

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

National /State News

1. Consider the following statement regarding Bal Aadhaar. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
 1. Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued Bal Aadhaar.
 2. It is issued in blue color.
 3. 79 lakh children enrolled in the 0 - 5 age group during the first four months (April – July) of the current financial year.
 4. It is valid till the child attains the age of 18 years.
 5. None of the above.
 - The Unique Identification Authority has enrolled more than 79 lakh children in the 0 - 5 age group during the first four months (April – July) of the current financial year.
 - This is part of a renewed effort to reach out to more children in the 0-5 age group under the Bal Aadhaar initiative and help parents and children avail of multiple benefits.
 - While 2.64 crore children in the 0-5 age group had Bal Aadhaar by the end of 31 March 2022, this number has increased to 3.43 crore by the end of July 2022.
 - Bal Aadhaar works as a facilitator in availing several welfare benefits, and also works as a digital photo identity for children right from birth.
 - Children in the age group of 0-5 years are issued Bal Aadhaar. The collection of biometrics (fingerprints and iris) is a key feature in issuing Aadhaar as the same is required to establish uniqueness based on the de-duplication of these biometrics. However, for Aadhaar enrolment of children in the age group of 0-5 years, these biometrics are not collected.
 - To differentiate the Bal Aadhaar from normal Aadhaar, it is issued in blue color, with a remark that this is valid till the child attains the age of 5 years. On attaining the age of 5, the child is required to furnish his or her biometrics at an Aadhaar Seva Kendra to complete a process called mandatory biometric update (MBU).
 - The MBU process goes through a de-duplication process. After completion of this process, the child is issued a normal Aadhaar without any change in the Aadhaar number.
2. In August the Quarterly Newsletter of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was released. What is its name?
 - A. Cyber Dost
 - B. Cyber Pravah
 - C. Cyber Shakti
 - D. Cyber Prakash
 - E. None of the above.
 - The Special Secretary (Internal Security) released “Cyber Pravah Newsletter of the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) under the Cyber and Information Security Division (CIS) of the Ministry of Home Affairs in New Delhi today.
 - The Quarterly Newsletter – “CyberPravah”, covers information related to the various initiatives taken by I4C, MHA, and States/UTs during the 2nd quarter (from April-June,2022) of the year to tackle cyber crime. It includes cyber crime

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

trends/patterns, statistics, facilities created by I4C, and platforms for reporting and addressing cyber crimes to make all stakeholders aware and to provide assistance in the area of cyber crime prevention, detection, and investigation. It also aims to create awareness about recent developments in the field of cyber crimes and cyber crime terminology. The Newsletter will help State/Central agencies working in the area of cyber security and cyber crime.

- The I4C was set up under the CIS Division in 2018, as an Agency for coordinating at the Central level and to support States/UTs by providing a common framework in their fight against cybercrimes.
- I4C is also spreading mass awareness through various social media handles in the name of 'CyberDost' by providing cyber safety tips at frequent intervals for the public.

3. In August _____ State Government approved Rs 2,808.40 crore for implementation of the Millet Mission for six years from 2021-22 to 2026-27.

- A. Odisha
- B. Telangana
- C. Andhra Pradesh
- D. Chattisgarh
- E. None of the above.

Odisha cabinet approves Rs 2,808 cr for Millets Mission Mega pipe water projects, rain water harvesting subsidy for pvt buildings

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
BHUBANESWAR, 12 AUGUST

The Odisha cabinet on Friday approved an estimated budget of Rs. 2808.39 crore for six years (2021-22 to 2026-27) financial years towards the Special Programme for Promotion of Millets in Tribal Areas. Currently, the State

government has its area of implementation from 84 blocks in 15 districts to 142 blocks in 19 Districts from 2022-23 onwards towards the Odisha Millet Mission. The Mission was launched by the government in 2017 to revive millets in farms and on plates.

It emerged from a consultation between Govern-

ment, Academia (NCDS) and Civil Society Organisations (RRA Network, ASHA Network and local NGOs). It is first of its kind of agriculture programme with priority on increasing consumptions in Odisha. The programme is implemented through Women Self Help Groups (WSHGs) and Farmers Producer Organisa-

tions (FPOs) with support of NGOs and research institutions with oversight from the Department of Agriculture It Farmers Empowerment.

The programme is supported through State Plan, District Mineral Fund and Odisha Mineral Bearing Areas Development Corporation (OMBADC).

- In a major initiative to boost tribal empowerment in the state, the Odisha government approved Rs 2,808.40 crore for the implementation of the Millet Mission for six years from 2021-22 to 2026-27.
 - The approval was accorded at the state cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
 - Officials said 16 major decisions relating to the departments of Agriculture and Farmers' Empowerment, Panchayati Raj and Drinking Water, Planning and Convergence, Revenue and Disaster Management, Steel and Mines, and Water Resources, were taken at the meeting.
 - These include a special program for the promotion of millets in tribal areas and the execution of piped water supply projects in the Dhenkanal, Kendrapara, and Balasore districts.
 - The Odisha Millets Mission was launched by the state government in 2017 to revive millet farming in the state.
4. Consider the following statement regarding the **Chief Minister of Bihar**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar took oath as the Bihar chief minister for the eighth time.
 2. RJD leader Lalu Prasad Yadav will be sworn in as Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar.
 3. Both 1 & 2

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

4. None of the above.

- JD(U) leader Nitish Kumar took oath as the Bihar chief minister for the eighth time after he announced a new "grand alliance" and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav as Deputy Chief Minister on 10 August.
- Mr. Kumar was unanimously elected leader of the grand alliance of JD(U), RJD, and Congress.
- Earlier, Nitish Kumar resigned as Bihar's NDA chief minister and submitted a letter of support from 164 MLA to form a government with the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD)-led grouping.
- In the 243-member Bihar assembly, there are 77 members of the BJP and 45 members of the JD (U).
- Article 164 states that the Chief Minister shall be appointed by the Governor and the other ministers shall be appointed on the advice of the Chief Minister.
- Currently, Lalu Prasad Yadav's Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) has the maximum number of seats i.e., 79 followed by BJP with 77 seats and JDU with 44.
- JD(U)'s Nitish Kumar is the second longest serving Chief Minister of Bihar with this term extending up to 8 years and 117 Days from 24 November 2005 to 20 May 2014. Congress's Shri Krishna Sinha holds the record for being the longest-serving Bihar CM with his tenure extending up to 11 years and 5 days.

5. Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah recently e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the GeM portal. How many cooperatives have been shortlisted as eligible for onboarding on this portal?

- A. 589
- B. 689
- C. 789
- D. 989
- E. None of the above.

- Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah e-launched the onboarding of cooperatives on the GeM portal.
- 589 cooperatives have been shortlisted as eligible for onboarding on Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- With the e-launch, eligible cooperatives can place an order on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) portal.
- He urged all the co-operatives society to join Government e-Marketplace (GeM) with their products.
- Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said that a total of 2,80,000 crore rupees in business has been done on the GeM portal in the previous six years.
- In June 2022, Cabinet expanded the mandate of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) to allow cooperatives to procure goods and services through the GeM portal.

6. Consider the following statement regarding 11 new Ramsar sites. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make a total of 75 Ramsar sites
2. These 75 Ramsar sites cover a total area of 13,26,677 ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.
3. The 11 new sites include: Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir, and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

4. Tamil Nadu has the maximum no. of Ramsar sites (14 nos), followed by UP which has 10 nos. of Ramsar sites.
 5. During this year itself (2022) a total of 25 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites.

- India adds 11 more wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites to make a total of 75 Ramsar sites covering an area of 13,26,677 ha in the country in the 75th year of Independence.
- The 11 new sites include Four (4) sites in Tamil Nadu, Three (3) in Odisha, Two (2) in Jammu & Kashmir, and One (1) each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra. 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. From 1982 to 2013, a total of 26 sites were added to the list of Ramsar sites, however, from 2014 to 2022, the country has added 49 new wetlands to the list of Ramsar sites.
- During this year itself (2022) a total of 28 sites have been declared as Ramsar sites. Based on the date of designation mentioned on the Ramsar Certificate, the number is 19 for this year (2022) and 14 for the previous year (2021).
- Tamil Nadu has the maximum no. of Ramsar sites (14 nos), followed by UP which has 10 nos. of Ramsar sites.

11 new Indian wetland sites take Ramsar list to 75

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Eleven Indian sites have been added to the Ramsar list, taking the number of wetlands of international importance in the country to 75 on the 75th year of Independence with Tamil Nadu topping the total list having (14 sites), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10).

The breakup of the latest 11 sites shows that four are in Tamil Nadu, three in Odisha, two in Jammu and Kashmir and one each in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The new Indian wetlands of international importance are Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary, Suchindram Theeror Wetland Complex,

Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary and Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Tampara Lake, Hirakud Reservoir and Ansupa Lake in Odisha; Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve and Shalibugh Wetland Conservation Reserve in Jammu and Kashmir; Thane Creek in Maharashtra and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh, according to a statement from the Union Environment Ministry.

The Ramsar list aims at "developing and maintaining an international network of wetlands which are important for the conservation of global biological diversity and for sustaining human life through the maintenance of

their ecosystem components, processes and benefits".

On August 8, India had added 10 more wetlands designated as Ramsar sites to make a total 64 sites covering an area of 12,50,361 ha in the country. The 10 new sites included six (6) sites in Tamil Nadu and one (1) each in Goa, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Odisha.

These were Koonthankulam Bird Sanctuary, Gulf of Mannar Marine Biosphere Reserve, Vembannur Wetland Complex, Vellore Bird Sanctuary, Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary and Udhayamarthandapuram Bird Sanctuary in Tamil Nadu; Satkosia Gorge in Odisha;

Nanda Lake in Goa; Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary in Karnataka and Sirpur Wetland in Madhya Pradesh.

A total of 26 sites were added to the Ramsar list from 1982 to 2013. Since 2014, 49 sites have bagged the coveted tag. Twenty-eight Indian sites have been declared wetlands of international importance this year itself.

"The designation of these sites would help in conservation and management of wetlands and wise use of their resources," the environment ministry said in a statement.

Tamil Nadu has the maximum number of Ramsar sites (14), followed by Uttar Pradesh (10). The 75 Ramsar sites in the country cover an

area of 13,26,677 hectares. India is one of the contracting parties to the Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. New Delhi signed it on February 1, 1982.

"Every environment lover will feel happy that 10 more wetlands in India have been designated as Ramsar sites. Last month, 5 sites achieved the same recognition. This will deepen our commitment to protect our natural surroundings," Prime Minister Narendra Modi tweeted soon after the coveted tags were announced to the wetlands.

India is one of the Contracting Parties to Ramsar Convention, signed in Ramsar, Iran, in 1971. India signed it on 1st Feb 1982.



7. Match the column of the new Ramsar site to their state. Which of the following is incorrectly matched?
- Tampara Lake: Odisha
 - Hirakud Reservoir: Odisha
 - Ansupa Lake: Maharashtra
 - Yashwant Sagar: Madhya Pradesh
 - None of the above.

- Tampara Lake:** Tampara Lake is among the most prominent freshwater lakes in the State of Odisha situated in the Ganjam district. The depression on the ground gradually filled with rainwater from catchment flow and was called "Tamp" by the British and subsequently termed "Tampira" by the locals.
- Hirakud Reservoir:** Hirakud Reservoir, the largest earthen dam in Odisha started operating in 1957. The reservoir supports a range of floral and faunal species, including several of high conservation significance. Out of the known 54 species of fish

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

from the reservoir, one has been classed as being endangered, six near threatened, and 21 fish species of economic importance

- **Ansupa Lake:** Ansupa Lake is the largest freshwater lake of Odisha situated in the Banki sub-division of Cuttack district and has its famous from time immemorial for its scenic beauty, biodiversity, and natural resources. The wetland is an oxbow lake formed by River Mahanadi and is spread over an area of 231 ha.
- **Yashwant Sagar:** Yashwant Sagar is one of the two Important Bird Areas (IBA) in the Indore region as well as one of the most important birding sites in the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh. Presently it is mainly used for water supply to the city of Indore and is also being used for fish culture on a commercial scale. Yashwant Sagar reservoir comes under the jurisdiction of Indore City Municipal Corporation.

