and infrastructure capabilities along with its foundational technological capabilities including pervasive artificial intelligence (AI).*
- *Tech Mahindra is an Indian multinational information technology services and consulting company. Part of the Mahindra Group, the company is headquartered in Pune.*

119. Consider the following statement regarding **IRDAI norms of bank bonds, InvITs/REITs**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. *Insurers with less than Rs. 50,000 crore investable assets can invest up to 10% in debt mutual funds.*
2. *Insurers with Rs. 50,000 crores to Rs. 2.50 lakh crore assets can invest up to 7% and those with over 2.50 lakh crore assets can invest up to 5%.*
3. ***The public holding in the InvIT/REIT should not be less than 20 percent of the total outstanding units of the InvIT/REIT at the time of investment.***
4. *Only 1 & 3*
5. *Only 2 & 3*

- *Insurance regulator IRDAI revised norms for insurers and created a separate limit for investment in units of recently created instruments InvITs and REITs.*
- *The amendments to investment regulations were made by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) after it received representations from insurers to relax certain provisions of Investment - Master Circular/ Circulars.*
- *Now, separate limits have been created for investment in units of infrastructure investment trusts (InvITs) and real estate investment trusts (REIT).*
- *Also, the public holding in the InvIT/REIT should not be less than 30 percent of the total outstanding units of the InvIT/REIT at the time of investment.*
- *Besides other amendments, the regulator has also relaxed norms for investment in perpetual bonds (Additional Tier 1 or AT1).*
- *Now, insurers can invest in banks even if it has not paid dividends for the past two years, as was prescribed earlier.*
- *However, the aggregate value of AT1 Bonds held in a bank should not exceed 10 percent of the total outstanding such bonds of that particular lender.*
- *According to the new norms, insurers with less than Rs. 50,000 crore investable assets can invest up to 10% in debt mutual funds. Insurers with Rs. 50,000 crores to Rs. 2.50 lakh crore assets can invest up to 7% and those with over 2.50 lakh crore assets can invest up to 5%.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

120. *Adani Enterprises has agreed to acquire Macquarie Asia Infrastructure Fund's toll road portfolio for _____.*

- A. Rs 4,110 crore
- B. Rs 3,110 crore**
- C. Rs 5,110 crore
- D. Rs 6,110 crore
- E. None of these

- *The Gautam Adani-led Adani Enterprises, the business incubation arm of the Ahmedabad-based Adani Group, has agreed to acquire Macquarie Asia Infrastructure Fund's toll road portfolio for Rs 3,110 crore.*
- *The deal will enhance Adani's roads transportation business, which includes eight hybrid annuity mode (HAM) projects, five build-operate-transfer (BOT) projects, and one toll-operate-transfer (TOT) project in 10 states in the country with more than Rs 41,000 crore of projects under management.*
- *According to the agreement inked between Adani and Macquarie, the former will acquire a 56.8% stake in Gujarat Road and Infrastructure Company (GRICL) and 100% in Swarna Tollway (STPL) from Macquarie. The transaction is expected to close in September 2022.*
- *In GRICL, IL&FS owns 26.8% while the Gujarat government owns 16.4%. Adani, which has routed the Macquarie India toll road assets acquisition through its 100% arm Adani Road Transport (ARTL)*

Adani to buy Macquarie's toll roads for ₹3,110 cr

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 4

ADANI ROAD TRANSPORT (ARTL), a fully-owned subsidiary of Adani Enterprises, will acquire Macquarie Asia Infrastructure Fund's toll road portfolio in Andhra Pradesh and its 56.8% stake in a toll road asset in Gujarat for an enterprise value of ₹3,110 crore. The transaction is expected to close next month.

"The portfolio of 972 lane km has a long concession life with established traffic in strategically located and important traffic corridors in western and southern India," Adani Enterprises said in a statement on Thursday. The two companies have entered into a definitive agreement.

Swarna Tollway (STPL) has two stretches of toll roads, measuring 158 km, in Andhra Pradesh. The Gujarat asset, Gujarat Road and Infrastructure Company (GRICL), also has two stretches. While Macquarie Asia Infrastructure Fund owns 56.8% stake in GRICL, IL&FS owns 26.8% and the remaining by the Gujarat state government. "Post-acquisition of (Macquarie's) stake in GRICL, ARTL will also evaluate the acquisition of IL&FS stake in GRICL," Adani Enterprises said.

The acquisition of will enhance ARTL's portfolio. The company has eight hybrid



THE PURCHASES

- Two stretches of toll road, measuring 158 km, of Swarna Tollway in Andhra Pradesh
- 56.8% stake in Gujarat Road and Infrastructure Company, which, also has two stretches

annuity mode projects, five build-operate-transfer projects, and one toll-operate-transfer road project in 10 states, with more than ₹41,000 crore of projects under management.

"ARTL is committed to the Adani Group's nation building initiative with a portfolio of more than 5,000 lane km of highway projects under construction / operation," said Krishna Prakash Maheshwari, CEO, ARTL.

121. Recently _____ has joined hands with the Quality Council of India (QCI) for six months to **accredit and rate the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Laboratory Information Management System (LMIS) solutions that have been integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).**

- A. NITI Aayog
- B. National Health Authority (NHA)**
- C. Serum Institute of India
- D. Bharat Biotech International Limited (BBIL)

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

E. None of these

- *The National Health Authority (NHA) has joined hands with the Quality Council of India (QCI) for six months to accredit and rate the Health Management Information System (HMIS) and Laboratory Information Management System (LMIS) solutions that have been integrated with the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).*
- *The National Accreditation Board for Hospitals and Healthcare Providers (NABH), a constituent board of the QCI, is responsible for national accreditation in the domain of healthcare, as stated by the NHA.*
- *As part of the initiative, the NABH and the QCI will rope in digital health experts for developing an accreditation standard for digital health solutions across various categories of products (for example HMIS, LMIS, health locker, etc.) that have completed their ABDM integration.*
- *National Accreditation Board for Hospitals & Healthcare Providers, abbreviated as NABH, is a constituent board of the Quality Council of India, set up to establish and operate accreditation programs for healthcare organizations. Formed in 2005, it is the principal accreditation for hospitals in India.*

122. Recently _____ state government signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Walmart, Flipkart, and HCL for capacity building of MSMEs and to create a new path of prosperity in the state.

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Uttar Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Assam**
- E. None of these

- *In a bid to develop skills among the youths of the state, the Assam government signed four Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with Walmart, Flipkart, and HCL here in Guwahati.*
- *Taking to the micro-blogging site Twitter, State's skill development employment & entrepreneurship minister Jayanta Mallabaruah said, " For capacity building of MSMEs and to create a new path of prosperity in Assam, exchanged four MoUs in a prestigious event at Assam Skill Development Mission, Garchuk, Guwahati."*
- *This Tripartite MoU has been exchanged for the development of MSMEs in terms of showcasing and exporting their products, exchanging ideas for successful commercialization, and providing them the market access.*
- *The MoU signed with Flipkart with Assam Skill Development Mission will provide opportunities to youth in the Flipkart Supply Chain Operations Academy by training, certifying, and creating a pool of e-commerce supply chain talent.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

123. Consider the following statement regarding the *richest woman in Asia according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index*.

1. *Savitri Jindal is the richest woman in Asia with a net worth of \$11.3 billion.*
2. *She is India's richest woman and the 10th richest person in the country.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *Savitri Jindal is the richest woman in Asia with a net worth of \$11.3 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.*
- *Jindal, 72, is India's richest woman and the 10th richest person in the country.*
- *Chinese tycoon Fan Hongwei, whose wealth derives from chemical-fiber company Hengli Petrochemical Co, also has a net worth of \$11.3 billion and slipped below Jindal.*
- *Yang Huiyan, who held the title of Asia's richest woman, slipped to third, as China's property crisis hammers the nation's developers.*
- *Yang has been Asia's richest woman for the last five years.*
- *The company is the third-largest producer of steel in India and also operates in cement, energy, and infrastructure.*

124. Recently *InsuranceDekho* has partnered with _____ to offer dog health cover and is in the process of tying up with other insurers as well.

- A. *Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Co. Ltd.*
- B. *HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company*
- C. *Bharti Axa General Insurance Co. Ltd.*
- D. *Future Generali India Insurance Co. Ltd.*
- E. *None of these*

- *Gurgaon-based insurance company InsuranceDekho has recently launched pet insurance to its product portfolio, whereby pet owners will get comprehensive coverage for a host of breeds of dogs.*
- *InsuranceDekho has partnered with Future Generali India Insurance Company to offer a unique dog health cover and is also in the process of tying up with other insurers.*
- *InsuranceDekho under their dog health insurance plans offers comprehensive coverage for over 25 breeds of dogs, aged six months to 10 years.*
- *The pet insurance policy as of now has a starting premium of about Rs 324 annually.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited is a private general insurance company in India. The company is a joint venture between the Future Group and Assicurazioni Generali.*
- *Headquarters: Mumbai, Founded: 2000.*
- *Anup Rau is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Future Generali India Insurance Company Limited*

125. Recently in August _____ *announced a strategic partnership with Rupy to offers 100% paperless loans for used-cars.*
- A. RBL Bank
 - B. IndusInd Bank**
 - C. DBS Bank
 - D. Yes Bank
 - E. None of these

- *IndusInd Bank partners with Rupy to offer 100% paperless loans for used cars.*
- *IndusInd Bank announced a strategic partnership with Rupy - a new-age digital lending platform offering 100% paperless loan processing.*
- *Rupy is a fintech arm of the Jaipur-based Girnarsoft Pvt. Ltd. (which houses brands like CarDekho BikeDekho Zigwheels Powerdrift etc.).*
- *This partnership will enable the users of Rupy to avail of simplified documentation and instant processing of vehicle loans from IndusInd Bank.*
- *IndusInd Bank Limited is a new-generation Indian bank headquartered in Mumbai.CEO: Sumant Kathpalia*

126. Recently in August _____ *signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore of Rs.107.76 Crore to support three wings of Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital, IISc Bangalore.*

- A. HDFC Bank**
- B. ICICI Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. Axis Bank
- E. None of these

HDFC Bank Parivartan signs Rs 107 cr MoU with IISc Bengaluru

HDFC Bank Parivartan on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding with the Indian Institute of Science, pledging Rs 107.76 crore for construction of Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital at IISc Bengaluru. The three wings of the hospital to be supported by the bank are cardiology, radiology and emergency medicine, it said in a statement.

- *HDFC Bank Parivartan signed a memorandum of understanding*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

- As per the MoU, HDFC Bank Parivartan has pledged Rs.107.76 Crore to support three wings of Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital, IISc Bangalore.
- The three wings to be supported by the Bank are the Cardiology Wing, Radiology wing, and Emergency Medicine wing.
- IISc Bangalore is setting up a multi-specialty, not-for-profit, 832-bed hospital, called the Bagchi-Parthasarathy Hospital along with a Postgraduate Medical School within its Bengaluru campus
- HDFC Bank has partnered with IISc Bangalore for the first time to improve the healthcare infrastructure in the region.

127. Recently the center has made **e-invoicing mandatory for businesses with aggregate turnover exceeding Rs. _____ crore from October 1.**

- A. Rs 20 Cr
- B. Rs 10 Cr**
- C. Rs 15 Cr
- D. Rs 5 Cr
- E. None of these

- The center has made E-invoicing mandatory for businesses with aggregate turnover exceeding Rs 10 crore from October 1, a move which will further plug-in revenue leakage and will ensure better tax compliance from businesses.
- Presently, e-invoice is compulsory for businesses with an annual turnover of over Rs 20 crore.
- The GST Council, in its 37th meeting on September 20, 2019, recommended the introduction of an electronic invoice in GST in a phased manner.
- The GST Council, in its 37th meeting on September 20, 2019, recommended the introduction of an electronic invoice in GST in a phased manner.

GST e-invoicing must for firms with ₹10-cr turnover, from October

SHRIMI CHOUDHARY
New Delhi, 2 August

The government has widened the ambit of e-invoicing for businesses by lowering the mandatory turnover threshold to ₹10 crore from ₹20 crore under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime. The new threshold starts October 1.

The move is aimed at digitising a higher volume of transactions, transparency in sales reporting, reducing errors and mismatches, automating data entry work, and improving compliance.

Sources said the government will further extend it to entities with a turnover of ₹5 crore, seeking to plug revenue leakage and ease compliance.

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) notified the rule late Monday amending the current threshold in line with the recommendations of the GST Council.

Business Standard reported on July 4 about the government's plans to make



GST e-invoicing mandatory for companies with a turnover of ₹10 crore and then ₹5 crore in the current financial year.

E-invoicing (electronic billing) started in October 2020 and was made mandatory for entities with a turnover of ₹500 crore and above. This threshold was brought down to ₹100 crore and later to ₹50 crore in 2021 for business-to-business (B2B) transactions.

Taxpayers must generate invoices on their internal system or billing software and then report them to the invoice registration portal (IRP)—a requirement to get input tax credit (ITC).



**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- *Officials claim that by next year, businesses with a turnover of Rs 5 crore will also be mandated to have e-invoicing.*

128. Recently _____ Country Royal Mint has issued a new 24-karat gold bar engraved with an image of Lord Ganesh for sale in the lead-up to Ganesh Chaturthi on August 31, marking an expansion of its Indian-inspired gold minted bullion bar range.

- A. UK Royal Mint
- B. Spain Royal Mint
- C. US Royal Mint
- D. Russia Royal Mint
- E. None of these

UK Royal Mint launches new gold bar for Ganesh Chaturthi

The UK's Royal Mint has issued a new 24-karat gold bar engraved with an image of Lord Ganesh for sale in the lead up to Ganesh Chaturthi on August 31, marking an expansion of its Indian-inspired gold minted bullion bar range.

- *The UK's Royal Mint has issued a new 24-karat gold bar engraved with an image of Lord Ganesh for sale in the lead-up to Ganesh Chaturthi on August 31, marking an expansion of its Indian-inspired gold minted bullion bar range.*
- *The 20-gram "999.9 fine gold" Ganesh bullion bar is on sale online from this week and is priced at GBP 1,110.80, the same as Royal Mint's 24-karat Goddess Lakshmi gold bar launched for Diwali last year.*
- *Both bars are intricately designed by the same designer, Emma Noble, and depict Lord Ganesh in his quintessential pose with a tray of laddoos at his feet.*
- *This year, for the first time, the son of Shiva and Parvati will also be appearing on a 20g gold minted bullion bar from the Royal Mint.*
- *Since launching its designated precious metals investment arm six years ago, the Royal Mint has become known as the home of gold in the UK as the largest producer of bullion coins in Britain.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Appointment News

129. Consider the following statement regarding **FPI Advisory Committee (FAC)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. K V Subramanian has been appointed as chairman of this expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
2. The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) consists of a total of 16 members representing foreign banks, stock exchange depositories, and RBI.
3. Both 1 & 2
- 4..All of the above

- A 15-member committee has been formed by SEBI to attract foreign investment.
- K V Subramanian has been appointed as chairman of this expert group of Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs).
- The FPI Advisory Committee (FAC) consists of 14 other members representing foreign banks, stock exchange depositories, and RBI.
- The FAC will advise on issues related to investments and operations of FPIs in the financial markets, including measures to facilitate ease of doing business by FPIs in India.
- It will review investment avenues available for FPIs. It will advise on the feasibility of new investment avenues.
- It will suggest measures required to encourage FPI participation in the bond market.

Sebi forms panel for FPIs

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, August 5

SEBI HAS CONSTITUTED a standing committee to provide recommendations and advise on policy matters related to FPIs.

The committee will be headed by KV Subramanian, former chief economic adviser to the government of India. The 15-member committee includes Harun R Khan, former deputy governor, RBI; R Subramanian, executive director, RBI; Madhav Kalyan, CEO, JP Morgan Chase Bank; Hiten-

dra Dave, CEO, HSBC Bank; Martin Graham, managing director, Global Public Policy Group of iShares (BlackRock); Bobby Parikh, managing partner, Bobby Parikh Associates; Rushabh Maniar, partner, AZB & Partners; Ashishkumar Chauhan, MD & CEO, National Stock Exchange of India; Padmaja Chundur, MD & CEO, National Securities Depository; Nehal Vora, MD & CEO, Central Depository Services India and Vikram Kothari, managing director, National Securities Clearing Corporation.

130. Recently **Dr. Sujoy Lal Thakur** assumed the additional charge of the Director General of which of the following Central Armed Police Forces of India?

- A. ITBP
- B. CRPF
- C. CISF
- D. SSB
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen assumed the additional charge of the Director General of ITBP.
- Dr. Sujoy Lal Thaosen is the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Dr. Thaosen is an IPS Officer of the 1988 batch, Madhya Pradesh Cadre.
- IPS Sanjay Arora, who has been appointed as the new Commissioner of the Delhi Police, handed over the charge to Dr. Thaosen.
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP): It is one of the seven Central Armed Police Forces of India.
- It was created on 24 October 1962 under the CRPF Act, in the wake of the 1962 Sino-Indian War.

131. Recently **Auguste Tano Koume** has been appointed as Country Director of the World Bank for India. He has replaced _____ who recently completed his five-year term.

- A. Kaushik Basu
- B. Indrameet Gill
- C. Junaid Kamal Ahmad**
- D. Sujoy Lal Thaosen
- E. None of these

- **Auguste Tano Koume** has been appointed as Country Director of the World Bank for India.
- He has replaced **Junaid Kamal Ahmad**, who recently completed his five-year term.
- Earlier, he served as Director of the Department of Human Development and Economic Management at World Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019.
- He served as Practice Manager in the Macroeconomics and Fiscal Management Practice of the World Bank.
- In 2021-22 FY, India has taken a loan of \$3.98 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and \$83 million from International Development Association (IDA).
- **World Bank:** It is an international financial institution founded in 1944. It is headquartered in Washington DC, the United States and David Malpass is its President.

Auguste Tano Kouamé takes over as World Bank's country director for India

FE BUREAU
New Delhi, August 1

THE WORLD BANK has appointed Auguste Tano Kouamé its country director for India, the multilateral body said in statement on Monday. He replaced Junaid Kamal Ahmad who recently completed a five-year term.

Auguste recently served as the World Bank's country director for Turkey. Prior to this, he served as the director of the department of human development and economic management in the World Bank Group's Independent Evaluation Group (IEG) from January 2017 to April 2019.

"The bank stands ready, through strategic programmes and knowledge products, to support India's ambitions of becoming an upper middle-income country and a global leader on the climate agenda," said Auguste, affirming the bank's continued support for India's development achieve-



ments as the country recovers from the pandemic blues.

"As India takes over the Presidency of the G20 later this year, the bank, globally, looks forward to supporting India in this leadership role," he added.

India is the World Bank Group's largest client with a portfolio that includes lending of \$3.98 billion from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and \$83 million from the International Development Association last fiscal (July 2021-June 2022), according to the bank's data.

132. Consider the following statement regarding the new Vice-President. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1st August – 8th August 2022)

1. NDA nominee Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice-President of India.
2. He defeated joint opposition candidate Margaret Alva after securing 528 votes (72. 8%) against his rival's tally of 182.
3. Article 62 states that there shall be a Vice-President of India.
4. Any citizen of India who is at least 35 years of age and a registered voter in a state or Union Territory can be a candidate for the post.
5. None of the above

Jagdeep Dhankhar is new Vice-President

Alva condemns Opposition leaders who backed him

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

National Democratic Alliance candidate and former West Bengal Governor Jagdeep Dhankhar will be the 14th Vice-President of the country. He secured 528 votes out of the 710 valid votes in the 16th Vice-Presidential election held in Parliament on Saturday.

The Opposition candidate and Congress leader, Margaret Alva, got 182 votes. Ms. Alva said by supporting Mr. Dhankhar "directly or indirectly", some Opposition parties and their leaders had damaged their own credibility.

Lok Sabha Secretary-General Utpal Kumar Singh, who was the Returning Officer of the election, told presspersons that of the 780 electors comprising elected and nominated members of the Rajya Sabha and elected members of the Lok Sabha, 725 MPs voted. "The total elector turnout was 92.94%," Mr. Singh said.

The voting began at 10 a.m. and was closed at 5 p.m. The counting started at 6 p.m. and ended around 7.45 p.m.

Out of the 725 votes, 15 were invalid and the total valid votes were 710, which is



Big moment: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Vice-President-elect Jagdeep Dhankhar in New Delhi on Saturday. BJP president J.P. Nadda is seen. •PTI

97.93% of the total votes. The Opposition was expecting close to 200 votes based on the support announced by various Opposition parties. Just two out of the 36 Trinamool Congress MPs turned up for voting. The Opposition party had announced that it would boycott the poll as it was not consulted before announcing Ms. Alva's candidature. Senior leaders congratulated Mr. Dhankhar over his victory. President Droupadi Murmu said the nation would benefit from his long and rich experience in public life. "My best wishes for a productive and successful

tenure," she said. Outgoing Vice-President Venkaiah Naidu said the nation would greatly benefit from Mr. Dhankhar's vast experience and legal expertise. "My best wishes for a successful and fruitful tenure," he said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Defence Minister Rajnath Singh met Mr. Dhankhar and congratulated him. "I am confident he will be an outstanding Vice-President. Our nation will gain tremendously from his intellect and wisdom," Mr. Modi said.

CONTINUED ON ▶ PAGE 7
RELATED REPORT ▶ PAGE 8

- NDA nominee Jagdeep Dhankhar was elected as the 14th Vice-President of India.
- He defeated joint opposition candidate Margaret Alva after securing 528 votes (72. 8%) against his rival's tally of 182.
- The second-highest constitutional authority after the President, the Vice-President draws his or her powers from Article 63 of the Constitution.
- Article 63 states that there shall be a Vice-President of India.
- Any citizen of India who is at least 35 years of age and a registered voter in a state or Union Territory can be a candidate for the post.
- At least 20 MPs need to propose the nomination and 20 other MPs need to second it.
- Article 66 lays down the process of the election of the Vice-President.
- Article 67 says that the VP will hold office for a term of five years from the date on which he enters his office.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar was born in Kithana Village, Rajasthan in 1951.
- Jagdeep Dhankhar was appointed as the Governor of Bengal in 2019.

133. Recently in August _____ has been elected as the deputy president of International Chess Federation (FIDE).

- A. Viswanathan Anand
- B. Narinder Batra

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- C. *Dvorkovich a Muscovite*
- D. *Vladimirovich Dvorkovich*
- E. *None of these*

- *Viswanathan Anand, the legendary Indian chess player, and five-time world champion has been elected as the deputy president of the International Chess Federation (FIDE).*
- *Anand was nominated by incumbent president Arkady Vladimirovich Dvorkovich as part of his team to contest the elections. Dvorkovich a Muscovite who has had direct links with the Kremlin received 167 votes in his favor while opponent Andrii Baryshpolets got 16.*
- *Grandmaster Viswanathan Anand (52), the 15th undisputed chess champion and surely the greatest Indian chess player of all time, was born on 11 December 1969 in Mayiladuthurai in Tamil Nadu.*
- *Anand is known for playing quickly early in his career, competed for the classical championship in 1995, and was FIDE champion from 2000-2002 before claiming the reunited title in 2007. He held that title for six years until 2013.*
- *The International Chess Federation or World Chess Federation commonly referred to by the acronym FIDE is an international organization based in Switzerland that connects the various national chess federations and acts as the governing body of international chess competitions. It was founded in Paris, France, on July 20, 1924.*

134. Recently in August _____ was given 1 year extension in service by the government, according to a Personnel Ministry order.

- A. *Tarun Bajaj*
- B. *Rajiv Gauba*
- C. *Taran Adarsh*
- D. *Samant Goel*
- E. *None of these*

- *Cabinet Secretary Rajiv Gauba was given a one-year extension in service by the government, according to a Personnel Ministry order. This is his second extension on the post.*

Anand becomes FIDE deputy president

Dvorkovich re-elected as president

SPORTS BUREAU

Grandmaster and five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand has been elected as the deputy president of FIDE, the international chess body.

Russian and incumbent president Arkady Dvorkovich was re-elected FIDE president.

Dvorkovic received 167 votes in his favour while opponent Andrii Baryshpolets got 16.

Anand was nominated by the incumbent president as

part of his team to contest the elections.

Dvorkovich's second term will also be the last, as one of the first tasks that he undertook shortly after being elected in 2018 was to renew the FIDE Charter, introducing term limits, along with other democratic reforms. Among them, the 'FIDE Presidential Board' was replaced by the 'FIDE Council', effectively limiting the president's powers.

The elections took place during the FIDE General Assembly in Chennai.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Gauba, former Union Home Secretary, was 2019 appointed to the country's top bureaucratic post for two years.
- He was given a one-year extension in August last year.
- Gauba is said to be the key architect of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019, under which the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was divided into two Union territories following the abrogation of the special status given to it under Article 370 of the Constitution.
- He has represented India on the board of the International Monetary Fund for four years also.

134. Recently in August _____ has taken over as the **new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited (OIL).**

- A. Alka Menon
- B. Ranjith Rath**
- C. Swapnil Pandey
- D. Srikant Madhav Vaidy
- E. None of these

- **Ranjit Rath, a man with experience of more than 25 years in geosciences, has taken over as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Oil India Limited (OIL). He took charge of the organization on 2 August.**
- **Oil India Limited (OIL) is the country's second-largest public sector exploration and production company. OIL is a Navratna PSU and falls under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.**
- **Ranjit Rath is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and IIT Kharagpur and before coming to Oil India Limited, he was serving as Chairman cum Managing Director (CMD) of Mineral Exploration & Consultancy Limited, an organization that falls under the Ministry of Mines.**



Extension for Rajiv Gauba

CABINET SECRETARY
RAJIV Gauba was on Friday given one-year extension in service, according to a personnel ministry order. This is his second extension on the post.

Ranjit Rath takes over as Oil India CMD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 3

Ranjit Rath has taken over as the new Chairman and MD of Oil India Ltd. Previously, he was the CMD of Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd and was selected for the top job at Oil India by the government headhunter in March.



He replaces Sushil Chandra Mishra who superannuated on June 30. A geoscientist, Rath is an alumnus of IIT Bombay, IIT Kharagpur and Utkal University and took over the charge on August 2, the company said on Wednesday. Rath will be among the youngest to have occupied the corner office at a public sector unit. He has 10 years before he retires in January 2032.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- In 2016, Rath received the prestigious ‘National Geosciences Award’ from the President of India. He is also a writer and has co-authored books like ‘Underground Storage Technologies.’

135. Consider the following statement regarding the **Chief Justice of India**.

- Justice Uday U Lalit is set to become the 49th Chief Justice of India.
- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

- Justice Uday U Lalit is set to become the 49th Chief Justice of India. The Chief Justice of India NV Ramana recommended Justice UU Lalit's name as his successor on August 4, 2022.
- The current Chief Justice of India NV Ramana is scheduled to retire on August 27, 2022. The new Chief Justice of India will have a short tenure of lesser than three months.
- He will be the only second judge after Justice SM Sikri (CJI from 1971-1973) to be elevated from the bar to the post of the Chief Justice of India.
- Justice UU Lalit was appointed a judge in the Supreme Court of India in August 2014.
- The Chief Justice of India and the Judges of the Supreme Court (SC) are appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- As far as the CJI is concerned, the outgoing CJI recommends his successor.
- The Supreme Court collegium is headed by the Chief Justice of India and comprises four other senior-most judges of the court.

RAMANA RECOMMENDS HIS NAME

Justice UU Lalit will be 2nd CJI to be Directly Elevated from the Bar



Justice UU Lalit with CJI NV Ramana on Thursday – ANI

Chief Justice of India NV Ramana retires on August 26

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: Chief Justice of India NV Ramana has recommended the name of the most senior judge of the Supreme Court after him, Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, to be the next chief justice of India. CJI Ramana retires on August 26.

Earlier this week, Union law minister Kiren Rijiju had written to the CJI, requesting him to recommend the name of his successor.

Justice Lalit is set to be the second CJI to be elevated to the top court from the bar after Justice SM Sikri, who served as the 13th CJI from January 1971 till April 1973. Justice Lalit will serve as the CJI for 74 days and retire on November 8, 2022.

LUCKNOW BENCH ORDER

HC Rejects Bail Plea of Journalist Siddique Kappan

LUCKNOW: The Lucknow bench of Allahabad High Court on Thursday rejected the bail application of journalist Siddique Kappan who was booked under Unlawful Activities Prevention Act in Hathras conspiracy case. A single bench of Justice Krishan Pahal passed the rejection order on Thursday. Prior to this, the bench had reserved its order on August 2 after conclusion of arguments by the counsels of the accused and the state. A Mathura court had rejected Kappan's bail plea after which he had approached the high court. –PTI

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

136. Recently In August _____ has been appointed as the *chairman of the Vodafone idea as he replaces Himanshu Kapania on 19 August.*

- A. Akshaya Moondra
- B. Suresh N Patel
- C. Ravinder Takkar**
- D. Ajay Puri
- E. None of these

- *Ravinder Takkar, the managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of telecom operator Vodafone Idea Limited (Vi), will replace Himanshu Kapania as the telco's new chairman from 19 August.*
- *The telco said that Takkar would bring in his 30 years of experience in guiding the company, in his role as chairman.*
- *Kapania will step down as non-executive chairman of the board with effect from 18 August this month. However, he will continue to be a part of the VIL board as a non-executive director. Vi stated that the request for this was made by Kapania himself.*
- *Last month, Vi announced that its chief financial officer Akshaya Moondra would replace Takkar as the firm's new CEO. That was then the third top-level change in under four years at the loss-making telco, which has been fighting to turn around its operations amid a severe cash crunch.*

Ravinder Takkar to take over as Chairman of VI

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 3

Himanshu Kapania stepped down as Vodafone Idea Chairman on Wednesday. Effective August 18, Kapania will no longer serve as Voda Idea Chairman and will be a non-executive director on the board of the company.

Ravinder Takkar, who will be stepping down as Vodafone Idea CEO, will serve as Chairman of the VIL Board, effective August 19, upon the board's unanimous vote.

Kapania was appointed Chairman last year after promoter Kumar Mangalam Birla, of Aditya Birla Group, stepped down from the position on August 4, 2021.

Birla stepped down from



Ravinder Takkar

the board after a letter from the Aditya Birla Group to the Department of Telecommunications was leaked, u
 immediate action from. 10/1
 government after the company's survival was a going concern.

Vi's tumultuous changes in leadership comes at a time when the company is still trying to raise funds from investors worth ₹20,000 crore.

137. Consider the following statement regarding the *SEBI market data advisory committee.*

1. *MS Sahoo, former chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) will chair the advisory committee.*
2. *NSE's former MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been replaced by newly appointed chief Ashishkumar Chauhan in the committee.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

3. Sebi's advisory committee *will now have 20 members compared to the previous 21 members.*

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. Only 1 & 3
- B. Only 3
- C. Only 2
- D. None of the above

- *Sebi has reduced its market data advisory committee by one member.*
- *The market regulator has restructured its advisory committee which recommends appropriate policy for access to securities market data for both transactions and disclosures.*
- *Under the new changes, NSE's former MD and CEO Vikram Limaye has been replaced by newly appointed chief Ashishkumar Chauhan in the committee.*
- *Sebi's advisory committee will now have 20 members compared to the previous 21 members.*
- *MS Sahoo, Professor at National Law University, Delhi, and former chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) will chair the advisory committee.*
- *The NSE's new chief Chauhan was earlier MD and CEO of rival bourse BSE.*

138. Recently in August _____ *appointed senior banker Inderjit Camotra as its managing director and chief executive.*

- A. *Unity Small Finance Bank*
- B. *Fincare Small Finance Bank*
- C. *Utkarsh Small Finance Bank*
- D. *Jana Small Finance Bank*
- E. *None of these*

- *Unity Small Finance Bank appointed senior banker Inderjit Camotra as its managing director and chief executive.*
- *Camotra has over 25 years of experience across the country in leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank, ANZ, and Citigroup.*
- *The Reserve Bank recently elevated Unity Bank to a scheduled bank. In January 2022, the bank appointed Vinod Rai, former CAG, as its chairman.*
- *Unity Small Finance Bank, founded by Centrum Financial Services and BharatPe, aspires to be India's first truly digital bank*

Unity SFB appoints former StanChart executive Inderjit Camotra as CEO

UNITY SMALL FINANCE Bank (SFB) on Friday said it has appointed Inderjit Camotra as the managing director & chief executive officer. Camotra has over 25 years of experience across India in leadership positions at Standard Chartered Bank, ANZ and Citibank. His appointment has been approved by the RBI and Unity SFB's board. Camotra graduated from IIT Delhi and pursued his MBA at Clarkson University, New York. —FE BUREAU

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

139. Recently _____ has become the first ever woman director general of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR).

- A. Vini Mahajan
- B. Nallathamby Kalaiselvi**
- C. Ms. Rupa Chakraborty
- D. Gayatri Mahajan
- E. None of these

- **Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has become the first ever woman director general of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research(CSIR). Established in 1942, CSIR is a consortium of 38 research institutes across the country.**
- **Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has risen through CSIR ranks from starting her career in research as an entry-level scientist to becoming the Director General of CSIR.**
- **This is not the first time that Nallathamby Kalaiselvi is making history by being the first woman to head an institute. She has broken the glass ceiling before in 2019 when she became the first woman to lead the Central Electrochemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI).**
- **Nallathamby Kalaiselvi has been appointed the CSIR Director General for two years. She has also been appointed as secretary, Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.**
- **Kalaiselvi is succeeding Shekhar Mande as Director-General. Mande had retired in April and since then Rajesh Gokhale, Secretary Department of Biotechnology had been given the additional charge of CSIR.**

CSIR gets its first woman chief

N. Kalaiselvi, 'lithium battery expert', is expected to aid India's e-vehicle push

JACOB KOSHY
NEW DELHI

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has, for the first time in its 80-year history, appointed a woman Director-General.

N. Kalaiselvi, currently Director of the CSIR-Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CSIR-CECRI), Karaikudi, Tamil Nadu, will now lead the network of 38 laboratories and nearly 4,500 scientists, and has been appointed for two years, said a note from the Appointments Committee of the Union Cabinet.

Ms. Kalaiselvi's research spans over 25 years and is focused on electrochemical power systems and developing electrode materials, custom-design synthesis methods, optimising reaction parameters and electrochemical evaluation of in-house prepared electrode materials for making energy storage devices.

Her research interests include lithium and beyond lithium batteries, supercapacitors and waste-to-wealth driven electrodes and electrolytes for energy storage and electro-catalytic applications.



Credits galore: Ms. Kalaiselvi (second from right) published many research papers, holds six patents. *SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She has been involved in projects to increase electric mobility in India and her expertise in these sectors will likely help with India's push towards increasing the number of electric vehicles. India has around 1.4 million electric vehicles comprising motorbikes, cars, three-wheelers and buses.

The Centre announced the second phase of a programme, FAME (Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles in India), that will invest ₹10,000 crore in developing electric vehicle infrastructure.

A long journey

From Ambasamudram village in Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu to heading the CSIR as its first woman Director-General, it has been a long journey for Ms. Kalaiselvi. Having studied in a Tamil-medium school in the district, she had gone on to pursue her Ph.D. degree from Annamalai University in Chidambaram.

In February 2019, Ms. Kalaiselvi was appointed Director of the Karaikudi-based Central Electro Chemical Research Institute (CECRI). This is the first time a scientist from the CECRI has been appointed Director-General of the CSIR.

A scientist from the CECRI said Ms. Kalaiselvi was better known as "lithium battery expert" among the academics. She was instrumental in bringing out a number of research papers, has six patents to her credit and was a guide to research scholars in pursuing their Ph.D. degrees.

The CECRI will be celebrating its platinum jubilee in 2022 from where Ms. Kalaiselvi has been elevated to the top position in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research as its Director-General, New Delhi, the scientist added.

(With inputs from Srikrishna L.)

140. Recently Ministry of steel has constituted an advisory committee for secondary steel under the chairmanship of _____.

- A. VK Paul
- B. Kv Kamath**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

C. Jyotiraditya Scindia

D. MS Sahoo

E. None of these

- The Ministry of steel has constituted an advisory committee for secondary steel under the chairmanship of the minister of civil aviation and steel Jyotiraditya Scindia to identify and deliberate on the issues of the steel sector, especially the secondary steel industry.
- The first meeting of the committee is scheduled on 8 August where it is likely to identify issues of concern and set priorities for the committee for action.

141. **Emami Agrotech Ltd, has roped in _____ as the brand ambassador for its Spice Range.**

A. Disha Patani

B. Katrina Kaif

C. Vikky Kaushal

D. Ananya Pandey

E. None of these

- Emami Agrotech Ltd, the branded food arm of the diversified business conglomerate Emami Group has roped in actor Katrina Kaif as the brand ambassador for its Spice Range, 'Emami Healthy & Tasty Mantra Masala.'