8. Consider the following Ramsar site which of the following doesn't belong to the list of 4 new Ramsar sites of Tamil Nadu?
- A. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary
 - B. Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex
 - C. Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary
 - D. Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary
 - E. Thane Creek

- **Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary**, locally known as "Chitrangudi Kanmoli" is located in Ramanathapuram district in Tamil Nadu. The wetland is a protected area since 1989 and declared a Bird Sanctuary, coming under the jurisdiction of Tamil Nadu Forest Department, Ramanathapuram division. Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary is an ideal habitat for winter migratory birds. Around 50 birds belonging to 30 families have been reported from the site.
- **Suchindram Theroor Wetland complex** is part of the Suchindram-Theroor Manakudi Conservation Reserve. It is declared an Important Bird Area and lies at the southern tip of the Central Asian flyway of migratory birds. It was formed for birds' nesting purposes and it attracts thousands of birds every year. The total population dependent upon Theroor is about 10,500 and 75% of the population's livelihood hinges on agriculture which in turn is dependent upon the water released from the Theroor tank.
- **Vaduvur bird sanctuary** spreads over an area of 112.638 ha, is a large human-made irrigation tank and shelter for migratory birds as it provides a suitable environment for food, shelter, and breeding ground. While these irrigation tanks have socio-economic and cultural significance, very little is known of their ecological importance. These tanks have the potential to harbor good populations of resident and wintering water birds but no studies have been done to confirm this
- **Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary** is a Protected area near Mudukulathur Ramanathapuram District, Tamil Nadu. India declared in 1989. It is notable as a nesting site for several migratory heron species that roost in the prominent growth of babul trees there.
- **Thane Creek** is located in Maharashtra, India. There are several sources of fresh water to the creek, of which Ulhas River is the largest, followed by many drainage channels from various suburban areas of Mumbai, Navi Mumbai & Thane. It has been declared as Thane Creek Flamingo Sanctuary. Thane creek is fringed by mangroves on both banks & comprises around 20% of the total Indian mangrove species. The mangrove forest acts as a natural shelter belt & protects the land from cyclones, tidal surges, seawater seepage & intrusions.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

9. Consider the following Ramsar site which of the following belongs to the list of two *new Ramsar sites of Jammu and Kashmir*?

- A. Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve
- B. Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve
- C. Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex
- D. Only A and B**
- E. All of the above

S.No	Name of wetland	Area in Ha	State
1.	Tampara Lake	300	Odisha
2.	Hirakud Reservoir	65400	
3.	Ansupa Lake	231	
4.	Yashwant Sagar	822.90	Madhya Pradesh
5.	Chitrangudi Bird Sanctuary	260.47	Tamil Nadu
6.	Suchindram Theroor Wetland Complex	94.23	
7.	Vaduvur Bird Sanctuary	112.64	
8.	Kanjirankulam Bird Sanctuary	96.89	
9.	Thane Creek	6521.08	
10.	Hygam Wetland Conservation Reserve	801.82	Jammu and Kashmir
11.	Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve	1675	
	Total area of 11 sites	76316	

- *Hygam Wetland falls within the River Jhelum basin and plays a significant role as a flood absorption basin, biodiversity conservation site, eco-tourism site, and livelihood security for the local communities. The wetland is located in the Baramulla district. It serves as an abode to many residents and migratory bird species. It is also recognized as an Important Bird Area (IBA).*
- *Shallbugh Wetland Conservation Reserve is located in the District Srinagar, UT of J&K. Large areas of the wetland dry up between September and March. The area has extensive reedbeds of *Phragmites communis* and *Typha angustata*, and rich growth of *Nymphaea candida* and *N. stellata* in open water. It serves as an abode to more than four lakh resident and migratory birds of at least 21 species.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

Year wise designation of 75 Ramsar sites

S. No.	Year of Designation	No of site designated (As per date of designation)	Sites designated upto 2013 and after 2014 to till date	Area covered in Ha
1	1981	2	26 (1981 to 2013)	633871
2	1990	4		
3	2002	13		
4	2005	6		
5	2012	1		
6	2019	11	49 (2014 to 2022)	692807
7	2020	5		
8	2021	14		
9	2022	19		
	Total	75	75	1326678

10. Consider the following statement regarding **Samudrayaan Mission**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. Its projected timeline is five years for the period 2020-2021 to 2025-2026.
2. National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, has developed a 6000m depth-rated Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) 'MATSYA 6000'.
3. NIOT is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
4. Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) was approved under the aegis of the Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of Rs 3,077 crore.
5. None of the above.

- Samudrayaan Mission aims to develop a self-propelled manned submersible that can take 3 people to a water depth of 6000 meters in the ocean.
- It has 12 hours of operational period and 96 hours in case of emergency.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Its projected timeline is five years for the period 2020-2021 to 2025-2026.*
- *The manned submersible will enable scientific personnel to directly observe and understand deep-sea regions.*
- *It will also improve the capacity for developing deep sea man-rated vehicles.*
- *National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai, has developed a 6000m depth-rated Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) and various other underwater instruments for the exploration of the deep sea.*
- *NIOT is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.*
- *With the launch of the ocean mission Samudrayaan in October 2021, India joined the club of nations such as the US, Russia, Japan, France, and China to have vehicles to carry out subsea activities.*
- *The preliminary design of the manned submersible vehicle 'MATSYA 6000' is completed. It is developed indigenously.*
- *Deep Ocean Mission (DOM) was approved under the aegis of the Ministry of Earth Sciences at a total budget of Rs 4,077 crore for five years.*
- *It will be a mission mode project to support the Blue Economy Initiatives of the Government of India.*
- *About 95% of the Deep Ocean remains unexplored.*