Katrina is face of Emami's Mantra



Emami Agrotech, the branded food arm of the diversified business conglomerate Emami Group, has roped in

142. In August **Gustavo Petro** was sworn as which country's first-ever leftist president.

A. Canada

B. Colombia

C. Kenya

D. Zambia

E. None of these

- Ex-guerrilla and former mayor Gustavo Petro was sworn in as Colombia's first-ever leftist president, with plans for profound

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

reforms in a country beset by economic inequality and drug violence.

- The former senator, 62, takes over from the deeply unpopular Ivan Duque for a four-year term during which he will enjoy support from a left-leaning majority in Congress.
- Currency: Peso , Capital: Bogota.

143. Consider the following statement regarding Central Vigilance Commission.

1. Sanjay Kothari was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner.
2. Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Suresh N Patel completed his term as the CVC on June 24 last year.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N Patel was appointed as the Central Vigilance Commissioner, a year after the post fell vacant.
- Patel, who has been working as the acting Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) since June this year, was sworn in as the chief of the probity watchdog Central Vigilance Commission by President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan here.
- Patel, former managing director, and chief executive officer of Andhra Bank, was in April 2020 appointed as the vigilance commissioner.
- Former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer Sanjay Kothari completed his term as the CVC on June 24 last year.

Ex-rebel sworn in as Colombia's president in historic shift



AP ■ BOGOTA (COLOMBIA)

Colombia's first leftist president was sworn into office on Sunday, promising to fight inequality and heralding a turning point in the history of a country haunted by a long war between the government and guerrilla groups.

Sen. Gustavo Petro, a former member of Colombia's M-19 guerrilla group, won the presidential election in June by beating conservative parties that offered moderate changes to the market-friendly economy, but failed to connect with voters frustrated by rising poverty and violence against human rights leaders and environmental groups in rural areas.

Petro is part of a growing group of leftist politicians and political outsiders who have been winning elections in Latin America since the pandemic broke out and hurt incumbents who struggled with its economic aftershocks.

The ex-rebel's victory was also exceptional for Colombia, where voters had been historically reluctant to back leftist politicians who were often accused of being soft on crime or allied with guerrillas.

A 2016 peace deal between Colombia's government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia turned much of the focus of voters away from the violent conflicts playing out in rural areas and gave prominence to problems like poverty and corruption, fuelling the popularity of leftist parties in national elections.

Petro, 62, has promised to tackle Colombia's social and economic inequalities by boosting spending on anti-poverty programs and increasing investment in rural areas.

Suresh Patel is new CVC, two commissioners take charge

Murmu administers oath; Modi, Venkaiah present

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Vigilance Commissioner Suresh N. Patel was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) by President Droupadi Murmu at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday.

Mr. Patel was officiating as the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) since June this year after Sanjay Kothari, former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer, completed his term.

"At a ceremony held today at 10:00 hrs at Rashtrapati Bhavan, Shri Suresh N Patel, was sworn in as the Central Vigilance Commissioner. He made and subscribed the oath of his office before the President," a communique issued by the



CVC Suresh N. Patel at the Rashtrapati Bhavan •PTI

Rashtrapati Bhavan said.

The ceremony was also attended by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu and Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge.

Later in the day, Mr. Patel administered the oath of of-

fice to former Intelligence Bureau (IB) chief Arvind Kumar and ex-IAS officer Praveen Kumar Srivastava as the vigilance commissioners.

With these appointments, the Central Vigilance Commission is in its full strength now.

The Commission is headed by a central vigilance commissioner and it can have two Vigilance Commissioners.

Mr Patel, former managing director and chief executive officer of Andhra Bank, was in April 2020 appointed as the vigilance commissioner. Mr Patel's elevation was approved by a selection panel headed by the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition (LoP).

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The Central Vigilance Commission is headed by a central vigilance commissioner and it can have two vigilance commissioners.*
- *At present, no vigilance commissioner is working in the Commission.*
- *A three-member selection panel headed by the prime minister had met in July to decide on the CVC and vigilance commissioners.*
- *The other two members on the panel are the Union home minister and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha.*
- *It also approved the appointments of former Intelligence Bureau chief Arvind Kumar and ex-consumer affairs secretary Avinash Kumar Srivastava as the vigilance commissioners.*
- *It was established on the recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee.*
- *It was granted statutory status in 2003 under the Central Vigilance Commission Act 2003.*

143. Recently In the wake of the **detection of monkeypox cases in India, the Union government has constituted a task force** to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination under the chairmanship of _____ ?

- A. KV Kamath
- B. Navneet Munnot
- C. VK Paul**
- D. K Radhakrishnan
- E. None of these

- *In the wake of the detection of monkeypox cases in India, the Union government has constituted a task force to monitor and provide guidance on the expansion of diagnostic facilities and to explore vaccination against the infection in the country.*
- *The team will be headed by V.K. Paul, Member (Health), NITI Aayog. India has reported six confirmed cases of monkeypox so far — four in Kerala and two in Delhi.*
- *According to the World Health Organization (WHO), more than 18,000 cases have been reported from 78 countries.*
- *Monkeypox is a zoonotic disease caused by the monkeypox virus, which belongs to the same family of viruses that causes smallpox.*
- *The disease is endemic in regions like West and Central Africa, but lately, cases have been reported from non-endemic countries too, according to WHO.*

Centre forms task force to tackle monkeypox virus

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 1

A task force on monkeypox has been constituted to closely monitor the emerging situation in the country and decide on response initiatives to tackle the spread of the disease, said official sources on Monday.

It will also provide guidance to the government on expansion of diagnostic facilities in the country and explore emerging trends related to vaccination for the disease.

The decision to constitute the task force was taken at a high-level meeting held on July 26 to review the ongoing public health preparedness in the country. The task force will be headed by VK Paul, NITI Aayog member (health).

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

144. Recently _____ has been appointed as the **Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).**

- A. Indrameet Gill
- B. Amandeep Gil
- C. Satyendra Prakash**
- D. Savitri Jindal
- E. None of these

- Senior Indian Information Service officer Satyendra Prakash has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB).
- A 1988 batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, Prakash, the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication, will succeed Jaideep Bhatnagar.
- The Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the nodal agency of the Government of India to disseminate information to the print and electronic media on government policies, programs, initiatives, and achievements.
- PIB has its Headquarters in New Delhi.

Senior IIS officer Satyendra PIB's new Principal Director General

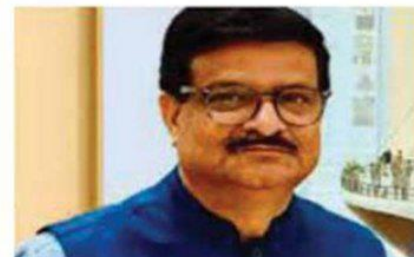
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

Senior Indian Information Service officer Satyendra Prakash has been appointed as the Principal Director General of the Press Information Bureau (PIB). Prakash will take charge on Monday.

A 1988 batch Indian Information Service (IIS) officer, Prakash, the Principal Director General of the Central Bureau of Communication, will succeed Jaideep Bhatnagar, who superannuated on Sunday.

Known for his innovative work style, Prakash was honoured by the Election Commission for his outreach campaigns to increase voters' participation in elections after the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a career spanning over three decades, Prakash has served in various capacities in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, including



as Additional Director General, News & Current Affairs in Doordarshan, and Director (Media), Ministry of Communications & IT and Ministry of Civil Aviation in the Press Information Bureau.

He worked as Information Officer with many important Ministries for the past three decades. Satyendra Prakash also wrote several articles on many subjects in *The Pioneer*

and other publications during his student days in the mid-80s.

Manish Desai, Director General of the West zone of the PIB, will succeed Prakash in the Central Bureau of Communication. A 1989 batch IIS officer, Desai has worked in various media units of the Ministry of I&B, like DAVP, AIR News, Prasar Bharati, and the Indian Institute of Mass Communication.

Days and Obituary News

145. **World Breastfeeding Week** is observed every year from _____ to _____ emphasize regular breastfeeding for babies.

- A. 1st August to 6th August
- B. 1st August to 8th August
- C. 1st August to 7th August**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- D. 31st July to 6 August
- E. None of these

- *World Breastfeeding Week is observed to emphasize the importance of regular breastfeeding for babies. Every year, the day starts on August 1 and concludes on August 7.*
- *The World Health Organisation (WHO) and United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund (UNICEF) created a memorandum to support and encourage breastfeeding in 1990.*
- *After that, the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) was established in 1991. The first World Breastfeeding Week was observed in 1992 to promote the campaign.*
- *The theme for World Breastfeeding Week 2022 is ‘Step Up for Breastfeeding: Educate and Support’.*

146. **World Lung Cancer Day** is observed on _____ to raise awareness about lung cancer and its early detection.

- A. 1st August
- B. 2nd August
- C. 3rd August
- D. 31st July
- E. None of these

- *World Lung Cancer Day is observed on 1 August.*
- *It is observed to raise awareness about lung cancer and its early detection.*
- *It was first observed in 2012 by the Forum of International Respiratory Societies in association with the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer (IASLC) and the American College of Chest Physicians.*
- *Out of all the cancer cases, lung cancer accounts for around 12.8%. Around 1.76 million people died due to lung cancer in 2018.*
- *The IASLC World Conference on Lung Cancer (WCLC) is the largest organization to deal with lung cancer.*

147. **Quit India Movement Day** is observed on _____ ?

- A. 7th August
- B. 8th August
- C. 9th August
- D. 6th August
- E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The Quit India Movement is also known as August Kranti or August Movement. On 8 August 1942, the Bharat Chhodo Andolan or Quit India movement was launched by Mahatma Gandhi and gave a call 'do or die.*
 - *In April 1942, the Cripps mission failed. Within less than four months, the third great mass struggle of the Indian people for freedom started. This struggle is known as the Quit India movement. On 8 August 1942 at the Bombay session of the All India Congress Committee Mahatma Gandhi during World War II passed a resolution of the Quit India Movement.*
148. Every year in _____ *Javelin Throw Day is celebrated to commemorate one of the greatest moments in the country's sporting history, Neeraj Chopra's Olympic gold medal.*
- A. **7th August**
 - B. 8th August
 - C. 9th August
 - D. 6th August
 - E. None of these
- *The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) will celebrate August 7 as National Javelin Day across the country to commemorate one of the greatest moments in the country's sporting history, Neeraj Chopra's Olympic gold medal.*
 - *It was on August 7 last year that Neeraj produced the 87.58m effort in Tokyo to secure India's first track and field medal in the Olympic Games.*
 - *The decision to celebrate August 7 as National Javelin Day was made by AFI upon Neeraj's return from Tokyo.*
 - *He has now added a World Championships silver medal to his kitty last month.*
149. *Hiroshima Day is observed every year on _____ to commemorate the day in August 1945 when an atomic bomb was dropped on the Japanese city of Hiroshima on August 6 by the United States*
- A. 7th August
 - B. 8th August
 - C. 9th August
 - D. **6th August**
 - E. None of these
- *Hiroshima Day is observed on August 6 to commemorate the atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, in 1945, at the end of World War II. The bombings killed over 200,000 people in just seconds and injured thousands more.*
 - *2022 marks the 77th anniversary of the world's first atomic bombing.*
 - *On Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths. (Three days later, the United States exploded a nuclear device over Nagasaki; five days after that, Imperial Japan surrendered.)*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

150. **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** is observed on _____ in a bid to raise awareness about the ordeal of human trafficking victims and the ways to safeguard their rights.

- A. 30th July
- B. 31st July
- C. 1st August
- D. 2nd August
- E. None of these

- **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** is observed on July 30 in a bid to raise awareness about the ordeal of human trafficking victims and the ways to safeguard their rights. Human Trafficking is a glaring issue that still lingers across the world.
- In 2013, the **World Day Against Trafficking in Persons** was observed for the first time.
- The theme for 2022 is **Use and Abuse of Technology**, which primarily focuses on technology being a tool to proliferate human trafficking.

151. **National handloom day** is observed every year on _____ to highlight the contribution of the handloom industry to socio-economic development and create awareness about the sector.

- A. 4th August
- B. 5th August
- C. 6th August
- D. 7th August
- E. None of these

- Every year, August 7 is observed as **National Handloom Day** in India to highlight the contribution of the handloom industry to socio-economic development and create awareness about the sector. The handloom sector is one of the largest economic sectors in the country.
- The products manufactured by the weaving community of the sector are popular across the world. **National Handloom Day** is celebrated across the country under the aegis of the Ministry of Textiles.
- The government of India, on August 7, 2015, inaugurated and celebrated **National Handloom Day** for the first time in Chennai.
- The handloom sector played an important role during the **Swadeshi Movement**, which was launched as part of the Indian independence movement, on August 7, 1905.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

152. What is the name of the *first Black player inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1975 and who was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 for his civil rights and basketball achievements, who passed away recently?*

- A. Ollie Robinson
- B. Lebron James
- C. Tim Benton
- D. Bill Russell**
- E. None of these

- *Bill Russell, a dominating center who won a record 11 NBA crowns as the cornerstone of a Boston Celtics dynasty, overcame racism to become the league's first Black superstar and civil rights activist passed away.*
- *He was a five-time NBA Most Valuable Player and captain of the 1956 US gold medal team at the Melbourne Olympics who revolutionized defensive play in the NBA.*
- *Russell was the first Black coach in North American sport and the first to win a title, doing so in 1968 and again in his 1969 farewell campaign.*
- *Russell was the first Black player inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1975 and was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2011 for his civil rights and basketball achievements.*

153. The *Muslim Women Rights Day* is observed across the country on _____, to celebrate the enactment of the Muslim Women Act, 2019 which prohibits the practice of Triple talaq in India.

- A. 1st August**
- B. 2nd August
- C. 31st July
- D. 3rd August
- E. None of these

- *Muslim Women Rights Day is observed across the country on 1 August, to celebrate the enactment of the Muslim Women Act, 2019 which prohibits the practice of Triple talaq in India.*
- *The legislation classifying triple talaq as a criminal offense came into effect on 1 August 2019.*
- *This day is of great importance in the lives of women from the Muslim community as the law against Triple Talaq liberated them from the atrocities committed on them in the terms of the divorce.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

152. **Fidel Ramos**, who passed away recently was a former president of which the following?

- A. Maldives
- B. Myanmar
- C. Philippines**
- D. Mauritius
- E. None of these



ELSEWHERE
Former Philippines President Ramos dies
 MANILA — Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos, who oversaw a rare period of steady growth and peace that won him the reputation as one of the country's most effective leaders, has died aged 94, his family said on Sunday. Known as "Steady Eddie" for his unflappable demeanour during the nation's upheaval, he was frequently pictured chewing unlit cigars as he guided the Philippines with a sure hand from 1992 to 1998. Lawmakers, diplomats, ex-politicians and the current administration posted tributes to Ramos on social media. [APR](#)

- **Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos died from COVID-19 complications on Sunday afternoon at the age of 94. Rose Beatrix Cruz-Angeles,**
- **Press Secretary of Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos, confirmed Ramos' death, reports The Manila Times. Angeles said that the departed leader leaves behind a colorful legacy and a secure place in history for his participation in the great changes in the country, both as a military officer and chief executive.**
- **Ramos, the 12th president of the Republic of the Philippines from 1992 to 1998, was said to be the driving force behind the renewed investor confidence in the country.**

153. **Partition Horrors Remembrance Day** is observed every year on _____ to commemorate the sufferings and sacrifices of millions of Indians during the partition in 1947.

- A. 13th August
- B. 14th August**
- C. 15th August
- D. 16th August
- E. None of these

- **The University Grants Commission (UGC) has asked all Universities and Colleges to observe August 14 as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day.**
- **They have been asked to organize programs and seminars to commemorate the sufferings and sacrifices of millions of Indians during the partition in 1947.**

MODI ADDRESS IN TALKATORA STADIUM

BJP to Observe Aug 14 as Partition Horror Remembrance Day

Kumar.Anshuman
 @timesgroup.com

New Delhi: BJP will observe August 14 as 'Vibhajan Vivishika Diwas' to remember the horrors of Partition. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address BJP workers and leaders at New Delhi's Talkatora Stadium on the evening of August 14. Last year, Modi had tweeted on August 14 about the horrors of Partition and announced that the day would be observed as Partition Horror Remembrance Day. BJP president JP Nadda has formed a six-member committee to look into preparations for the August 14 programme. The committee includes senior leaders Harshvardhan, general secretary Dushyant Gautam Narendra Singh, Anirban Ganguly, Shiv Shakti and Priti Gandhi. Nadda has written to BJP state units on how to observe the day. The state units have been asked to plan for two events in each district. One of the events would be

a silent march in memory of the families affected by Partition. The second programme will be in an auditorium where speakers who have knowledge of Partition would be invited to speak. The programme would also include honouring families affected by Partition. Media and publicity units of the state BJP have been asked to ensure wide coverage of the programme and post incidents and memories of people during Partition on social media.

The BJP has several programmes lined up in the wake of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. On August 9, the party's Delhi unit has planned a human chain of students in Delhi. On August 10, there will be a programme on Guru Teg Bahadur and Lakhishah Banjara at Talkatora Stadium. Party workers have been told that Modi may attend the programme.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Prime Minister Modi had last year announced that August 14 will be observed as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day in memory of the struggles and sacrifices of people, saying the pain of partition can never be forgotten.*
- *Mr. Modi had said that millions of our sisters and brothers were displaced and many lost their lives due to mindless hate and violence.*

Sports Award Books News

154. Consider the following statement regarding **Women's Euro 2022**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. England defeats Germany 2-1 to claim its first significant women's soccer championship.
 2. UEFA Women's EURO 2022 have named Beth Mead as their Player of the Tournament.
 3. Germany midfielder Lena Oberdorf has been named UEFA Women's EURO 2022 Young Player of the Tournament.
 4. **Alexandra Popp won UEFA Women's Euro 2022 Golden Boot Ahead Of Beth Mead.**
 5. None of these
- *England beat Germany 2-1 after extra time in a packed Wembley Stadium in London, bringing home the trophy of the UEFA women's Euro for the first time.*
 - *Germany suffered a heavy blow minutes ahead of the final as their captain Alex Popp had to pull out after picking up an injury during the warm-up.*
 - *Ella Toone and Chloe Kelly prodded goals for the England team.*
 - *Lina Magull helped Germany equalize in the 79th minute.*



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **UEFA's team of Technical Observers at UEFA Women's EURO 2022 have named Beth Mead as their Player of the Tournament.**
- **The competition's top goalscorer with six goals, England's No7 also logged five assists from the right wing as the Lionesses went the whole way to capture their first EURO title in front of a home crowd at Wembley Stadium.**
- **Keira Walsh has received the official Player of the Match award, presented by Visa, following England's 2-1 win against Germany in the UEFA Women's EURO 2022 final.**
- **UEFA's team of Technical Observers at UEFA Women's EURO 2022 has named Germany's Lena Oberdorf as the inaugural Young Player of the Tournament.**



155. Recently weightlifter Achinta Sheuli won India's third Gold Medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022 in which of the following category?