11. Consider the following statement regarding the 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India.

- 1. The Centre has decided to offer the use of Indigenous 5G Test Bed free of cost to the Government recognized start-ups and MSMEs for the next six months up to January 2023.**
- 2. Department of Telecommunications has approved a financial grant for the multi-institute collaborative project to set up an 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India in March 2018 with a total cost of 224 crore rupees.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- *The Centre has decided to offer the use of Indigenous 5G Test Bed free of cost to the Government recognized start-ups and MSMEs for the next six months up to January 2023.*
- *The decision has been taken to boost the 5G ecosystem within India and to achieve the objectives of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and Make in India initiatives.*
- *The facility is available at a very nominal rate to all other stakeholders.*
- *Department of Telecommunications has urged all 5G stakeholders including industry, academia, service providers, government bodies, and equipment manufacturers to utilize the 5G testbed facilities and expertise to test and facilitate the speedy development and deployment of their products in the network.*
- *Keeping in view India's specific requirements and to take lead in 5G deployment, the Department of Telecommunications has approved a financial grant for the multi-institute collaborative project to set up 'Indigenous 5G Test Bed' in India in March 2018 with a total cost of 224 crore rupees.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

12. Recently New *Delhi International Arbitration Centre* has been renamed.

- A. Pradhan Mantri Arbitration Centre
- B. Bharat Arbitration Centre
- C. **India International Arbitration Centre**
- D. International Arbitration Centre
- E. None of the above.

- Lok Sabha passed a Bill to rename the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre as the India International Arbitration Centre.
- Piloting the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (Amendment) Bill, 2022, Union Law Minister Kiren Rijiju said the objective of the amendment is to have world-class arbitration in the country.
- According to the statement of objects and reasons of the Bill, “it is considered imperative to change the name of the Centre from New Delhi International Arbitration Centre to India International Arbitration Centre so that a unique identity of the institute of national importance as conferred on it by law is evident and reflects its true objective”.

13. Recently which of the following state government has *inaugurated the 22nd ‘Bharat Rang Mahotsav’*?

- A. **Maharashtra**
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Kerala
- D. Punjab
- E. None of the above.

- Maharashtra Governor inaugurates the 22nd ‘Bharat Rang Mahotsav’ in Mumbai.
- The five-day drama festival ‘Bharat Rang Mahotsav’ is being organized at Rabindra Natya Mandir in Mumbai from 9 to 13 August.
- It is being jointly organized by the Union Ministry of Culture and P.L. Deshpande Maharashtra Kala Akademi.
- Plays based on the life and sacrifices of our freedom fighters will be showcased at the 22nd ‘Bharat Rang Mahotsav’.
- The festival will conclude with the Bhopal-based KARWAAN theatre group’s Hindi play ‘Rang De Basanti Chola’.
- 30 plays will be showcased in Delhi, Bhubaneshwar, Varanasi, Amritsar, Bengaluru, and Mumbai from 16th July to 14th August 2022, as part of the 22nd Bharat Rang Mahotsav, 2022.
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav: Bharat Rang Mahotsav or the National Theatre Festival was started in 1999.
- It is an annual theatre festival organized by the National School of Drama (NSD), New Delhi.
- Bharat Rang Mahotsav started to stimulate the growth and development of theatre in India.

14. In August _____ *State Government approved ‘One MLA - One Pension’ Bill.*

- A. **Punjab**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- B. Haryana
- C. Odisha
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- **The Punjab Government approved 'One MLA - One Pension'.**
- **Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann announced that Governor Banwarilal Purohit has given his assent to the "One MLA - One Pension" Bill.**

Only 1-term pension for Punjab ex-MLAs, Gov okays Bill

VISHAV BHARTI
THE HINDU NEWS SERVICE

CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 13
 The Punjab Government on Saturday issued a notification giving pension to former MLAs only for one term following an assent by Governor Banwarilal Purohit to "One MLA, One Pension" Bill.

The move puts an end to the practice of giving pension to MLAs for multiple terms. It will affect nearly 225 former legislators. The government claims the new rule will save Rs 100 crore in five years.

As per the amendment, all former MLAs will now draw a pension of Rs 60,000 per month plus DA (as admissible to Punjab Government pensioners) irrespective of the number of terms they served as legislators.

CM Bhagwant Mann said the move would reform the political system. "It is a humble initiative by the AAP government to realise the dream of our freedom fighters and national heroes," he said. For the past 75 years, elected representatives had been drawing extravagant salaries and pensions, putting a huge burden on the state exchequer, Mann said. He said since the leaders entered into politics to serve the people, they had no right to claim multiple pensions in exchange for their service. "The government is expected to save around Rs 100 crore during its current tenure with this historic initiative," he claimed.

WILL SAVE ₹100 CR IN 5 YEARS: GOVT

- Of around 325 ex-MLAs, nearly 225 getting pension for more than one term
- 11-time MLA, ex-CM Parkash Singh Badal was eligible to get over ₹5 lakh/month
- Several others, including Brahm Mohindra and Lal Singh, were eligible for pension for 6 terms
- All former MLAs will now draw ₹60,000 per month plus DA as pension
- The govt claims it will save ₹100 crore in 5 years

- **Mann-led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) Government passed the Punjab State Legislature Members (Pension and Medical Facilities Regulation), Amendment Bill, 2022 on June 30.**
- **According to the provisions of the new law, an MLA will be given a pension only for one term, no matter how many times the leader has been elected.**
- **The Punjab government aims to save several crores of rupees annually through the move.**
- **The previous rule stated that if an MLA won the election three times, his pension would also increase accordingly. A three-time MLA would get thrice the amount compared to a first-timer.**
- **It shall be paid to every person, who remained as a member, a pension of sixty thousand rupees per mensem plus Dearness Allowance thereon (as admissible to the Punjab Government pensioners), irrespective of the number of terms he had served as a member and irrespective of the tenures of the Punjab Vidhan Sabha, in which he had served as a member.**
- **Besides, if an MLA attains the age of 65, 75, or 85, respectively will be entitled to an increase of 5%, 10%, and 15% of the basic pension, the state government gazette noted.**

15. In August Shri Amit Shah recently inaugurated day long National Conference of Rural Cooperative Banks. It is organized by which of the following ministries/organizations?