- A. 63 Kg
- B. 55 Kg
- C. 92 Kg
- D. 73 Kg**
- E. None of these

- **Weightlifter Achinta Sheuli (73 kg) from West Bengal lived up to his top billing as he won India's third Gold Medal in the Commonwealth Games 2022.**
- **Achinta Sheuli lifted 143 kg in a snatch and 170 kg in clean and jerk to top the field ahead of Malaysia's Erry Hidayat Mohammad, who took the Silver medal with a total of 303 kg.**

Mizo teen sets CWG records with gold win

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
 Birmingham, 31 July

Jeremy Lalrimingua endured overcastening pain on his way to a gold-winning performance at the Commonwealth Games, as the teen sensation shattered two weightlifting records here on Sunday.

The reigning Youth Olympic champion first battered the snatch mark with a successful 140 kg attempt and then lifted 160 kg in clean and jerk to take his aggregate to 300 kg, a new Games record in the men's 67 kg competition.

A massive 7 kg difference from his nearest rival, Sarvas Nalpaova (227 kg+166 kg), summed up the dominance of the 19-year-old, who first made headlines by winning a historic gold at the Youth Olympics in 2018.

Nigeria's Edickong Umoafia took bronze with an effort of 290 kg (140 kg+160 kg). This was India's fifth medal, and second gold from the weightlifting arena at the National Exhibition Centre.

Watched on by his idol Mirabai Chanu, Jeremy dominated the snatch but the stiff competition in clean and jerk made it a thrilling contest.

What added to the anxiety was cramps he suffered during his clean and jerk effort as he pulled his thigh and hamstring muscles.

"I completely blanked out and was clueless what was going around me. I was like blind and cried a lot after the failed attempt," Jeremy said after winning the gold.

"I never followed the other lifts. It was so painful. Crying out loudly. I asked the coach 'medal aya ke nahin?' (Did I get a medal?). Coach sir told me 'gold hai hamara' (you have won the gold)" and it soothed my nerves."

Star of junior national champion, Lalrimingua who was born in Aizawl in 2002, sports



Jeremy Lalrimingua after winning the gold medal in the men's 67kg category weightlifting event, in Birmingham on Sunday

became natural to him. From his "first love" boxing he had a difficult switch to weightlifting and has not looked back after joining the Army Sports Institute.

"I still box in the ring and love it, but looking at my fellow friends' passion I chose weightlifting," he said.

Jeremy had won a silver at the World Youth Championships in 2016 in the 56 kg weight category and then went on to add another silver at the 2017 World and later he would win a bronze at the 2018 Junior Asian Championships.

The real journey will start for him now as he now makes a transition to the Olympic weight category of 73 kg, other medalists from the weightlifting arena are Mirabai Chanu (gold), Sanket Sargar (silver), Bidyeshani Devi (silver) and Gururaj Poojary (bronze).

In other disciplines, world champion Nikhat Zareen sailed into the women's 50 kg quarterfinals but it was cur-

tains for Shiva Thapa as he crashed out of the men's 63.5 kg round of 16 boxing competition on Sunday.

While Zareen knocked out Helena Iannadi Bago of Mozambique to storm into the last eight round of the women's lightweight category, Thapa lost 1-4 to world champion bronze medalist Scotland's Reece Lynch to make a disappointing exit.

The Indian men's table tennis team, who are the defending champions, marched into the semi-finals after thrashing Bangladesh 3-0 in the third last-eight tie.

The team, led by Achanta Sharath Kamal, had outclassed Barbados, Singapore and Northern Ireland by identical 3-0 margins in the group stage earlier.

In one of the most keenly awaited contests of the Games, India produced a splendid show to register a dominating eight-wicket win over Pakistan in a rain-hit women's group A cricket match. Pakistan folded for 99 after the T20 match was reduced to 10 overs. India overhauled the target in 11.4 overs with Smriti Mandhana smashing an unbeaten 42-ball 63.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

156. Recently in August Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister

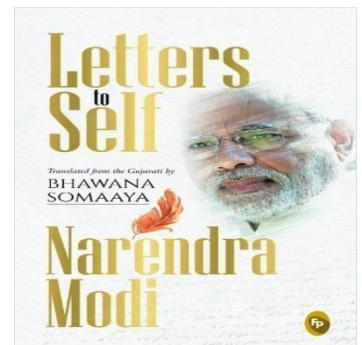
Hardeep Singh Puri inaugurated the _____ ONGC Para Games in Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.

- A. First
- B. Second
- C. Third
- D. Fourth**
- E. None of these

- Fourth ONGC Para Games inaugurated by Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri in Thyagaraj Sports Complex in New Delhi.
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) is organizing the fourth ONGC Para Games during 2-4 August 2022.
- Nearly 275 Persons with Disabilities (PwD) are taking part in the Games.
- These all are employees of eight central oil and gas public enterprises (ONGC, IOCL, GAIL, BPCL, MRPL, EIL, OIL, and HPCL).
- ONGC Para Games were conceptualized and started by ONGC in 2017.
- ONGC organizes the Para Games in an international format with the help of the Paralympic Committee of India.

157. 'Letters to Self', the English translation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Gujarati book of poetry is translated by whom of the following?

- A. Swati Dhingara
- B. Bhawana Somaaya**
- C. Shrishti Upadhaya
- D. Swati Sharma
- E. None of these



- 'Letters to Self', the English translation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Gujarati book of poetry, will hit the stands in August.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Written over many years, the collection of poems, ‘Aankh Aa Dhanya Chhe’, originally released in 2007, is translated into English by film journalist and historian Bhawana Somaaya.*
- *It is published by Fingerprint! Publishing, a Prakash Books company.*
- *Modi’s 2020 book “Letters To Mother“, comprising letters that he as a young man wrote to the mother goddess, was also translated from Gujarati by Somaaya.*
- *Besides several books in Gujarati, the prime minister also authored “Exam Warriors” to help young students deal with the stress of exams.*

158. In August _____ became India's 75th Grandmaster by winning a tournament in Romania.

- A. Ritvik Gupta
- B. V Pranav**
- C. Utkarsh Sharma
- D. M Mukund
- E. None of these

Now, 75 GMs for India in its 75th year of Independence

Disappointing I had to miss the Olympiad, says Pranav

P.K. AJITH KUMAR
MAMALLAPURAM

If his own playing schedule wasn't clashing with the Chess Olympiad, V. Pranav would have loved to head to coastal town one of these days. It's not every day that the world's largest chess event comes to a place near your home.

But the 16-year-old Chennai lad is in Romania now.



V. Pranav.

On Sunday, he became a Grandmaster after completing his final norm from the Limpede Open. So India got its 75th GM with the country's 75th Independence Day

GMs countrywise

- Russia 211
- USA 103
- Germany 94
- Ukraine 89
- India* 73
- Spain 57
- * Two Indian GMs to be ratified by FIDE

just a week away.

He made his first norm from the Serbian Open last year and the second from

the Vezerkepzo tournament at Budapest in June.

“Though it is disappointing that I have had to miss the Olympiad and not see my favourite player Magnus Carlsen in action, I am happy that I could complete my GM title,” Pranav told *The Hindu* over phone from Baia Mare, Romania.

“If not for COVID-19, I could have got the title earlier. I was able to work more on the game during the pandemic.”

His coach K. Viswesaran said the willingness to work hard on the game is one of

his strengths. “But Pranav is also natural,” he said. “He is remarkably fast too. He is probably the fastest player I have worked with.”

Viswesaran has high hopes about him. “I think he has the potential to be a Super Grandmaster,” he said. “With the right kind of support, he could go far.”

Pranav's father M. Venkatesh, an IT professional, said it would be great if there was more support. “He has sponsorships from Microsense and Chessbase India and that has been very helpful,” he said.

- *Chess prodigy V Pranav on Sunday became India’s 75th Grandmaster by winning a tournament in Romania.*
- *The Chennai-based Pranav won the Limpede Open in Baia Mare, Romania to secure his third and final GM norm and attain the Grandmaster title. He finished the tournament with 7 points from nine rounds to wrap up the GM norm requirements.*

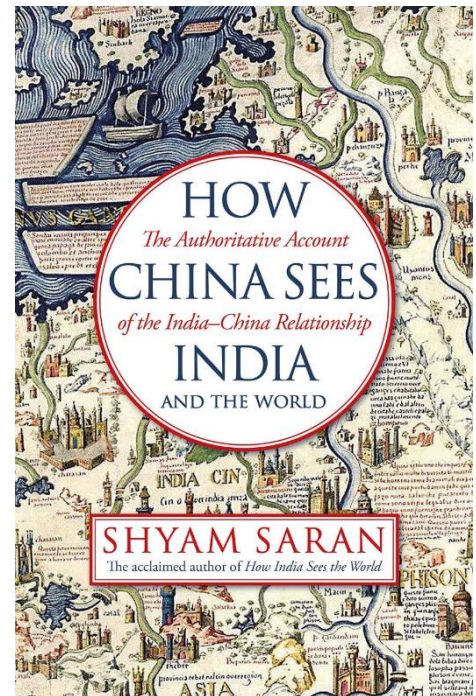
Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Pranav is the 27th Grandmaster from Tamil Nadu, a list that includes the legendary Viswanathan Anand and teen sensations D Gukesh and R Praggnanandhaa among others.
- Rahul Srivatshav P of Telangana was India's 74th Grandmaster.

159. Who is the author of the book titled " 'How China Sees India and the World'?"

- A. Swati Dhingara
- B. Shyam Saran**
- C. V Pranav
- D. Kellaswaram Raj
- E. None of these

- Shyam Saran, an accomplished former diplomat who has spent some years in Beijing and is proficient in Chinese, has authored 'How China Sees India.
- In the book's opening chapters, the reader is introduced to the chronology of the 15 dynasties that ruled China, pointing out that although many were foreign, successive Chinese dynasties
- Shyam Saran is an Indian career diplomat. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1970 and rose to become the Foreign Secretary to the Government of India.
- Recently in June Shyam Saran, a former Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister's Special Envoy for Nuclear Affairs and Climate Change has taken over as the President of the prestigious India International Centre.



160. Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga has won gold in the men's _____ finals at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022.

- A. 67 Kg**
- B. 73 Kg
- C. 55 Kg
- D. 72 Kg
- E. None of these

- Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga from Aizwal Mizoram has created history by winning gold in the men's 67kg finals at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- He won the gold medal with a record-breaking combined lift of 300 kg. This is India's second gold at Commonwealth Games 2022 after Mirabai Chanu and fifth overall.
- The Indian Army congratulated Naib Subedar Jeremy Lalrinnunga on winning the gold medal in Weightlifting by lifting a total of 300kg.
- Jeremy made a snatch of 140kg and then a clean and jerk of 160kg to a total of 300kg (Games record). He finished seven kg clear of his nearest competitor.

161. Recently Star all-rounder **Deandra Dottin** announced her retirement from international cricket. She hails from which of the following country?

- A. West Indies
- B. South Africa
- C. Australia
- D. New Zealand
- E. None of these

- Star all-rounder **Deandra Dottin** has announced her retirement from West Indies women's cricket team, citing she was no longer able to adhere to the team culture and environment.
- The 31-year-old is the fastest centurion in women's T20 Internationals.
- Dottin, however, did not indicate whether she would also retire from Barbados, a side she is representing at the ongoing Commonwealth Games here in Birmingham.
- Dottin is West Indies' most-capped international cricketer, having played 124 T20Is and 143 ODIs since her debut in June 2008.

162. Consider the following statement regarding **Hungarian Grand Prix 2022**.

1. **Max Verstappen** (Red Bull – Netherlands) has won the Formula One (F1) 2022 Hungarian Grand Prix 2022.
2. This is his overall 28th race win and the 12th win of the 2022 season.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

Dottin calls curtains on West Indies career

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Star all-rounder Deandra Dottin has announced her retirement from the West Indies women's cricket team, citing she was no longer able to "adhere to the team culture and environment."

The 31-year-old, who is the fastest centurion in women's T20 Internationals, took to Twitter to announce her retirement.

"There have been many obstacles during my cricket career that I have had to overcome. However, the current climate and team environment has been non-conductive to my ability to thrive and reignite my passion," Dottin said.

Dottin, however, did not indicate whether she would also retire from Barbados, a



Deandra Dottin.
• GETTY IMAGES

side she is representing at the ongoing Commonwealth Games.

Dottin is West Indies' most-capped international cricketer, having played 124 T20Is and 143 ODIs since her debut in June 2008. She has amassed 3,727 ODI runs at an average of 30.54 and 2,697 T20I runs at 25.93.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Formula One champion Max Verstappen overcame a spin and his worst starting spot of the season to win the Hungarian Grand Prix.*
- *His eighth win of the season pushed Verstappen's lead to 80 points over Charles Leclerc as F1 heads into its mid-season break.*
- *Verstappen's eighth win of the season was the 28th of the Dutchman's career.*

163. Which of the following statements *is correct regarding recently won medals in the Commonwealth Games?*

1. *Deepak Punia won the gold medal in the 90kg category.*
2. *Bajrang Punia won the gold medal by defeating Canadian Lachlan Mcneil in the 65kg category.*
3. *Sakshi Malik won the silver medal in the 62kg category.*
4. *Only 1 & 2*
5. *All of the above*

- *Wrestlers Bajrang Punia, Deepak Punia, and Sakshi Malik won gold medals in Commonwealth Games.*
- *Bajrang Punia won the gold medal in men's freestyle wrestling by defeating Canadian Lachlan Mcneil 9-2 in the 65kg category.*
- *In men's freestyle wrestling, Deepak Punia won the gold medal in the 86kg category by defeating Muhammad Inam of Pakistan 3-0.*
- *Mohit Grewal won the bronze medal in the 125kg category by defeating Jameson Aaron Johnson.*
- *Sakshi Malik won the gold medal in women's freestyle wrestling by defeating Canadian Godinez Gonzalez in the 62kg category.*
- *After losing 3-7 to Folasade Adekuoroye of Nigeria, Anshu Malik won the silver medal in the 57 kg category.*
- *Divya Kakran won the bronze medal in the 68kg category by defeating Tiger Lily Cocker Lemali.*

164. Consider the following statement regarding the SAFF Under-20 football championship trophy. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. *India beat Bangladesh 5-2 to lift the SAFF Under-20 football championship trophy*
2. *The final was held at Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.*
3. *Only 1*
4. *Both 1 & 2*
5. *None of the above*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **India lifted the SAFF U-20 football championship trophy by defeating Bangladesh 5-2 goals in the final at Kalinga stadium in Bhubaneswar, Odisha last night. Four goals from Gurkirat Singh and a lone goal from Himanshu Jhangra ensured Indian Team a worthy comeback in the final match which had gone to extra-time. India won this championship for the second consecutive time.**
- **Gurkirat Singh was declared the Most Valuable Player of the tournament and also clinched the top scorer's award, while Som Kumar earned the Golden Gloves Award.**



165. _____ will be conferred with the 'Karnataka Ratna' award posthumously, on November 1, which happens to be Kannada Rajyotsava, the state's formation day

- A. Ramcharan
- B. Anupama Parmeshwaran
- C. Puneeth Rajkumar**
- D. Rajnikanth
- E. None of these

- **Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said that Kannada film star Puneeth Rajkumar, who died last year, will be conferred with the 'Karnataka Ratna' award posthumously, on November 1, which happens to be Kannada Rajyotsava, the state's formation day.**
- **He will be the 10th recipient of the state's highest civilian honor.**
- **He was speaking after inaugurating the annual Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh's glass house here.**
- **This year's flower show pays a special floral tribute to Kannada thespian Dr. Rajkumar and his son and actor Puneeth Rajkumar.**
- **The Chief Minister had announced to confer the award on the late actor in November last year, at the "Puneetha Namana," an event to pay homage to Puneeth Rajkumar, organized by the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce (KFCC), in association with Sandalwood film actors' and technicians' associations.**

Som Kumar
Best Goalkeeper 🏆

Gurkirat Singh
Top Scorer 🏆
MVP 🏆

#BANIND 🇮🇳 #SAFFU20 🏆 #BackTheBlue 🇮🇳 #IndianFootball 🏆



3

30

444

↑

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

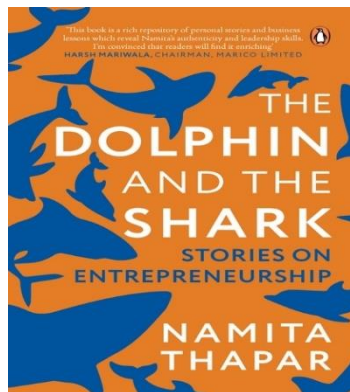
- The Karnataka Ratna was last awarded to Dr. Virendra Heggade for social service in 2009.
- Interestingly, Puneeth's late father Rajkumar is among the first recipients of the Karnataka Ratna award in 1992, along with poet Kuvempu.

166. Who is the author of the book titled " *Madam President: A Biography of Draupadi Murmu*"?

- A. Sanddep Singh
- B. Sandeep Sahu**
- C. Kavita Sen
- D. Rahul Bose
- E. None of these



- A biography of Droupadi Murmu, India's youngest President and the first to be born after Independence, will hit the stands later this year, Penguin Random House India (PRHI) announced.
- Touted to be the first authentic and definitive account of India's 15th President, *Madam President: A Biography of Draupadi Murmu* claims to unpack the many trials and tribulations, and early years of struggle that elevated the 64-year-old to the highest office in the country.
- It is written by Bhubaneswar-based senior journalist Sandeep Sahu.



165. Consider the following statement regarding *Commonwealth Games*.

1. Tejaswin Shankar becomes the first Indian to win a medal in the high jump at *Commonwealth Games*.
2. Saurav Ghosal created history by winning India's first-ever singles medal bronze in squash at *Commonwealth Games*.

Masters of the 64 Squares

Coffee Table book on Indian chess



Viswanathan Anand and Union Sports Minister Anurag Thakur with the book. ■ R. RAVINDRAN & B. VELANKANNI RAJ

SPORTS BUREAU

In recent years, India has emerged as one of the leading nations in international chess with a sudden spurt in the number of Grandmasters.

The country also shared the gold medal with Russia in the Online Chess Olympiad in 2021.