- A. Ministry of Cooperation
- B. National Federation of State Cooperative Banks
- C. Ministry of Rural Development
- D. Both A & B
- E. All of the above

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Union Home and Cooperation Minister Amit Shah inaugurated day long National Conference of Rural Cooperative Banks in New Delhi.
- The conference is organized by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB).
- Mr. Shah also presented Performance Awards to select State Cooperative Banks, District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), or PACS.
- He also felicitated a few short-term cooperative credit institutions for 100 years of service.
- The short-term cooperative credit structure in India includes 34 State Cooperative Banks, 351 District Central Cooperative Banks, and 96,575 Primary Agricultural Cooperative credit societies (PACS).
- NAFSCOB was set up on 19th May 1964 to facilitate the operations of State and Central Cooperative Banks and the development of a short-term cooperative credit structure.

16. In August _____ state launched **Deo and Subarnarekha irrigation projects** for the welfare of tribals who have started bearing fruit.

- A. Odisha
- B. Punjab
- C. Haryana
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched Deo and Subarnarekha irrigation projects in the Mayurbhanj district and laid the foundation stone for many developmental projects.
- Both major irrigation projects will benefit the people of the Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts, the Chief Minister's office informed.
- Attending the program, Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik said, "This initiative for the welfare of tribals has started bearing fruit. The program aims to empower them by providing them with education and employment.
- Subarnarekha project will provide irrigation facilities to 17,121 hectares of additional agricultural land in the Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts.
- Similarly, about 10,000 hectares of land in Mayurbhanj will be irrigated through the Deo Irrigation Project, and 2 lakh people of 100 villages will be benefited from this.

State schemes have empowered tribals: CM

Patnaik inaugurates two irrigation projects in Mayurbhanj

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
 TIKPADA (MAYURBHANJ), 12 AUGUST

Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Friday inaugurated the Deo irrigation project and the additional irrigation facility created in the Subarnarekha multipurpose irrigation project in Mayurbhanj district and said together the projects will provide irrigation to over 27,000 hectares benefitting over 2.60 lakh farmers.

The CM was visiting the district after a gap of three years. Despite being physically present, his pre-recorded speech was played on an audio visual mode in front of the huge gathering, mostly tribals.

Ministers Tukuni Sahu, Aswini Patra, MLAs Sudam Marandi, Rajkishore Das were present.

He referred to how a trib-



al lady from the district had scaled heights to be the President of India making everybody in the state feel proud.

The irrigation projects inaugurated today will benefit farmers across Mayurbhanj, Balasore and Keonjhar districts.

"I have always given priority on agriculture, health, education, food, security, integrated tribal welfare and women empowerment. The projects like Kalia Yojana, Mission Shakti and Biju Swasthya Kalyan Yojana, rice@

1 per kg etc are appreciated by the people and are empowering them," the CM said.

The transformation of government schools under ST is a successful initiative and it has made certain self confidence among students.

Debts Recovery Tribunal-I, Delhi
 4th Floor, Jeevan Tara Building,
 Parliament Street, New Delhi-110001
 O.A. No. 225/2021
Canara Bank
 Versus Applicant
Mr. Tej Prakash Lal & Ors.
 Defendants
 To:
 1) Mr. Tej Prakash Lal & Ors.
 S/o. Sr. Rajendra Ram R/o. Flat No. G-2187, Ground Floor, Block G, PKT

MILKFOOD

CIN: L15201PB1973PLC00
 Registered Office: P.O. Baha
 E-mail: milkfoodtd@milkfood

UNAUDITED STAND

Sl. No.	Particulars
1	Income from operations (a) Revenue from operations (b) Other income Total income
2	Expenses (a) Cost of materials consumed (b) Changes in inventories

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- For this, a dam of 1,280 meters in length has been constructed on the Deo river at Hatibari of Karanjia block at Rs 823 crore.
17. In August Assam and _____ constituted 12 “regional committees” as a prelude to resolving their long-standing boundary disputes.
- A. Mizoram
 - B. Arunachal Pradesh
 - C. Manipur
 - D. Nagaland
 - E. None of the above.
- Assam and Arunachal Pradesh constituted 12 “regional committees” as a prelude to resolving their long-standing boundary disputes.
 - The committees will conduct joint visits to the disputed sites covering 123 villages in eight districts of Assam and 12 districts of Arunachal and make their recommendations to the respective governments after taking into consideration historical perspective, administrative convenience, contiguity, and people’s will to delineate the interstate boundary.
 - Earlier this year, Assam and Meghalaya more or less resolved their boundary problem in six of the 12 friction points by adopting the 50:50 template. Half of the disputed areas went to Assam and half to Meghalaya.
 - Assam is also trying to settle its bitter border row with Mizoram. Both states held a ministerial-level meeting two days ago in Aizawl. It was decided that chief ministers Himanta Biswa Sarma and Zoramthanga would meet in New Delhi next month to try and work out an amicable solution.
18. The Cabinet has approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) as contained in the Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution. Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established in _____.
- A. 1874
 - B. 1857
 - C. 1947
 - D. 1961
 - E. None of the above.
- The Cabinet has approved the ratification of amendments to the Constitution of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) as contained in the Eleventh Additional Protocol to the Constitution.
 - The amendments to the Constitution of UPU were signed during the 27th Congress of the Universal Postal Union held at Abidjan.
 - This decision of the cabinet will fulfill the obligations mentioned in Articles 25 and 30 of the UPU Constitution.
 - The amendments will ensure further legal clarity and stability to the Acts of the Union.
 - Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established in 1874.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- It is the second oldest international organization in the world.
- It is the postal sector's primary forum for international cooperation.

19. According to the government **North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong** will execute _____ projects in eight North Eastern States by 2024.

- A. 120
- B. 110**
- C. 150
- D. 75
- E. None of the above.

- Union Minister of State Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said that North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong will execute 110 projects in eight North Eastern States by 2024.
- NESAC has coordinated the preparation of a Plan of Action (PoA) by the Nodal Departments of the eight States. These projects are in the domains of Agriculture, Water Resources, Forestry & Ecology, Planning and Development, Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Remote Sensing, and Disaster Management Support, with joint funding from the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (MoDONER), Department of Space (DoS) and State Governments.
- NESAC has developed and achieved various major milestones for the North Eastern Region including the implementation of the North Eastern Spatial Data Repository (NeSDR), and the identification of potential areas for the development of sericulture and horticulture.
- North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong was established in 2000, jointly with North Eastern Council (NEC).

NESAC to implement 110 projects using space tech in N-E India

New Delhi: The North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) will carry out 110 projects in northeast India by leveraging space data and related technologies, Jitendra Singh, union minister of space for science and technology informed the Parliament on Thursday. The regional body will use spatial and remote sensing data for various use cases, including agriculture, disaster management and development, among others. **TECHCIRCLE**

20. **Vidya Deevena scheme**, is an initiative of which of the following state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh**
- B. Odisha
- C. Telangana
- D. Karnataka
- E. None of the above.

- Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy released ₹694 crores under Vidya Deevena at Bapatla.
- Under the Jagananna Vidya Deevena scheme, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy has released ₹694 crores into the accounts of the mothers of 11.02 lakh students belonging to BC, SC, and ST communities.
- The government will pay a total ₹11,715 crore under the Vidya Deevena and Vasathi Deevena schemes.
- Under Jagan Anna Vidya Deevena Scheme, the government reimbursed fees for students pursuing higher education in junior, vocational, and professional colleges.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward classes, minorities, Kapus, and economically backward classes are eligible for the scheme.*
- *Under Vasathi Deevana, the government provides ₹20,000 to students every year for their board and lodging expenses.*

21. **Gogamedi fair** recently seen in the news was celebrated in which of the following state?

- Punjab
- Rajasthan**
- Uttar Pradesh
- Jharkhand
- None of the above.

Aug 11, 2022, 12:17PM

Rajasthan: Gogamedi fair begins in Hanumangarh today

In Rajasthan, Gogamedi fair begins in Hanumangarh district today. District Collector Nathmal Didel will inaugurate the fair. Lakhs of devotees from all over the country visit to pay obeisance to Jaharveer Baba. The fair could not take place in the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



- *In Rajasthan, the Gogamedi fair begins in the Hanumangarh district.*
- *District Collector Nathmal Didel will inaugurate the fair.*
- *Lakhs of devotees from all over the country visit to pay obeisance to Jaharveer Baba.*
- *The fair could not take place in the last two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic.*
- *The fair is held in honor of the Serpent God Gogaji, every year. One of the possible reasons behind the initiation of the Gogamedi Fair is an age-old belief that chanting Goga Ji Maharaj's name puts an end to one's suffering from snakebite and heals the wound.*
- *The fair is nothing but a ritualistic tribute to the Serpent God in rural Rajasthan.*

22. Consider the following statement regarding **Sukanya Samridhi Account**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- A Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA) can be opened with a minimum deposit of ₹500**
- Deposits may be made for a maximum of 15 years after the account is opened.
- After a girl reaches 18 years of age or has completed the 10th standard, guardians can withdraw money from the account up to 50% of the balance in a financial year.
- The account will mature after 21 years from the account opening date or at the time of the marriage of the girl child after she turns 18.
- None of the above.

- *Prime Minister Narendra Modi has heaped praises on Indian cricketer Ravindra Jadeja's wife Rivaba for her initiative to help underprivileged girls. Rivaba had on her daughter's birthday (June 8) declared to open 101 Sukanya Samridhi Accounts at the Jamnagar post office to celebrate her daughter Kunwaribashree Nidhyanaba's 5th birthday.*

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- A Sukanya Samridhi Account (SSA) can be opened with a minimum deposit of ₹250 up to a limit of ₹1.50 lakh in a financial year and deposits may be made for a maximum of 15 years after the account is opened.
 - After a girl reaches 18 years of age or has completed the 10th standard, guardians can withdraw money from the account up to 50% of the balance in a financial year.
 - According to the regulations set by the Department of Posts under the Ministry of Communication, withdrawals can be accomplished in a single transaction or installments, with a maximum of one withdrawal per year with up to a limit of 5 years. However, the account will mature after 21 years from the account opening date or at the time of the marriage of the girl child after she turns 18.
23. Consider the following statement regarding **Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
- Model rules will be introduced by the government to govern all State Co-operative banks.
 - The target should be to increase the number of PACS 5 fold to reach Rs. 10 lakh crore agricultural credit distribution through cooperatives from the existing Rs. 2 lakh crore
 - Both A and B
 - Model rules will be introduced by the government to govern not all State Co-operative banks.
 - None of the above.

Govt to bring model by-laws to govern all farm cooperatives

He stressed the need to establish more than 2 lakh new PACS across the country

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, 12 AUGUST

Calling the Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) pillars of the cooperative

movement, Union Minister for Cooperation Amit Shah advocated strengthening of the PACS by diversifying them into various other activities.

Addressing a national conference on rural cooperative banks

organised by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB) at Vignan Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday, Shah said, "The PACS will not be viable with agriculture lending alone, they should diversify their business.

He informed that the government was bringing model by-laws to govern all the PACS in the country. The sick and defunct PACS should be revived or taken for liquidation.

Amit Shah said, "If the PACS are stronger, all the DCCBs and State Cooperative Banks will automatically flourish. If the PACS do not work properly, the cooperatives will not

progress."

Shah stressed the need to establish more than 2 lakh new PACS across the country to achieve the target of providing agri-finance worth ₹10 lakh crore through cooperatives. There are more than 95,000 PACS currently, of which only about 63,000 PACS are functional.

He noted that PACS are the soul of the agriculture credit system. It is, therefore, necessary to strengthen the existing PACS and also expand them. There are 3 lakh panchayats in India while the number of PACS is only about 95,000.

He asked senior officials of State Cooperative Banks (SCBs) and District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) to set a five-year goal in this regard.