The 44th Olympiad in Mamallapuram, near Chennai, has witnessed a record participation (186).

To celebrate the hosting of the global event, *Sportstar* and *The Hindu* have dug deep into their archives to bring this labour of love –

Masters of the 64 Squares – that chronicles the memorable journey of the Indian kings and queens who have gone places in the chess world.

From India's first known player Sultan Khan to Emperor Viswanathan Anand, the country's first Grandmaster, to Rahul Shrivasthav, the 74th and most recent member of the club, we relive the milestone moments.

You can book your copy online by scanning the QR code below and receive a 20% discount.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Tejaswin Shankar becomes the first Indian to win a medal in the high jump at Commonwealth Games.**
- **Tejaswin Shankar has clinched the bronze medal in the men’s high jump event at the Commonwealth Games 2022.**
- **He won bronze by jumping 2.22m. He then tried to cover a distance of 2.28 meters in his third and final attempt but failed.**
- **Tulika Maan won the Silver medal in the women's Judo 78 kg category. It is the third medal in Judo in this edition of the Commonwealth Games.**
- **Indian weightlifter Gurdeep Singh clinched the bronze medal in the men's 109-plus kg category.**
- **Lovepreet Singh bagged a bronze medal in men's 109kg weightlifting.**
- **India's Saurav Ghosal clinched the bronze medal in squash men's singles by defeating James Willstrop of England.**

Ghosal claims bronze, makes history

It is India's first singles medal in squash

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
BIRMINGHAM

Breaking a long-standing jinx, Saurav Ghosal on Wednesday claimed India's first ever singles medal in squash – a bronze – at the Commonwealth Games here on Wednesday.

Dominant show

Ghosal dominated against England's James Willstrop, winning 11-6, 11-1, 11-4 in the bronze playoff.

It was Ghosal's second CWG medal, the first one being a mixed doubles silver with Dipika Pallikal in 2018.

"I thought yesterday he played even better in the semifinals. Years of hard work has led to this. It is a great day for Indian squash," said team manager Cyrus Poncha.

Earlier, the mixed doubles pair of veteran Joshna



Ghosal. •GETTY IMAGES

Chinappa and Harinder Pal Singh Sandhu progressed to the pre-quarterfinals, downing Sri Lanka's Yeheni Kuruppu and Ravindu Laksiri 8-11, 11-4, 11-3.

Sunayna Kuruvilla defeated Fung-A-Fat of Guyana 11-7, 13-11, 11-2 in the women's squash singles plate final.

India wins mixed relay silver

The historic feat comes with a new junior Asian record

WORLD U-20

SPORTS BUREAU

At a time when the country is finding it difficult to put together relay teams for the majors, the Indian juniors won a historic 4x400m mixed relay silver at the World Athletics Under-20 Championships in Cali, Colombia, on Wednesday.

The team, comprising Barath Sridhar, Priya H. Mohan, Kapil and Rupal Chaudhary, put up a fighting display. Rupal, the anchor-leg runner, gave a bit of a scare to the USA before India won the silver in a new under-20 Asian record time of 3:17.78s (old record 3:19.62 clocked in heats earlier).

The USA was seven-hundredths of a second faster (3:17.69) in taking the gold, while Jamaica took the bronze in 3:19.98.

It was the fastest time by an Indian team in nearly



Happy bunch: Rupal, Kapil, Priya and Barath, who won the 4x400m mixed relay silver. •SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

three years and a lot better than the time clocked by the Indian quartet of Muhammed Anas, V. Revathi, V. Subha and Arokia Rajiv at last year's Tokyo Olympics (3:19.93).

First-ever

It was also the country's first-ever silver medal in the relay at a World championship and three of the runners in Cali – Barath, Priya

and Kapil – had been in action in India's previous best result, a bronze in the same event at last year's under-20 Worlds in Nairobi.

Incidentally, Rupal (52.50s, first in her heat) and Priya (52.56, second in her heat) also qualified for the 400m semifinals in Cali.

Other Indian results:

Women: 100m: Avantika Narale (6); **400m hurdles:** Simmy (7).

166. Consider the following statement regarding

Commonwealth Games Day 5 highlights.

1. **India won its maiden gold medal after defeating Australia in the final of the Lawn Bowls competition.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

2. The Indian table tennis team also won the gold medal, beating Singapore 3-1.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

Historic win



India's Lovely Choubey, Pinki, Nayanmoni Saikia and Rupa Rani Tirkey celebrate after winning the Lawn Bowls Women's fours final against South Africa, at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, UK, on Tuesday. The Indian team won the match 17-10.



BELOW Indian paddlers (from left) Sharath Kamal Achanta, Harmeet Desai, Sanil Shetty, and Sathiyam Gnanasekaran pose with their gold medals after defeating Singapore 3-1 in the Men's Team Table Tennis event.

- India won the gold medal after defeating South Africa in the final of the Lawn Bowls competition at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. With this, it is the maiden medal for the country in Lawn Bowls.
- The Indian team of Roopa Rani Tirkey, Lovely Choubey, Pinky, and Nayanmoni Saikia beat South Africa by 17-10.
- The Indian table tennis team also won the gold medal, beating Singapore 3-1.
- The Indian Lawn Bowls team has scripted history by clinching gold in the women's fours final at Birmingham Commonwealth Games 2022 on August 2, 2022. This is India's first-ever medal in the sports event.
- The Indian lawn bowls team defeated South Africa by 17-10 in the final of the women's fours event after 15 ends. India's lawn bowl team included Lovely Choubey, Pinki Chaudhary, Nayanmoni Saikia, and Rupa Rani Tirkey. They have become the first Indian athletes in CWG history to win a gold medal in the sport.
- Indian men's table tennis team defeated Singapore 3-1 to clinch the gold medal in the final at the ongoing Commonwealth Games 2022 in Birmingham on August 2, 2022.
- The Indian team comprising G. Sathiyam, Harmeet Desai, Sharat Kamal & Sanil Shetty defended their gold title. India had won gold in the event in the 2018 Commonwealth Games as well.

McKeon becomes most successful athlete in the CWG

Australian swimmer claims record 11th gold; Le Clos is the most decorated with 18 medals

SWIMMING

REUTERS
BIRMINGHAM
Swimmer Emma McKeon became the most successful Commonwealth Games athlete of all-time on Sunday, leading an Australian sweep of the women's 50 metre freestyle to claim a record 11th gold medal.

It was a night of milestones at the Sandwell Aquatic Centre as moments earlier South African Chad Le Clos had joined shooters Michael Gault and Phil Adams as the most decorated Games athletes ever when he snatched his 18th medal by picking up a silver in the men's 200 metres butterfly.

Besting fellow Aussies
McKeon's 50m freestyle win follows earlier victories in the mixed 4x100 freestyle and women's 4x100 freestyle relays to sit alone atop the gold medal table ahead of fellow Australian swimmers



Phenoms: McKeon 50m freestyle win and Le Clos' silver finish in the 200m butterfly put them in the record books. --REUTERS

Susie O'Neill, Ian Thorpe and Liesel Jones.
Le Clos' milestone comes 10 years to the day that he beat American great Michael Phelps in the same event at the 2012 London Olympics. Swimming out of lane five, the same lane he beat Phelps from, Le Clos was beaten to the wall by Lewis Clareburt with a winning time of one minute, 55.60 seconds.
However, he could not be denied a place in the record

books after finishing just .29 seconds back of the New Zealander to snatch silver ahead of England's James Guy.

"I'm gutted not to have won, I'll be honest," said Le Clos, adding he plans to be top the podium before the end of the Games. "I would've cut my finger off to win tonight."

A three-time Commonwealth Games champion in the event, Le Clos looked like



he might make four leading with 50m to go but the 30-year-old would be overhauled down the stretch by Lewis, who adds the 200m butterfly title to the 400m individual medley gold he won earlier at the Sandwell Aquatic Centre.

Le Clos' medal haul from four Commonwealth Games includes seven gold, four silver and seven bronze.

His trophy case also contains four Olympic (one gold,

three silver) and seven World Championship medals (four gold, one silver, two bronze).

New World record
Meanwhile, Australia broke the world record in the women's 4x200m freestyle relay on Sunday.

The team of Madison Wilson, Kiah Melverton, Mollie O'Callaghan and Ariarne Titmus finished in 7min 39.29sec to beat China's time of 7:40.33.

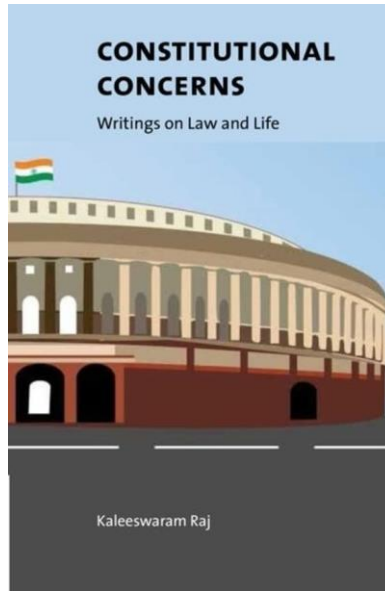
167. In August Retired Supreme Court judge J Chelameswar released 'Constitutional Concerns: Writings on Law and Life, a book authored by

- A. Ranjan Gogoi
- B. Ila Irani
- C. Kaleeswaram Raj

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- D. Tamal Mehta
- E. None of these

- Retired Supreme Court judge J Chelameswar released ‘Constitutional Concerns: Writings on Law and Life, a book by apex court lawyer Kaleeswaram Raj, at the Asian College of Journalism.
- The author has tried to encapsulate the severe setback to India’s polity from 2018 to 2021. These four years in continuation with the political shift after Narendra Modi took charge in 2014, point to the country’s transformation.



Electoral win cannot legitimise all that govt. does: Chelameswar



J. Chelameswar releasing a book in Chennai. N. Ram received the first copy. Indira Chandrasekhar, author Kaleeswaram Raj and Sashi Kumar are also seen. *S.R. RAGHUNATHAN

LEGAL CORRESPONDENT CHENNAI

Constitution and democracy are not synonymous. If democracy is just about conducting elections once in five years, then we do not require a Constitution at all. Unfortunately, elected people all over the world, not just in India, believe that electoral victory confers legitimacy for everything that the elected government does, Jasti Chelameswar, a retired judge of the Supreme Court, said on Saturday.

He was addressing a gathering at the Asian College of Journalism (ACJ) here after releasing a book, *Constitutional Concerns: Writings on Law and Life*, authored by Supreme Court lawyer Kaleeswaram Raj.

N. Ram, Director, The Hindu Publishing Group, received the first copy and subsequently chaired the first session of a colloquium addressed by former High Court judges K. Chandru and K. Kannan.

In his keynote address on “the Constitution and Democracy”, Justice Chelameswar cited the capital punishment imposed on Greek philosopher Socrates on the charge of spreading wrong ideas and said the punishment was not imposed by one or two judges but by the

entire citizenry of Athens. “If democracy means only numbers and participation of people, the trial and punishment of Socrates must be the most democratic act,” he said.

Stating that mere numbers were not sufficient and those numbers should be necessarily guided by some better standards of ethical or rational principles through which people could govern themselves, he said, “It is this requirement which necessitates the existence of the Constitution.” It was to check the tendency of misusing electoral majority that the system of constitutional governance was invented by the genius of mankind, he added.

He went on to state that if the people believe that the Constitution would on its own safeguard them and their rights, then it would be a sad mistake.

“If people are not vigilant, if people do not take care of their rights, people do not bother about their liberties, people do not stand up and fight for their lives and liberties, no document, no Constitution can save their lives and liberties,” he cautioned.

ACJ chairman Sashi Kumar; publisher of the book Indira Chandrasekhar; and the author also spoke.

Science Technology Defence And Environment

168. Recently in August Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) received the Letter of Intent from the Services for the manufacture of _____ light utility helicopters (LUHs), which have been designed and developed indigenously.
- A. 15
 - B. 12
 - C. 17
 - D. 28
 - E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has received the Letter of Intent from the Services for the manufacture of 12 light utility helicopters (LUHs), which have been designed and developed indigenously.**
- **At the same time, nine-light combat helicopters (LCH) have been manufactured against the sanction of 15 limited series production (LSP) variants and are in the process of being handed over to the Services. The Army is in negotiations for acquiring 11 more Apache AH-64E attack helicopters from the U.S.**
- **Last November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of an initial lot of 12 LUHs, six each for the Army and the Air Force.**
- **In June, the Army raised its first LCH squadron in Bengaluru which will move to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Command once complete next year.**
- **As of now, the Army is looking at acquiring around 111 LUHs and 95 LCHs. Army sources had said that seven LCH units are planned for a combat role in the mountains, each with 10 helicopters. The IAF is scheduled to raise its first LCH squadron in the next few months.**
- **The Cabinet Committee on Security earlier gave sanction for the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S. Following this, the IAF inducted 22 Apaches procured under a deal signed in September 2015.**

HAL to supply 12 light utility helicopters to armed forces

Army looking to acquire 11 more Apache attack helicopters

DINAKAR PERI
NEW DELHI
 Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) has received the Letter of Intent from the Services for the manufacture of 12 light utility helicopters (LUHs), which have been designed and developed indigenously. At the same time, nine light combat helicopters (LCH) have been manufactured against the sanction of 15 limited series production (LSP) variants and are in the process of being handed over to the Services.

The Army is in negotiations for acquiring 11 more Apache AH-64E attack helicopters from the U.S. "Production work has begun. Two LUHs are in an advanced stage of completion," a HAL source confirmed to *The Hindu*. In addition, the Request for Quotation (RFQ) for the larger order for the LUHs has also been issued, one source said. The HAL is in the process of responding to the RFQ and expects to conclude the related issues in a year or two, the source said. Last November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of an initial lot of 12 LUHs, six each for the Army and the Air Force.

LCH induction
 In June, the Army raised its first LCH squadron in Bengaluru which will move to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the Eastern Command once complete next year.



Firepower: Last November, the Defence Acquisition Council approved the procurement of 12 LUHs, six each for the Army and the Air Force.

As of now, the Army is looking at acquiring around 111 LUHs and 95 LCHs, officials said. Army sources had said that seven LCH units are planned for a combat role in the mountains, each with 10 helicopters. The IAF is scheduled to raise its first LCH squadron in the next few months.

More Apache helicopters
 The Cabinet Committee on Security earlier gave sanction for the procurement of 39 AH-64 Apache attack helicopters from the U.S. Following this, the IAF inducted 22 Apaches procured under a deal signed in September 2015. The govern-

ment has ruled that any further Apache procurements will go to the Army. In line with this, India signed a deal for six more Apaches at a cost of around \$800 million in February 2020. They are scheduled to arrive in early 2024, an Army source said.

In addition, the Army is pushing the case for the remaining 11 Apaches of the 39 sanctioned, the official added. A senior official of Boeing recently confirmed that the firm was in talks with the Army for additional Apaches.

In the utility category, the Army and the IAF together have a requirement of over 400 helicopters and are meant to replace the Chetaks and Chetak.

This requirement was to be met jointly by the LUHs and the 200 Ka-226T utility helicopters to be built with technology transfer from Russia.

169. Recently the _____ Edition of **Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise "Ex VINBAX 2022"** began at _____.

- A. 3rd, Chandimandir
- B. 4th, Pithoragarh
- C. 5th, Barmer
- D. 7th, Jaisalmer
- E. None of these

- **The 3rd Edition of Vietnam-India Bilateral Army Exercise "Ex VINBAX 2022" began at Chandimandir. It will continue till 20th August.**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The exercise is a sequel to a previously conducted bilateral exercise in Vietnam in 2019 and a major milestone in strengthening the bilateral relations between India and Vietnam.*
- *India and Vietnam share a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and defense cooperation is a key pillar of this partnership. Vietnam is an important partner in India's Act East policy and the Indo-Pacific vision.*
- *The theme of Ex VINBAX - 2022 is the employment and deployment of an Engineer Company and a Medical Team as part of the United Nations Contingent for Peace Keeping Operations.*

170. Consider the following statement regarding **Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles ATGM**.

1. *The indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles ATGM was successfully test-fired from Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar in Odisha.*
2. *The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.*

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The indigenously developed Laser-Guided Anti-Tank Guided Missiles ATGM was successfully test-fired from Main Battle Tank MBT Arjun by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Army at KK Ranges with the support of Armoured Corps Centre and School Ahmednagar in Maharashtra.*
- *The missiles hit with precision and successfully destroyed the targets at two different ranges. Telemetry systems have recorded the satisfactory flight performance of the missiles.*
- *The all-indigenous Laser Guided ATGM employs a tandem High Explosive Anti-Tank HEAT warhead to defeat Explosive Reactive Armour ERA-protected armored vehicles.*
- *The ATGM has been developed with multi-platform launch capability and is currently undergoing technical evaluation trials from the 120 mm rifled gun of MBT Arjun.*
- *Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has complimented DRDO and the Indian Army for the successful performance of the Laser Guided ATGMs.*

171. Recently in August _____ signed an MoU with the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad on data sharing and cooperation on **Satellite-based Naval Applications in Oceanology and Meteorology**.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- A. Indian Army
- B. Indian Navy**
- C. Indian Air Force
- D. Indian Coast Guard
- E. None of these

- **Indian Navy on 05 Aug 22 signed an MoU with the Space Applications Centre (ISRO), Ahmedabad on data sharing and cooperation on Satellite-based Naval Applications in Oceanology and Meteorology.**
- **With this initiative, both the organizations will have a common platform of cooperation, wherein the scientific advancements by SAC would be synergized into the Indian Naval efforts to keep the nation's defense in step with rapid development in the field of Satellite Data retrieval and applications.**
- **This MoU is an extension of the previous MoU signed in 2017 and will further the collaboration between the two organizations.**
- **The broad area of cooperation includes sharing of non-confidential observational data, operation exploitation of SAC-generated weather products, and provisioning of Subject Matter Experts (SME) for processing of satellite data towards the development of new tools, calibration, and validation of ocean models.**

172. India will sell _____ **light-combat aircraft (LCA) "Tejas" to Royal Malaysian Air Force.**

- A. 18**
- B. 22
- C. 25
- D. 23
- E. None of these

- **India has replied to a tender released by Royal Malaysian Air Force offering to sell 18 light-combat aircraft (LCA) "Tejas" to Malaysia.**
- **Argentina, Australia, Egypt, the United States, Indonesia, and the Philippines are also interested in the single-engine jet as per the Defense ministry's statement.**

Have offered to sell 18 Tejas aircraft to Malaysia, govt tells Parliament

6 other countries have evinced interest in the light combat aircraft

OUR BUREAU
 New Delhi, August 5
 Six countries — the US, Argentina, Australia, Egypt, Indonesia and the Philippines — have shown interest in the indigenously manufactured light combat aircraft Tejas, even as India has decided to sell 18 of them to Malaysia, the government told Parliament on Friday.

Last October, Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL), a defence PSU, had offered in Tejas twin-seater variants while responding to a request for proposal (RFP) issued by Royal Malaysian Air Force for fighter aircraft (FLE-LCA). Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt informed the Lower House on Friday.

"Other countries which have evinced interest in the LCA are Argentina, Australia, Egypt, the US, Indonesia and



Other countries which have evinced interest in the LCA are Argentina, Australia, Egypt, the US, Indonesia and the Philippines

the Philippines," Bhatt told Lok Sabha.

On a separate Parliament question on whether the government proposes to manufacture a stealth fighter jet, the junior defence minister said, "yes".

He added that the "autonomous flying wing technology demonstrator" has been successfully tested by the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO).

National security

"The desired information is sensitive in nature and its disclosure is not in the interest of national security," he added.

The government, the MoS stated, has taken several policy initiatives in the past few years and brought in reforms to encourage indigen-

ous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment in the country, thereby expanding their production.

These initiatives include giving priority to procurement of capital items from domestic sources under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 and announcement of 18 major defence platforms for industry-led design and development. Besides that, a notification was issued for embargo on the import of items mentioned in the 'positive indigenisation lists' beyond the timelines indicated against them. There are such lists of total 310 items of services and two such list of total 2,958 items of the defence PSUs were made public, Bhatt stated.

Liberalisation of the Foreign Direct Investment policy allowing 74 per cent FDI under the automatic route, simplification of "make procedure" and launch of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) scheme involving start-ups and micro, small and medium enterprises were some of other new initiatives.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Last year, the Indian government had given a \$6 billion contract to state-owned Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd for 83 of the locally produced Tejas jets for delivery starting around 2023 - four decades after it was first approved in 1983.
- Tejas is the flagship indigenous defense equipment success of India. Tejas has been beset by design and other challenges and was once rejected by the Indian Navy as too heavy.

173. Which of the following will be the first IIT to set up its branch in a foreign land as per the India-UAE Vision Statement?

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Delhi**
- C. IIT Kanpur
- D. IIT Bombay
- E. None of these

- IIT- Delhi is exploring the possibilities to make its presence for the first time in a foreign land.
- The government is encouraging IIT-Delhi to look for opportunities for establishing a campus in the United Arab Emirates.
- The efforts of India's globally acclaimed technical institute to mark its foreign presence began in February this year when a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement(CEPA) was signed between India and UAE on 18 February
- Till now, a total of 23 IITs have been established only within Indian territory.
- The Centre has asked the IIT, Delhi to figure out the possibility of establishing another campus in the UAE.

IIT-Delhi asked to explore possibility of setting up a campus in UAE: Centre

HT Correspondent
 letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Centre has requested the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi to explore the possibility of setting up a campus in the United Arab Emirates, the Union education ministry said in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The Centre's request came after a trade deal was signed between India and the UAE during a virtual summit, attended by the leaders of the two countries in February this year, Union minister of state for education Subhas Sarkar said in a written response to a question by Congress MP MK Raghavan.

Sarkar's response quoted a joint India-UAE 'Vision Statement' issued on February 18, 2022, that said, "...the leaders agreed to establish an Indian Institute of Technol-



In 2021, IIT-Delhi submitted a proposal to the education ministry to open campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt. ARVIND YADAV/HT ARCHIVE

ogy [campus] in the United Arab Emirates."

"As a follow up to this, the government has requested the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi to explore the possibility of establishing a campus of IIT Delhi in the

UAE," Sarkar said.

In 2021, IIT-Delhi had submitted a proposal to the ministry for opening campuses in Saudi Arabia and Egypt following which, a 16-member committee headed by the IIT council's standing commit-

tee chairman, K Radhakrishnan, was constituted to prepare a framework for Indian universities to set up campuses abroad.

HT had last week reported that the committee has submitted its preliminary report pitching top IITs to take a lead on this front.

According to the ministry's response in Parliament on Monday, IIT-Delhi has already reached out to the Indian Ambassador to UAE to identify and arrange a meeting with the UAE authorities. "The Department of Education and Knowledge, Abu Dhabi (ADEK) was identified as the relevant UAE authority. In the first ADEK-IITD meeting, both sides made presentations about their respective organisations and conveyed their eagerness and enthusiasm to move forward with this project," the ministry said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

174. Consider the following statement regarding the **number of airports in India**.

1. There are **141 operational airports in the country**.
2. Air operators certificate **have been issued to three carriers – Jet Airways, Akasa Air, and India One Air after 2014**
3. The **Government has set a target of 220 airports by 2025**.

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. Only 3
- B. Only 2 & 3
- C. Only 1
- D. **None of the above**

- **There are 141 operational airports in the country, which include eight heliports, and two waterdromes, while air operators certificate has been issued to three carriers – Jet Airways, Akasa Air, and IndiaOne Air, the Union Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, said in a response to the Rajya Sabha.**
- **According to him, there were 74 airports with scheduled operations in the country till 2014.**
- **India’s Union Minister of Civil Aviation Jyotiraditya Scindia announced that the government has set a target of increasing the number of airports from 140 to 220 by 2025.**

‘Number of airports have nearly doubled since 2014’

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 1

There are 141 operational airports in the country, which include eight heliports, and two waterdromes, while air operators certificate have been issued to three carriers – Jet Airways, Akasa Air and IndiaOne Air, the Union Civil Aviation Minister, Jyotiraditya Scindia, said in a response to the Rajya Sabha on Monday.

According to him, there were 74 airports with schedule operations in the country till 2014.

“The Government plans to develop/operationalise 220 airports, heliports, water aerodromes in the next five years,” he said during his response.

Scindia added that the air-

craft fleet across domestic carriers, which stood at 686 till July 25 of this year, is expected to grow in the range of 10-12 per cent in the coming years. The fleet, pre-2014 was 410. “Expansion of fleet is a continuous process and airlines take appropriate decision to meet the growing demands in the aviation sector,” he added.

The cumulative number of pilots licenses issued by DGCA till date was 40,276; which was at 28599 prior to 2014.

“Demand of pilots by 2025 depends upon the traffic and expansion of the fleet by airlines. Given the fleet projection, it is felt that India may require around 1,000 pilots per annum over the next five years,” the Union minister said.

175. Consider the following statement **regarding Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. It will be launched by ISRO from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota.
2. ISRO has developed the SSLV to put in low earth orbit satellites weighing less than 500 kg.
3. On its first flight, the SSLV will carry one of India’s Earth Observation Satellites – EOS-2 along with the passenger satellite AzaadiSat.
4. **AzaadiSat weighs just 10 kg and has 75 Femto experiments along with selfie cameras to click pictures of its solar panels**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

5. None of these

- **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is gearing up for its next satellite launch mission targeted for August 7.**
- **According to ISRO, the mission will be launched at 9:18 am IST from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota and will be the first demonstration launch of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV).**
- **Having a projected lifespan of six months, the EOS-02 mission is part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations on the 75th year of Independence.**
- **The brand new SSLV-D1 rocket will liftoff with a micro Earth Observation Satellite, EOS-02 (, formerly known as Microsatellite-2A.) along with the passenger satellite AzaadiSat.**
- **Weighing about 142 kg, the EOS-02 is equipped with an infrared camera for imaging whereas the AzaadiSat weighs just eight kg and has 75 Femto experiments along with selfie cameras to click pictures of its solar panels and long-range communication transponders.**
- **AzaadiSat has been built by 750 girl students from 75 government schools across the country coordinated by SpaceKidz India, a space start-up.**
- **The selected students are predominantly from classes 8th - 12th. This is a 1st of its kind Space mission with an 'All women concept' to promote Women in STEM as this year's UN theme is "Women in Space".**
- **The SSLV will add to ISRO's third rocket type after the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and the Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).**

176. Consider the following statement regarding India's new satellite launcher, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1. It was Launched from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh,**

ISRO's newly developed SSLV to undertake its maiden flight on Aug 7

ANONNA DUTT
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

THE INDIAN Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will undertake the maiden flight of its newly developed Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV) on August 7, ahead of Independence Day celebration.

"The launch of the SSLV-D1/EOS-02 Mission is scheduled for Sunday, August 7, 2022, at 9:18 am (IST) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota," the space agency said on Twitter.

This is significant given that India was set to celebrate 75th Independence Day with the first human spaceflight, as per the deadline set by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his speech from the ramparts of the Red Fort on Independence day, 2018.

The work on Gaganyaan mission, country's first manned flight to space, was delayed due to the pandemic, with the first abort test scheduled for later this year, to demonstrate the crew escape system to be used in case of an emergency mid-flight.

The SSLV mission too was delayed by a couple of years due to the pandemic. Experts believed that this could hamper the economic prospects of the space agency in the global space market as the new launch vehicle has been designed keeping in mind commercial launches of small satellites with a quick turn-around time for the mis-

sions. On its first flight, the SSLV will carry one of India's Earth Observation Satellites – EOS-2 – that will have applications in mapping and developing various GIS applications.

It will carry a mid-wave-length infrared camera and a long-wavelength infrared camera with a resolution of 6 metres. The satellite, weighing 142 kg, will have a mission life of ten months.

"The SSLV launch was long overdue. It will shift the burden of commercial launches from Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV). And, will likely offer cheap, quick launch for small satellites. ISRO should have the wherewithal to do that, especially now that space startups are being encouraged," said Ajey Lele, senior fellow at Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

In its maiden flight itself, SSLV will also carry the AzadiSat, a satellite developed by 750 rural students from across the country coordinated by SpaceKidz India, a space start-up.

The satellite was shipped to Sriharikota on Monday, ready for integration with the launch vehicle.

Primarily designed as a commercial vehicle, the SSLV is likely to cost a fourth of the current PSLV. It can also be assembled by a team of six people within seven days in comparison to a team of 600 people who take a couple of months to assemble a PSLV.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

2. *It included the Indian government’s experimental remote sensing satellite, the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS)-02, and a student satellite, called AzaadiSAT.*
3. *It will deploy two small satellites in a low-Earth orbit (LEO) of about 465km above the equator.*
4. *The rocket is to be operated by New Space India Limited (NSIL).*
5. *None of these*

- *The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced a successful first flight of its new satellite launcher, the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV). Launched from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, the SSLV-D1 took off at 9:18 am on Sunday, deploying two small satellites in a low-Earth orbit (LEO) of about 365km above the equator.*
- *The SSLV-D1 mission’s payload included the Indian government’s experimental remote sensing satellite, the Earth Observation Satellite (EOS)-02, and a student satellite, called AzaadiSAT.*
- *The latter was built as part of a government outreach program and is said to include contributions from 75 female students from across the country to promote Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers among women.*

- *The SSLV is India’s official foray into the commercial small satellite launch market around the world. While ISRO’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) has so far catered to most of India’s space launches, the SSLV is expected to become the frequent launch vehicle of choice.*
- *The rocket is expected to be operated by New Space India Limited (NSIL), India’s commercial space operations arm, and compete with the likes of US-based private space companies such as SpaceX and Rocket Lab to make frequent launches.*

ISRO to launch SSLV rocket today

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, 6 AUGUST

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is hoping to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the country’s Independence with the launch of its new rocket Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - Developmental Flight 1 (SSLV-D1) on Sunday. The countdown down for the SSLV-D1 launch will begin about six-and-a-half-hours before the lift off which is scheduled at 9.18 a.m. on Sunday, said a senior ISRO official. During the countdown, all the rocket and satellite systems will be checked.

India’s newest rocket, the 34-metre tall and weighing 120 ton SSLV-D1 will fly off from the first launch pad at the Sriharikota rocket port on its maiden flight. The three-staged SSLV-D1 is primarily powered by solid fuel (total 99.2 ton) and also has a velocity trimming module (VTM) pow-



▶ India’s newest rocket is 34 metres tall and weighs 120 ton.

▶ SSLV-D1 will fly off from the first launch pad at the Sriharikota rocket port on its maiden flight

▶ The rocket with

a maximum luggage carrying capacity of 500 kg will be carrying an earth observation satellite-02 formerly known as Microsatellite-2 weighing about 145 kg.

▶ Hexaware is supporting by funding the project.

ered by 0.05 ton of liquid fuel for precise injection of satellites.

The rocket with a maximum luggage carrying capacity of 500 kg will be carrying an earth observation satellite-02 (EOS-02) formerly known as Microsatellite-2 weighing about 145 kg. Just over 12 minutes into its flight, the SSLV-D1 will put into orbit the EOS-2 satellite.

Prior to that, the rocket will coast, moving because of the momentum and not powered by its engines, twice for about four minutes. The pig-

gyback luggage will be the eight kg AZAADISAT built by 750 students of government schools facilitated by SpaceKidz India. According to the ISRO, the SSLV is a ready to transfer rocket with modular and unified systems with standard interfaces for production by the industry.

The SSLV design drivers are low cost, low turnaround time, flexibility in accommodating multiple satellites, launch-on-demand feasibility, minimal launch infrastructure requirements and others, ISRO said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- Last month, the union minister of state for science and technology, Jitendra Singh, told the Parliament that ISRO has so far undertaken 345 commercial satellite launches for vendors from across 34 countries — a figure that the SSLV is expected to help boost.

177. Recently in August _____ collaborated with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) To develop defense technology and produce indigenous defense equipment.

- A. IIT Ropar
 - B. IIT Roorkee**
 - C. IIT Madras
 - D. IIT Delhi
 - E. None of these
- To develop defense technology and produce indigenous defense equipment, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee.
 - An official statement said IIT Roorkee in collaboration with the Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL) of DRDO has developed indigenous radio frequency power amplifiers to meet the futuristic requirements of programmable radios.
 - IT Roorkee and a group of scientists and engineers led by Pinaki Sen from DEAL, DRDO has designed these amplifiers to be simultaneously able to fulfill the high-efficiency requirements (for thermal management) and good linearity for signal fidelity. The designs have been simultaneously optimized for Size, Weight, and Power (SWaP).
 - This joint product development activity has proven synergy between the two organizations and will bolster the “Atmanirbhar Bharat” as well as the “Make in India” drive for upgrading many defense equipment of the Indian armed forces.

IIT-DRDO PACT



With the aim to develop defence technology and produce indigenous defence equipment, the Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has collaborated with the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Roorkee. IIT Roorkee in collaboration with the Defence Electronics Application Laboratory (DEAL) of DRDO has developed indigenous radio frequency power amplifiers to meet the futuristic requirements of programmable radios.

177. Consider the following statement regarding the ‘Hellfire R 9X’ missile. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. It is formally known as AGM-114R9X. It is also known as ‘flying Ginsu’ and Ninja Bomb.
2. The United States has killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike in Afghanistan by using the ‘Hellfire R 9X’ missile.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

3. Only 1

4. Both 1 & 2

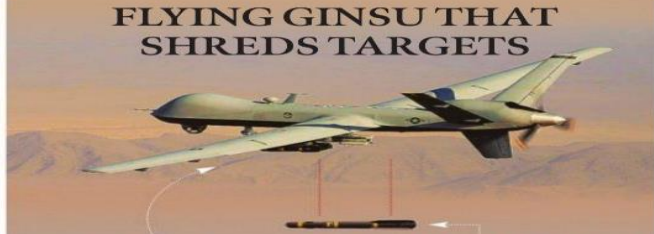
5. None of the above

- The United States has killed al-Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri in a drone strike in Afghanistan by using the 'Hellfire R 9X' missile.
- The US launched Hellfire R 9X missiles from its MQ-9 Reaper drones.
- Ayman al-Zawahiri was the successor of Osama Bin Laden.
- MQ-9 Reaper drones have been manufactured by General Atomics.
- What is the Hellfire 9X missile?
- It is formally known as AGM-114R9X. It is also known as 'flying Ginsu' and Ninja Bomb.
- It has blades that can cut through buildings or car roofs to reach the target.
- It has six blades that fly at high speed and shreds the target without triggering any blast.
- It is used particularly when a terrorist leader has been pinpointed and there are innocent civilians around the target.
- It is about five feet long and weighs over 100 pounds. It has 45 kg of reinforced metal at its tip.

178. Consider the following statement regarding the Indian Navy's all-women crew's first independent maritime surveillance mission. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. The mission was carried out by five officers of the Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 314 based at Naval Air Enclave at Gujarat's Porbandar.
2. Indian Navy's women officers completed the first-ever all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.
3. The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma.
4. Only 2 & 3
5. All 1, 2 & 3

X: missile with sharp blades killed al-Zawahiri



FLYING GINSU THAT SHREDS TARGETS

Ayman al-Zawahiri was likely killed by a Hellfire R9X missile released by a drone. The missile, known as "the flying Ginsu", uses pop-out sword blades that can slice through buildings or car roofs to reach and kill the target with minimal collateral damage.

MISSILE

- WAS under development since 2011, born out of the emphasis under President Barack Obama on avoiding civilian deaths in US airstrikes.
- HAS no warhead; instead, it plunges whirling metal blades through buildings and cars to kill the target. Al-

AYMAN AL-ZAWAHIRI was targeted with two Hellfire missiles as he stood on a balcony of a house in Kabul's wealthy Sherpur neighbourhood

Zawahiri was standing on a balcony when he was killed.

- WITH similar capabilities was considered as a "Plan B" to kill al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, *The Wall Street Journal* reported in 2019.

Little more than **5 feet long** and weighs just over **45 kg**


OTHER TARGETS

FEB 2017: Ahmad Hasan Abu Khayr al-Masri, then al-Zawahiri's deputy, was killed in Syria's Idlib province by an R9X fired by a CIA aircraft.

JAN 2019: Jamal al-Badawi, accused of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole, was killed by an R9X strike in Yemen.

spread to several other variants of helicopters and also ground and sea-based systems and drones.

Developed by Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman, the Hellfire missile has other variants such as 'Longbow' and 'Romeo' apart from the 'Ninja'.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Indian Navy’s women officers have created history after they completed the first-ever all-women independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the North Arabian Sea onboard a Dornier 228 aircraft.**
- **The mission was carried out by five officers of the Indian Navy Air Squadron (INAS) 314 based at Naval Air Enclave at Gujarat’s Porbandar.**
- **The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lt Cdr Aanchal Sharma, who had pilots, Lt Shivangi and Lt Apurva Gite, and Tactical and Sensor Officers, Lt Pooja Panda and SLt Pooja Shekhawat in her team.**
- **For this, the women officers received months of ground training and comprehensive mission briefings in the run-up to this historical sortie, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement.**
- **The INAS 314 is a frontline Naval Air Squadron based at Porbandar, Gujarat. This “first-of-its-kind military flying mission” is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles.**

Army conducts pan-India satcom drill to ensure readiness of hi-tech gear

Army to get multi-band satellite by 2025 to support tactical telecom requirements

DALIP SINGH
New Delhi, August 5

The Army will have its own multi-band dedicated satellite with added security features by 2025 even as it conducted a pan-India exercise using all its space assets and multiple agencies to ensure operational readiness of hi-tech systems and personnel manning them.