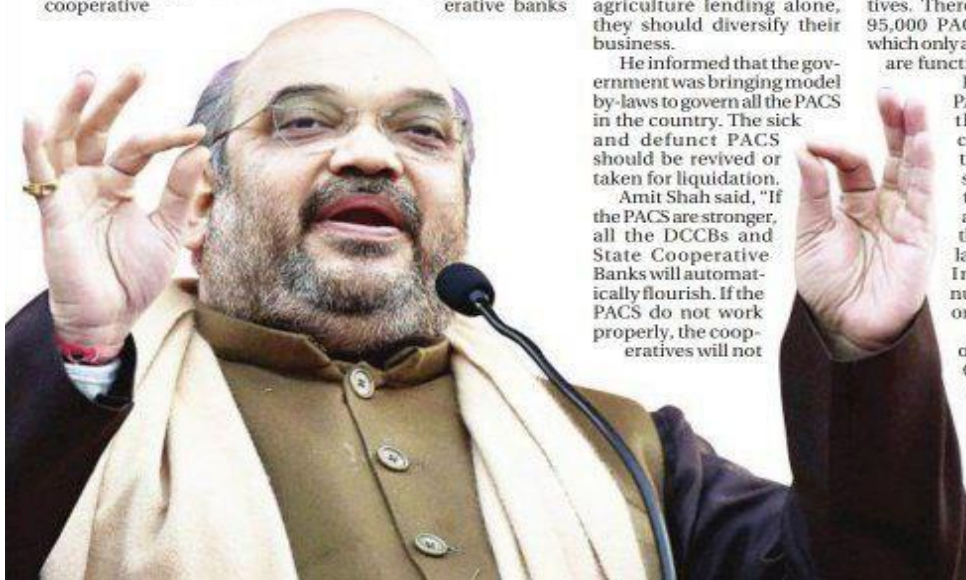
Shah pointed out that agriculture

finance through cooperatives has been declining. The 63,000 functional PACS are doing agriculture finance of Rs 2 lakh crore. If the number of PACS reach 3 lakh, distribution of Rs 10 lakh crore could be possible through cooperatives.

Stressing the need for adopting different strategies to take cooperation to every panchayat of the country, he said a five-year strategy was required for the PACS in each panchayat as two lakh panchayats were yet to have PACS.

The government had taken computerisation of all PACS in the country with an objective of increasing the efficiency and bringing transparency and accountability, he said and added that they were planning to export the organic products produced by the PACS through AMUL.

Shah also said that the rural cooperative banks have played a significant role in connecting rural India with the country's economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's tenure is a golden opportunity for the cooperatives in the country with the constitution of a separate Ministry.



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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Model rules will be introduced by governments to govern all PACS. Amit Shah stated that Sick and inactive Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies (PACS) should be revived or taken up for liquidation.**
- **He addressed a national conference on rural cooperative banks hosted by the Ministry of Cooperation and the National Federation of State Cooperative Banks (NAFSCOB).**
- **Mr. Shah described the PACS as pillars of the cooperative movement and called for the PACS to be strengthened by diversifying their activities.**
- **There is a need to formulate a five-year strategy for Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in each Panchayat.**
- **The computerization of PACS has been approved to increase efficiency, transparency, and accountability.**
- **Shri Amit Shah said the Government of India also has a plan to expand rural cooperative banks, which are called 'Kheti Banks' in many places.**
- **There are about 13 crore members in PACS, out of which 5 crore members take loans, and PACS disburses loans of over Rs 2 lakh crore every year. He said if PACS increases 5 fold, then Rs. 2 lakh crore figure can reach Rs. 10 lakh crore. The aim should be the disbursal of Rs. 10 lakh crore agricultural finance through cooperatives.**
- **The model bylaws of PACS are available on the website of the Ministry of Cooperation and has asked those gathered at the conference to study them and send suggestions to the Ministry of Cooperation.**

24. **Agasthyamalai biosphere reserve which recently received 32nd elephant reserve status is located in which of the following state?**

- A. **Tamil Nadu**
- B. **Telangana**
- C. **Odisha**
- D. **Karnataka**
- E. **None of the above.**

- **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M K Stalin on Friday expressed happiness that the state got its fifth elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai in Tirunelveli district and said the mammals play a critical role in balancing the forest ecosystem.**
- **Responding to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's announcement on accepting a proposal of the Tamil Nadu forest department to notify 1,197.48 sq km area of land as an elephant reserve, the Chief Minister said, "On World Elephant Day 2022, I am glad that Tamil Nadu gets its 5th Elephant Reserve at Agathiyamalai in Tirunelveli District."**
- **Nilgiris-Eastern Ghat, Nilambur Silent Valley in Coimbatore, Srivilliputhur, and Anamalai are the four existing elephant reserves in the state.**

TN: Agasthyamala to be named elephant reserve

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

NEW DELHI: The Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve in Tamil Nadu will be declared as an elephant reserve, Union environment minister Bhupender Yadav said on the occasion of World Elephant Day. The reserve spans an area of 1,197 sq km.

Yadav took to Twitter to make the announcement. "I am very happy to share with you all that later today, India will witness the establishment of one more Elephant Reserve, Agasthyamalai in Tamil Nadu, adding another 1,197 sq km of protected area dedicated to conservation of elephants. #WorldElephant-Day2022" he tweeted.

The biosphere reserve is



The elephant reserve spans an area of 1,197 sq km. AFP

located at the southernmost end of the Western Ghats and incorporates peaks towering 1,868 m above sea level. It covers 3,500 sq km and encompasses tropical forest ecosystems that fall within the Tirunelveli and Kanyakumari districts of Tamil Nadu and Thiruvananthapuram and Kollam districts of Kerala.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Speaking at the World Elephant Day celebrations at the Periyar National Park in Kerala's Idukki district, Union Minister Yadav announced that the Central government will establish an elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai thereby adding another 1,197 sq km of the protected area dedicated to the protection and conservation of elephants in India.**
- **Speaking at the World Elephant Day celebrations at the Periyar National Park in Kerala's Idukki district, Union Minister Yadav announced that the Central government will establish an elephant reserve at Agasthyamalai thereby adding another 1,197 sq km of the protected area dedicated to the protection and conservation of elephants in India.**
- 25. **Consider the following statement regarding gallantry medals on the occasion of Independence Day. Which of the following statement is correct?**
 1. **1,082 police personnel received Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day.**
 2. **347 police personnel received gallantry medals**
 3. **204 personnel were received for their gallant action in Jammu and Kashmir highest among all states.**
 4. **Both 1 and 2**
 5. **All of the above**

1,082 police personnel receive service medals

Gallantry medals awarded to 347

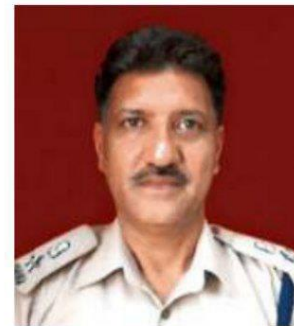
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

As many as 1,082 police personnel were awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, the Union Home Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. The number of police personnel who received gallantry medals stood at 347.