The satellite communication exercise ‘Ex Skylight’, was conducted in the last week of July with the realisation that the northern border, as highlighted by defence establishment sources, is “the primary border of concern”. After the 2020 Galwan stand-off, troops on both the sides of the LAC in eastern Ladakh are in a state of combat alertness.

First-of-its-kind satellite

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) gave approval to the



After the 2020 Galwan stand-off, troops on both the sides of the LAC in eastern Ladakh are in a state of combat alertness

Army’s requirement for a dedicated GSAT-7B satellite in March for secured strategic communication since other two services – the Indian Air Force and the Navy – already have their own.

“This satellite has been designed as first-of-its-kind indigenous multi-band satellite with advanced security features. It will support tactical communication requirements for not only troops deployed on ground, but also for remotely piloted aircraft, air defence weapons and other mission critical and fire support

platforms,” informed defence establishment sources.

The Army utilises their services and also of a number of ISRO satellites, on which over hundreds of communication terminals of various types are connected, informed the defence establishment officials. These include static terminals, transportable vehicle mounted terminals, man-portable and small form factor man-pack terminals.

Multi-domain operations

Considering terrestrial media gets snapped in conflict, about

200 satellite resources of communication and 80 mobile phones were activated during the field exercise to have a country-wide sweep, sources in the defence establishment said. “Various technical and operational scenarios in space domain were played up” to test response and coordination among the systems and the troops which is key warfar strategy, an officer of defence establishment pointed out.

Though troops are carrying out regular exercises to iron out glitches in their preparedness, the Army has taken a step forward by attempting to leverage space for supporting multi-domain operations. One of the issues that have emerged out of the exercise which is being looked into is that remote resources did not have support systems, state defence establishment sources.

With India having challenging weather and geographical realities, the satellite communication link-up to commanders becomes important for command and control of operations.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

179. Recently *Indian Army* conducted a 5-day exercise to test all of its space-based assets to ensure their operational readiness. What was the name of the exercise?

- A. **Skylight**
- B. Surya Namskar
- C. Garuda Shield
- D. Surya Shakti
- E. None of these

- In a five-day-long satellite communication exercise, the Indian Army has tested all of its space-based assets to ensure their operational readiness, and sources in the defense establishment.
- The Army has also completed a study on the communication, cyber and electromagnetic effects reported during the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, they added.
- The exercise named "Skylight" was conducted from July 25 to July 29.
- The Army is utilizing the services of some satellites belonging to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

179. Recently _____ partnered with the *National Institute of Siddha (NIS)*, for the development of new collaborative teaching programs and research in the areas of clinical research.

- A. IIT Kanpur
- B. **IIT Madras**
- C. IIT Ropar
- D. IIT Bombay
- E. None of these

- Indian Institute of Technology - Madras (IIT Madras) is partnering with the National Institute of Siddha (NIS), a center of excellence for research and higher education in the Siddha system of medicine, for the development of

Navy's women pilots chart a new course

The first-of-its-kind maritime mission showcased 'Nari Shakti'

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Five officers of the Indian Navy created history by completing the first all-woman independent maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission in the Arabian Sea, onboard a Dornier-228 aircraft.

"The women officers received months of ground training and comprehensive mission briefings in the run-up to this historic sortie," the Navy said.

The aircraft was captained by the Mission Commander, Lt. Cdr. Aanchal Sharma, with pilots Lt. Shivangi and Lt. Apurva Gite, and Tactical and Sensor Officers Lt. Pooja Panda and Sub Lt. Pooja Shekhawat.

They are part of the Indian Naval Air Squadron INAS-314, based at Naval



Sky is the limit: The five Naval officers after completing the maritime reconnaissance and surveillance mission. •PTI

Air Enclave, Porbandar, Gujarat.

Stating that the Navy has been a front-runner in driving transformation in the armed forces, the statement said its women empowerment initiatives include induction of women pilots, selection of women Air Operations Officers into the helicopter stream and conducting an all-women sail-

ing circumnavigation expedition across the globe in 2018.

This first-of-its-kind military flying mission was, however, unique and is expected to pave the way for women officers in the aviation cadre to assume greater responsibility and aspire for more challenging roles, the Navy stated.

"It was indeed a mission that showcased 'Nari Shakti' in its real spirit," it added.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

new collaborative teaching programs and research in the areas of clinical research, molecular biology and in-vitro cell line studies and health system research.

- *Siddha is a very important school of Indian medicine. This collaboration will focus on establishing a scientific basis that explains the efficacy of Siddha medicines.*
- *The NIS Chennai works to improve the quality and standards of postgraduate education in the Siddha system and to conduct research and validate the Siddha medicines for selected diseases.*

180. Consider the following statement regarding “Yudh Abhyas”

1. *India and the US will conduct a fortnight-long mega military exercise in Uttarakhand’s Auli in October this year.*
2. *It will be the 17th edition of the exercise “Yudh Abhyas”.*

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

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

- *India and the US will conduct a fortnight-long mega military exercise in Uttarakhand’s Auli in October this year.*
- *The 18th edition of exercise “Yudh Abhyas” is scheduled to take place from October 14 to 31.*
- *Many complex drills are being planned for the mega exercise.*
- *The exercise is aimed at enhancing understanding, cooperation, and interoperability between the two armies.*
- *The last edition of the exercise took place in October last year in Alaska in the US.*
- *The Indo-US defense ties have been on an upswing for the past few years. In June 2016, the US designated India a “Major Defence Partner”.*
- *The two countries have also inked key defense and security pacts over the past few years, including the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA).*
- *The agreement allows the militaries of two countries to use each other’s bases for repair and replenishment of supplies as well as provides for deeper cooperation.*

181. Consider the following statement regarding **PriyamvadaSat**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. *A private school in Maharashtra will launch its nano-satellite to train its students in space science.*
2. *South Point High School, a part of the MP Birla Group, has decided to name its satellite PriyamvadaSat in the memory of Priyamvada Birla.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1st August –8th August 2022)

3. An agreement has been signed between the Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) and the school for the launch.
4. The project is a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence and is monitored by ISRO.
5. None of these

- A private school in Kolkata will launch its nano-satellite to train its students in space science. The South Point High School, a part of the MP Birla Group, has decided to name its satellite PriyamvadaSat in the memory of Priyamvada Birla, the former chairperson of the business group.
- An agreement has been signed between the Indian Technology Congress Association (ITCA) and the school for the launch.
- The project is a part of the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' to commemorate the 75 years of India's Independence and it will be monitored by ISRO.
- Students of classes 11 and 12 will be associated with the project, which is expected to take off after nine months, said Krishna Damani, the vice-chairman of the school's managing committee.
- The agreement signed with ITCA includes the design, development, integration, qualification, testing, and launching of PriyamvadaSat to Low Earth Orbit (LEO).

Volvo arm launches longest intercity luxury buses



The buses are likely to be priced in the range of ₹1.3-2 crore and will be available for delivery in the next couple of months

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 3

Volvo Buses India, a division of Eicher Motors-promoted VE Commercial Vehicles, has launched the Volvo 9600 luxury bus targeted at intercity routes. The buses will be available in sleeper and seater coach configurations with 15 meter and 13.5 meter length, making them the longest buses in India.

The buses are likely to be priced in the range of ₹1.3-2 crore. They will be available for delivery

in the next couple of months, in time for the festival rush. The coaches on the Volvo 9600 platform will be manufactured at the Hosakote plant near Bengaluru.

Revival in travel

"With the reopening of the tourism sector, travel has revived big time. We have seen very good demand for buses in recent months and it is expected to grow further," said Vinod Aggarwal, MD and CEO, VE Commercial Vehicles.

182. Recently in August Volvo Buses India, a division of VE Commercial Vehicles Limited, launched the longest bus in India named _____.
- A. EAC10
 - B. Volvo 8600
 - C. Volvo 7600
 - D. Volvo 9600**
 - E. None of these

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Volvo Buses India, a division of Eicher Motors-promoted VE Commercial Vehicles, has launched the Volvo 9600 luxury bus targeted at intercity routes.**
- **The buses will be available in sleeper and seater coach configurations with 15 meters and 13.5-meter lengths, making them the longest buses in India. The buses are likely to be priced in the range of ₹1.3-2 crore.**
- **Like its predecessors, the coaches on the Volvo 9600 platform will be manufactured at the Hosakote plant near Bengaluru which has a track record of producing fully built Volvo premium buses since 2008.**
- **The Volvo 9600 platform is powered by the Volvo D8K (8-litre) engine, delivering power of 260kW (350hp).**

183. Recently in August _____ **signed an MoU with Singapore's Infrastructure Asia to jointly work on capacity building and sharing of knowledge as India implements its USD 1.4 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).**

- A. Invest India**
- B. IIT Kanpur**
- C. IIT Madras**
- D. IIT Ropar**
- E. None of these**

- **Invest India, a national investment promotion and facilitation agency, on Wednesday signed an MoU with Singapore's Infrastructure Asia to jointly work on capacity building and sharing of knowledge as India implements its USD 1.4 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).**
- **India's National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a first-of-its-kind, whole-of-government exercise to provide world-class infrastructure to citizens and improve their quality of life. It aims to improve project**

Invest India signs MoU with key Singapore infra platform on capacity building for National Infrastructure Pipeline

PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Invest India, a national investment promotion and facilitation agency, on Wednesday signed a MoU with Singapore's Infrastructure Asia to jointly work on capacity building and sharing of knowledge as India implements its USD 1.4 trillion National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP).

India's National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) is a first-of-its-kind, whole-of-government exercise to provide world-class infrastructure to citizens and improve their quality of life. It aims to improve project preparation and attract investments into infrastructure

"This MoU is targeted

more at capacity building, sharing knowledge and making more introductions," Invest India Vice President Rahul Agarwal told PTI.

"This is more to learn from Singapore and broader Asia and likewise they can learn from us (India)," he said.

Infrastructure Asia, a Singapore based platform for infra players to discuss key issues, will bring the Singapore eco system into India and Invest India will act as facilitator into the country.

"We are actually becoming a bridge to connect Singapore's eco system to that of India's," said Agarwal.

He added: "We are trying to take it deeper and broader,

especially from doing more technical work."

Agarwal exchanged the MoU with Infrastructure Asia Executive Director Lavan Thiru after the two-day infrastructure forum.

Agarwal also shared the progress on the USD 1.4 trillion for the NIP, saying, "We will complete this funding as we are working across the sectors."

"We working on the high-way Bharatmala Pariyojana program and constructing more than 10,000-km of high-ways every year."

On the renewable front, 125 GW has been delivered while 50-GW is under construction now.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

preparation and attract investments into infrastructure.

- *Invest India Vice President Rahul Agarwal exchanged the MoU with Infrastructure Asia Executive Director Lavan Thiru after the two-day infrastructure forum.*

184. Recently, *Earth broke its record of the shortest day on 29th July by completing a rotation in _____ less than the standard time.*

- A. 1.59 milliseconds**
- B. 1.95 milliseconds
- C. 1.45 milliseconds
- D. 1.23 milliseconds
- E. None of these

- *Earth broke its record of the shortest day by completing a rotation in 1.59 milliseconds less than its standard time.*
- *Earth completed a full spin in 1.59 milliseconds less than its standard 24-hour rotation on 29 July.*
- *Earth broke its previous record of 1.47 milliseconds, which was recorded on 19 July 2020.*
- *According to reports, it has been noted that in recent times earth's speed has increased.*
- *The main cause of the high speed of the earth is still unknown but scientists predict that speed has increased due to the processes in the inner or outer layers of the core, oceans, tides, or climate change.*
- *Some scientists have speculated that the increase in Earth's speed is due to the "Chandler wobble" effect, which is a change in the Earth's rotation on its axis.*
- *The Earth usually takes exactly 24 hours to rotate once on its axis.*

185. As Per Government _____, *start-ups were selected and supported by ISRO with a grant-in-aid of a maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each in areas like geospatial information, propulsion, and Robotics/ AR/VR.*

- A. 5
- B. 6**
- C. 8
- D. 9
- E. None of these

- *Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that six start-ups were selected and supported by ISRO with a grant-in-aid of a maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each in areas like geospatial information, propulsion, and Robotics/ AR/VR.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- **Dr. Jitendra Singh said, ISRO along with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog launched the ANIC-ARISE-1.0 program that aims to seek, select, support, and nurture technology-based innovations that solve sectoral challenges of national importance.**
- **The Minister said that twenty-Four start-ups submitted their proposals, out of which six start-ups were selected and supported with a grant-in-aid of the maximum of Rs 50 lakhs each.**
- **ANIC-ARISE-1.0 has the following three space sector challenges to get project proposals from start-ups: (i) geospatial information, (ii) propulsion, and (iii) Robotics/ Augmented Reality/Virtual Reality.**
- **ANIC-ARISE-2.0 has been launched with four space sector challenges: (i) GIS solutions, (ii) Propulsion, (iii) Navigation & (iv) AI/ML modeling for space applications, seeking project proposals from start-ups in these areas. Selected start-ups will be supported with a grant-in-aid of a maximum of INR 50 lakhs each.**

186. Consider the following statement regarding the Ramsar sites of India. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1. India adds 10 more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total of 64 sites.**
- 2. It total covers an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country.**
- 3. The 10 new sites include: Six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu and One (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha.**
- 4. India signed Ramsar Convention on 1st Feb 1971.**
- 5. Tamil Nadu has the highest number of Ramsar sites which stand at 10.**

S.No	Name of wetland	Area in Ha	State	Date of Designation	Page No.
1.	Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary	72.04	Tamil Nadu	08-11-2021	2-3
2.	Satkosia Gorge	98196.72	Odisha	12-10-2021	4-5
3.	Nanda Lake	42.01	Goa	08-06-2022	6-7
4.	Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve	52671.88	Tamil Nadu	08-04-2022	8-9
5.	Ranganathituu BS	517.70	Karnataka	15-02-2022	10-11
6.	Vembannur Wetland Complex	19.75	Tamil Nadu	08-04-2022	12-13
7.	Vellode Bird Sanctuary	77.19	Tamil Nadu	08-04-2022	14-15
8.	Sirpur wetland	161	Madhya Pradesh	07-01-2022	16-17
9.	Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	40.35	Tamil Nadu	08-04-2022	18-19
10.	Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary	43.77	Tamil Nadu	08-04-2022	20-21
	Total area of 10 wetlands	1,51,842.41			
	TOTAL area of 64 Ramsar Sites in India (After designation of 10 more sites as above)	12,50,361			

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

- *India adds 10 more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total of 64 sites covering an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country.*
- *The 10 new sites include Six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu and One (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha. Designation of these sites would help in the conservation and management of wetlands and the wise use of their resources.*
- *India is one of the Contracting Parties to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982.*
- *So far 64 wetlands covering an area of 12,50,361 ha have been designated as Ramsar Sites of International Importance in India, till date.*
- *Six more waterbodies in Tamil Nadu obtained Ramsar recognition. This takes the Ramsar tally to 10, which makes it the highest in the country.*
- *Kodikkarai or Point Calimere was the first Ramsar site in Tamil Nadu recognized in 2002 and after 20 years, three more wetlands Pallikarani Marsh, Pichavaram Mangroves, and Karikili bird sanctuary were added to the Ramsar list in July, this year.*
- **BRIEF OF 10 NEW RAMSAR SITES**
- *1. Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary (Tamilnadu): Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary is a significant man-made wetland that covers an area of 72.04 ha. It is situated in Nanguneri Taluk of Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. This is the largest reserve for breeding resident and migratory water birds in South India. It is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area forming part of the Central Asian Flyway. It irrigates about 190 acres of paddy.*
- *2. Satkosia Gorge (Odisha): Satkosia spreads along the magnificent gorge over the mighty river Mahanadi in Odisha. Established in 1976 as a wildlife sanctuary, Satkosia supports a rich ecosystem, representing a diverse population of floral and faunal species. Satkosia is the meeting point of two biogeographic regions of India; the Deccan Peninsula and the Eastern Ghats, contributing to immense biodiversity.*
- *3. Nanda Lake (Goa): Nanda Lake is considered to be critically significant for its ecosystem services and biodiversity values for the local communities and society at large. The majority of the area is intermittent freshwater marshes*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

that lie adjacent to one of the major rivulets of the Zuari River.

- **4. Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve (Tamil Nadu):** Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (GoMBR), is located on the southeastern coastline of India, and is a unique marine environment rich in biodiversity. This is the first Marine Biosphere Reserve in South & South -East Asia.
- **5. Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary (Karnataka):** Ranganthittu bird sanctuary is located in the Mandya district, of the state of Karnataka, India. The site has been enlisted as one of the Important Bird Areas (IBA) in Karnataka and India by the Bombay Natural History Society.
- **6. Vembannur Wetland Complex (Tamil Nadu):** Vembannur wetland in Tamil Nadu is a human-made inland tank. Vembannur wetland forms the southernmost tip of peninsular India. This wetland forms part of the Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA) and hence part of BirdLife International Data Zone.
- **7. Vellode Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):** Vellode Bird Sanctuary is located in the Vadamugam Vellode Village of the Perundurai Taluk, located in the Erode District, Tamil Nadu, India. Vellode Bird Sanctuary provincially known as Periyakulam Yeri is one of the 141 Prioritized wetlands in Tamil Nadu.
- **8. Sirpur Wetland (Madhya Pradesh):** Sirpur wetland is a significant historical wetland situated in Indore, Madhya Pradesh. It is not only important for its aesthetic value but it provides immense ecological services such as being an important source of water and helping groundwater recharge in the downstream areas.
- **9. Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu):** Vedanthangal wetland is one of the oldest bird-protected areas located in Maduranthagam Taluk of Chengalpattu District of Tamil Nadu. This site is also recognized

{ SPREAD ACROSS 5 STATES }

India adds 10 more Ramsar sites



NEW DELHI: India has added 10 more names to the Ramsar list — that designates wetlands of international importance — taking the total number of such sites in the country to 64, a statement by the Union environment ministry said on Wednesday.

According to the statement, the 10 new sites comprised six wetlands from Tamil Nadu and one each from Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

“Absolutely thrilled to inform that 10 more Indian wetlands have got Ramsar recognition as wetlands of international importance. This takes India’s tally of Ramsar sites to 64. Special congratulations to Odisha, Goa, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh,” Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav tweeted. So far, 64 wetlands have been designated as Ramsar Sites of International Importance from India.

“With so many new Ramsar sites, India should draw up a fresh approach for wetlands. Sites with global importance should support activities to sustain the ecosystem,” said Neha Sinha, wildlife biologist. **HTC**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

internationally, as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA). It belongs to the Coromandel Coast biotic province.

- **10. Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary (Tamil Nadu): Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary is located in the Tiruthuraipoondi Taluk of Tiruvarur district of Tamil Nadu. This is one of the important bird sanctuaries in Tamil Nadu. The site is an important staging and breeding ground for several species of waterbirds.**

187. Consider the following statement regarding South Korea's first moon mission.

- 1. Seoul will launch the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO) on August 4, its first moon mission.**
- 2. Dubbed Danuri, which means enjoy the moon in Korean, the probe has been developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI)**
- 3. KARI is also partnering with ISRO on the mission.**
- 4. It is only the Fifth in the world to launch an unmanned mission to the lunar world.**

Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. Only 1 & 2**
- B. Only 3 & 4**
- C. Only 2**
- D. None of the above**

- **Amid tensions with North Korea, the South is ready to launch its first moon mission on Thursday. Seoul will launch the Korea Pathfinder Lunar Orbiter (KPLO) on August 4, which will demonstrate homegrown technologies and make the country only the seventh in the world to launch an unmanned mission to the lunar world.**
- **Dubbed Danuri, which means enjoying the moon in Korean, the probe has been developed by the Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI) and will conduct observations flying at an altitude of 100 km above the lunar surface.**
- **KARI is also partnering with Nasa on the mission, which is providing payloads, deep space communication, and navigation technology.**
- **The test probe is set to launch onboard SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, which will put it on a trajectory to the Moon using the lunar orbit transfer method.**

SKorea launches its first-ever spacecraft to the moon

ASSOCIATED PRESS
CAPE CANAVERAL, 5 AUGUST

South Korea joined the stampede to the moon Thursday with the launch of a lunar orbiter that will scout out future landing spots.

The satellite launched by SpaceX is taking a long, round-about path to conserve fuel and will arrive in December.

If successful, it will join spacecraft from the U.S. and India already operating around the moon, and a Chinese rover exploring the moon's far side.

India, Russia and Japan have new moon missions launching later this year or next, as do a slew of private companies in the U.S. and elsewhere. And NASA is next up with the debut of its mega moon rocket in late August.

South Korea's \$180 million mission — the country's first step in lunar exploration — features a boxy, solar-powered satellite designed to skim just 62 miles (100 kilo-

meters) above the lunar surface. Scientists expect to collect geologic and other data for at least a year from this low polar orbit.

It is South Korea's second shot at space in six weeks.

In June, South Korea successfully launched a package of satellites into orbit around Earth for the first time using its own rocket.

The first try last fall fizzled, with the test satellite failing to reach orbit.

And in May, South Korea joined a NASA-led coalition to explore the moon with astronauts in the coming years and decades. NASA is targeting the end of this month for the first launch in its Artemis program.

The goal is to send an empty crew capsule around the moon and back to test the systems before a crew climbs aboard in two years.

South Korea plans to land its own spacecraft on the moon — a robotic probe — by 2030 or so.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *The mission, pegged at over \$180 billion, will reach its destination by mid-December.*
- *The lunar orbiter comprises a main body, which is 1.82 meters in width, 2.14 meters in length, and 2.29 meters in height.*
- *The 678-kilogram probe has an expected lifetime of one year around the Moon and will orbit in a circular orbit at an altitude of 100 km and a 90-degree inclination angle.*

188. Recently one of the following **Indian naval ships** conducted a **Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX)** with **French Naval Ships in the North Atlantic Ocean** on 29 and 30 July 2022.

- A. **INS Tarkash**
- B. **INS Satpura**
- C. **INS Vikram**
- D. **INS Sindhuraj**
- E. **None of these**

- *INS Tarkash, on her long-range overseas deployment, conducted a Maritime Partnership Exercise (MPX) with French Naval Ships in the North Atlantic Ocean on 29 and 30 July 2022.*
- *Replenishment at sea was exercised between Tarkash and the French Fleet Tanker FNS Somme.*
- *This was followed by joint air operations with the maritime surveillance aircraft Falcon 50 participating in multiple simulated missile engagements and air defense drills.*

India, France conduct naval exercise



The Indian Navy's guided missile frigate INS Tarkash during a maritime partnership exercise with French naval ships in the North Atlantic Ocean on Monday. ANI

189. Consider the following statement **multilateral exercise 'Pitch Black**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A. *The biennial exercise is hosted by the Australian Air Force.*
- B. **Exercise will be joined by 16 nation**
- C. *It is being held after 4 Years due to the global pandemic*
- D. **Both A & C**
- E. **All of the above**

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

- *Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partner countries, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.*
- *About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will arrive in the Northern Territory in two weeks to commence Exercise Pitch Black 2022.*
- *With a four-year hiatus since the last Pitch Black due to the global pandemic, this year's exercise will see a return of the combined force to Australian skies, enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships.*
- *The participants this year are Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Indonesia, India, Japan, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, the Philippines, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, UAE, the U.K., and the U.S.*
- *The 2020 edition of the exercise was canceled at the last minute due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*

IAF to take part in 'Pitch Black' in Australia

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

Continuing the series of military exercises with countries in the Indo-Pacific, the Indian Air Force (IAF) will join 16 other nations, including Quad partners, later this month for Exercise Pitch Black, the biennial exercise hosted by the Australian Air Force.

About 100 aircraft and 2,500 military personnel from 17 nations will arrive in the Northern Territory in two weeks to commence Exercise Pitch Black 2022, the Australian Ministry of Defence said in a statement.

"With a four-year hiatus since the last Pitch Black due to the global pandemic, this year's exercise will see a return of the combined force to Australian skies, enhancing interoperability and strengthening relationships," it added.

Group Captain Peter Wood, PBK22 Director Engagement, said, "International participation in Ex Pitch Black, from within the Indo-Pacific region and further abroad, provides all nations' personnel with experience in working with aircraft, systems and work practices, in northern Australia's unique environment, that would otherwise be unfamiliar."

The 2020 edition of the exercise was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

190. *Ellora Caves, the UNESCO world heritage site in Maharashtra's _____ district, will become the first monument in the country to have a hydraulic lift.*

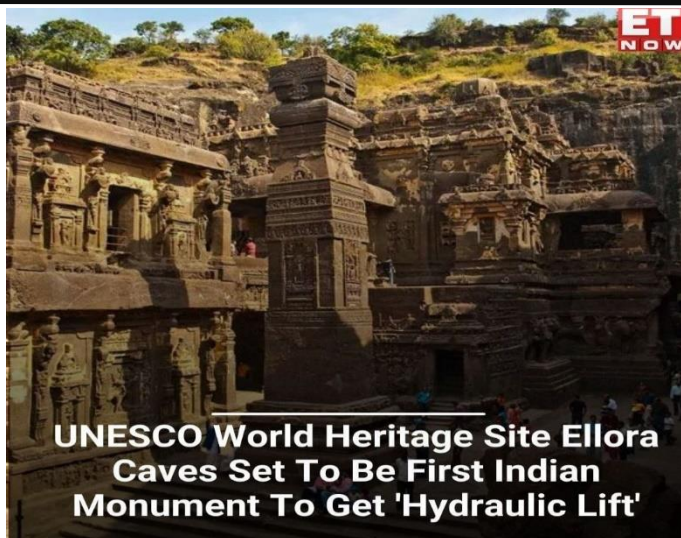
- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Aurangabad
- D. Rewa

- *Ellora Caves, the UNESCO world heritage site in Maharashtra's Aurangabad district, will become the first monument in the country to have a hydraulic lift.*
- *Ellora is one of the largest rock-cut temple complexes in the world, housing Hindu, Buddhist and Jain sculptures, and witnesses the highest tourist footfall in the region.*
- *The ASI has been undertaking several projects to make Ellora Caves, which is spread across a*

**Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)**

stretch of 500 meters, more tourist-friendly.

- The Archaeological Survey of India is an Indian government agency that is responsible for archaeological research and the conservation and preservation of cultural-historical monuments in the country. It was founded in 1861 by Alexander Cunningham who also became its first Director-General.
- Director General: V. Vidyavathi, IAS.



191. Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen (Retd) V.K Singh inaugurated the First Flight of Akasa Air (QP1101) from _____ virtually.

- A. Mumbai to Delhi
- B. Mumbai to Bangalore
- C. Mumbai to Ahmedabad
- D. Bangalore to Chennai
- E. None of these

- The newly launched Rakesh Jhunjhunwala-backed Akasa Air is all set for take-off on 7 August from Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport in Mumbai.
- Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and Minister of State for Civil Aviation Gen (Retd) V.K Singh today inaugurated the First Flight of Akasa Air (QP1101) from Mumbai to Ahmedabad virtually.
- The Minister further added, "Over the last eight years India's Civil Aviation industry has been completely

Akasa Air, India's newest airline, takes to air with Mumbai-Ahmedabad flight

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 7

Akasa Air, India's newest airline, today commenced commercial operations with its first flight taking off from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, bound for Ahmedabad's Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport.

The maiden flight took off from Mumbai at 10:05 am to arrive in Ahmedabad at 11:25 am.

Akasa Air's first boarding pass was given to Civil Aviation minister Jyotiraditya Scindia, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation VK Singh. Both officially flagged off the airline. Civil Aviation Secretary Rajiv Bansal and Joint Secretary, Usha Padhee were also present.

Akasa Air, which is backed by ace investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala and aviation veterans Aditya Ghosh and Vinay Dube, got its Air Operator Certificate



Akasa Air's maiden flight taxiing for take off from Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport on Sunday PM

from the Directorate General of Civil Aviation on July 7.

Aviation landscape

Vinay Dube, Founder and Chief Executive Officer of Akasa Air, said, "Today marks a significant milestone in Akasa Air's journey. It is a testament to India's ongoing economic transformation and rapidly pro-

gressing civil aviation landscape."

"Akasa Air's empathetic and youthful personality, employee-friendly culture, customer-service philosophy, and tech-led approach will make this commitment a reality for us. We are now focussed on delivering a flying experience unlike anything witnessed in the

Indian skies thus far," he added. Akasa Air will offer weekly flights between Mumbai and Ahmedabad. Progressive network, the airline has already announced five routes connecting Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kochi, Bengaluru and Chennai.

Fleet expansion

With a plan to induct two 737 MAX aircraft each month, the airline is looking to establish strong pan-India presence focussed on the metro to Tier-2 connectivity. The fleet size will be raised to 18 aircraft by the end of March 2023, and over the next four years, the airline will add 54 planes taking its fleet size to 72.

Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra Devendra Fadnis extended his wishes on the commencement of Akasa Air operations.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

transformed. Under the UDAN scheme, we have 425 routes aiming to go up to 1000 routes, and 68 new airports aiming to touch 100 airports. In the next 4 years, we are expecting 40 crore travelers through Civil Aviation in India.

- *Akasa Air is the 7th schedule airline with the brand name SNV Aviation having Corporate Headquarters in Mumbai with Boeing Max - 8 aircraft. Akasa Air plans to be a low-cost carrier with a single fleet and all economy seats. Akasa Air is planning to expand its activities to 72 aircraft in the next five years which will significantly enhance the domestic aviation services in India.*

192. *What is the name of the first US Navy Ship that arrived at L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai for being repaired?*

- A. *Yang Wang 5*
- B. *Charles Drew***
- C. *Pheonix*
- D. *Skylight*
- E. *None of these*

- *Providing a huge boost to 'Make in India' & 'Aatmanirbharta in Defence' and adding a new dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US strategic partnership, US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew arrived at L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli, Chennai on August 07, 2022, for undertaking repairs and allied services. 4 This is the first ever repair of a US Navy ship in India.*
- *The US Navy had awarded a contract to L&T's Shipyard at Kattupalli for undertaking maintenance of the ship.*
- *The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market. Indian shipyards offer wide-ranging and cost-*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

effective ship repair and maintenance services, using advanced maritime technology platforms.

- *Indian defense exports have seen a massive increase in the last four-five years. Exports, which were worth about Rs 1,500 crore in 2015-16, have now grown by 800% to around Rs 13,000 crore.*

In a first, US naval ship Charles Drew arrives in Indian shipyard for repair

AJAI SHUKLA
New Delhi, 7 August

Adding a new, strategic dimension to the burgeoning Indo-US military partnership, US Navy Ship (USNS) Charles Drew arrived at L&T's Katupalli Shipyard at Ennore, near Chennai, on August 7 for undertaking repairs and maintenance.

This will be the first time that a US Navy ship is being repaired in an Indian shipyard.

According to senior Ministry of Defence (MoD) officials, New Delhi had proposed during the 2+2 dialogue in April that the US Navy could avail of the services and expertise of Indian shipyards.

Enabling the repair of US Navy vessels in Indian shipyards was the conclusion of the Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) in 2016. The LEMOA eases the exchange of goods and warlike stores between the two navies.

The Indian side offered that, with the US "pivot to the Indo-Pacific", there would be 200-250 US Navy ves-

sels at any given time in the Indo-Pacific. These could be serviced in Indian shipyards, rather than sail all the way to American shipyards in the Pacific.

The USNS Charles Drew will be at Kattupalli shipyard for 11 days and undergo repairs in various areas, said the MoD.

After the Indian offer, US Navy teams visited Indian shipyards and evaluated their potential for handling US warships. A short-list of suitable shipyards was prepared, in which Mazagon Dock (MDL) in Mumbai and L&T's Katupalli shipyard were short-listed for this task.

Given the size of the 41,000-tonne USNS Charles Drew, L&T's massive shipyard at Katupalli was awarded the contract.

"The event signifies the capabilities of Indian shipyards in the global ship repairing market. Indian shipyards offer wide ranging and cost-effective ship repair and maintenance services,

using advanced maritime technology platforms," said a MoD press release on Sunday.

The US was already using Indo-Pacific bases at Diego Garcia and Singapore for maintenance and ship repair. It will now have the option of a third base.

Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar described the arrival of USNS Charles Drew for repairs as the harbinger of a maturing Indian shipbuilding industry.

"Today, India has six major shipyards with turnover of nearly \$2 billion. We are making ships not only for our own requirements. We have our own design house capable of making all kinds of state-of-the-art ships. The country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant, is a shining example of the growth of the Indian shipbuilding industry," stated the MoD.

Pointing out the high technology levels of Indian shipyards, Kumar said: "Under the new innovation ecosystem,

vessels capable of undertaking autonomous missions have been built by Goa Shipyard Limited and some of our start-ups. The shipbuilding industry today is not just carrying out conventional things, but is also amalgamating the latest technologies with it," he said.

The Defence Secretary asserted that US-India ties have been expanding and are based on common values and beliefs in an open, inclusive and rule-based order in Indo-Pacific and rest of the global commons.

"Indian defence exports have seen a massive increase in the last four-five years. Exports, which were worth about ₹1,500 crore in 2015-16, have now grown by 800 per cent to around ₹13,000 crore. A major destination for Indian exports is the US," said Ajay Kumar.

Rear Admiral Michael Baker, who is the Defence Attaché at the US Embassy at New Delhi, said: "Our shipping industries positively contribute to a free and open Indo-Pacific by partnering to deliver effective, efficient, and economical repair of military vessels."

NEW DELHI HAD PROPOSED DURING THE 2+2 DIALOGUE IN APRIL THAT THE US NAVY COULD AVAIL OF THE SERVICES AND EXPERTISE OF INDIAN SHIPYARDS

- *The USNS Charles Drew will be at the Kattupalli shipyard for 11 days and undergo repairs in various areas.*

193. In August _____ partnered with multilingual social media platform Koo to create awareness of the need to curb air pollution and build a cleaner environment.

- A. IIT Delhi
- B. IIT Ropar
- C. IIT Bombay
- D. IIT Kanpur
- E. None of these

- *Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi (IIT-Delhi) has partnered with multilingual social media platform Koo to create awareness of the need to curb air pollution and build a cleaner environment.*
- *The partnership – through the Foundation for Innovation and Technology Transfer (FITT), an industry-academia interface organization for IIT-Delhi -- will reach a wider and more diverse audience, including first-time social media users, with content on pollution levels and possible remedies to curb its impact, in local languages.*
- *IIT-Delhi, along with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), has deployed sensors across multiple locations in the country to track air pollution levels.*
- *It will build an Application Programming Interface (API) that will be integrated with Koo's API to receive pollution-related data.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
First Week of August (1stAugust –8th August 2022)

194. **Guindy National Park** which was seen in the news recently is located in which of the following state?

- A. **Tamil Nadu**
- B. **Odisha**
- C. **Karnataka**
- D. **Uttar Pradesh**
- E. **None of these**

- **A rescue center, the first of its kind by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department in the heart of the city, has been helping injured and rescued wildlife for over a month now.**
- **Located inside the Guindy National Park, the center at the moment has an injured pelican and a monkey being rehabilitated in two separate enclosures. While the pelican was found with an injured wing, the monkey was rescued after being bitten by dogs and sustaining injuries on its foot.**
- **The Tamil Nadu government has recently announced that a remodel of the Guindy National Park will be carried out at a cost of ₹20 crores.**

Diu becomes second 'Har Ghar Jal' certified district in India

Diu has become the second *Har Ghar Jal* certified district in India, after Burhanpur in Madhya Pradesh. Part of Dadar and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu UT, the district was awarded the certification on Tuesday by the ministry of Jal Shakti after all its 5,352 households got tap water connections. The ministry is running 'Har Ghar Jal Utsav' under the Jal Jeevan Mission to encourage state administrations to certify districts with the *Har Ghar Jal* status from 25 July to 12 August.

Vini Mahajan, secretary, drinking water and sanitation, ministry of Jal Shakti said, "We are delighted by the initiative shown by the people of Diu district and the administration there in becoming the second *Har Ghar Jal* certified district in the country. It is important for more districts to come forward and complete the certification process so that they can get the *Har Ghar Jal* distinction. Under the *Har Ghar Jal Utsav* from 25 July to 12 August, we are encouraging state and UT administrations to come forward and get districts certified, handholding them through the process."

SWATI LUTHRA



Vini Mahajan, secretary, drinking water & sanitation, ministry of Jal Shakti