“A total of 204 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in Jammu and Kashmir, 80 personnel for their gallant action in Left Wing Extremism-affected areas and 14 personnel for their gallant action in North-East Region,” the Ministry said.

Among the personnel who received Gallantry Awards, 109 are from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 108 from the J&K Police, 19 from the Border Security Force (BSF), 42 from Maharashtra, 15 from Chhattisgarh and six each from the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the ITBP.

The CRPF's Srinagar sec-



Umesh Chandra Bhadola of the ITBP. • SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

tor under Inspector General Charu Sinha bagged 40 gallantry medals, highest in the country, among all the forces. ITBP spokesperson Vivek Kumar Pandey said that its personnel received 20 medals, which include three President's police medal for distinguished service and 11 police medals for meritorious service. Those awarded the bravery medals include Assistant Commandants Prabhat Mukul Martin Minz and Amit Kumar, and Assistant Sub-Inspector Kuldeep Raj.

Army Dog gets gallantry award

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 14

A TWO-YEAR-OLD Army dog named Axel who was killed in the line of duty in Jammu and Kashmir on July 30 while taking part in a search operation with a Rashtriya Rifles Battalion has been posthumously awarded the gallantry award Mention-in-Despatches.

In recent years this would be the highest gallantry award that an Army Dog has received for services rendered in Counter Insurgency operations. Appreciation awards such as Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card and Vice Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card, which lie below gallantry awards like Mention-in-Despatch, have been commonly awarded to Army dogs for their excellence in duty in

counter insurgency operations.

The dog handlers, regular Army soldiers, are eligible for the gallantry medals and have been awarded Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal for gallantry while taking part in operations with their dogs. Mention-in-Despatches is also a gallantry award which is given in war time actions and in counter insurgency operations for services rendered beyond the call of duty.

- **As many as 1,082 police personnel were awarded Police Medals on the occasion of Independence Day, the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said in a statement.**
- **The number of police personnel who received gallantry medals stood at 347.**
- **204 personnel are being awarded for their gallant action in Jammu and Kashmir, 80 personnel for their gallant action in Left Wing Extremism affected areas, and 14 personnel for their gallant action in North-East Region.**
- **Among the personnel who received Gallantry Awards, 109 are from Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), 108 are from Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Police, 19 are from the Border Security Force (BSF), 42 are from**

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

Maharashtra, 15 from Chhattisgarh and six each from Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force.

- CRPF's Srinagar sector under Inspector General Charu Sinha bagged 40 gallantry medals, the highest in the country among all the forces.

26. In August _____ State Government launched mentorship programme and **TALAASH App** for mainstreaming of 93,508 identified out-of-school children.

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Haryana
- C. **Jammu and Kashmir**
- D. Madhya Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- **Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday launched several key initiatives in the education sector of the Union Territory. The Lt Governor inaugurated 119 civil projects, including 84 school buildings, laid foundation stones for sports infrastructure in 100 schools as well as two residential schools for tribal students in Rajouri and Shopian, and also rolled out NIELIT courses for classes 6 to 12 class.**
- **Sinha launched a mentorship program and TALAASH App for mainstreaming 93,508 identified out-of-school children, besides laying the foundation stones for 500 Atal Tinkering Labs (250 each in Jammu and Kashmir regions) and 188 model kindergartens and 1,935 pre-primary sections.**
- **A memorandum of understanding was signed between Samagra Shiksha J&K and HCL for the TECHBEE program for students of class 12.**
- **e Lt Governor said that the Mentorship Programme: Student Teacher Engagement for Educational Reinforcement (STEER) will revolutionize the school education system by identifying learning gaps and understanding the constraints of the children, and their capabilities, besides providing the teachers an opportunity to bring changes to their teaching methods.**

LG launches key works in education sector

OUR CORRESPONDENT

JAMMU, AUGUST 10

Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha inaugurated multiple initiatives related to education sector in Srinagar on Wednesday. He launched 119 projects, including 84 school buildings and other allied infrastructure projects, laid foundation stones of sports facilities in 100 schools, two residential schools for tribal students in Rajouri and Shopian and rolled out NIELIT courses for Class VI-XII.

The LG also launched a

mentorship programme and TALAASH app for mainstreaming of 93,508 identified out-of-school children, besides laying the stones for 500 Atal Tinkering Labs, 250 each in Jammu and Kashmir regions, and 188 model kindergartens along with 1935 pre-primary sections. Sinha said these would strengthen the early childhood care and education besides skilling ecosystem.

A pact was signed between Samagra Shiksha J&K and HCL for the TECHBEE programme for students.

27. In August _____ State Government signed an **MOU with the National Institute of Ocean Technology, (NIOT) Chennai to undertake climate resilient protection measures to save the life and property of people of coastal from natural disasters.**

- A. **Odisha**
- B. Maharashtra
- C. West Bengal

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. Tamil Nadu
- E. None of the above.

- National Institute of Ocean Technology, (NIOT) Chennai will undertake climate resilient protection measures to save the life and property of people of coastal Odisha from natural disasters.
- An MoU in this regard was signed between NIOT and Odisha government.
- NIOT under the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India is a premier Institute in the country specializing in the field of Ocean Engineering and Coast-line protection.
- It will also work for saline embankments, assisting in the supervision, training, and capacity building of engineers.
- The inhabitants of six coastal districts of the State —Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapara, Jagatsinghpur, Puri, and Ganjam will be benefited from it, Garg said, adding this shall be a milestone in Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the coastal areas of the State.
- Odisha has a vast coastline of about 480 km in length and the coastal area is exposed to natural disasters.
- Cyclones cause high tidal surges with very high wind speed, resulting in loss of lives and properties.
- The government has planned to take up climate-resilient coastal protection measures, raising and strengthening saline embankments using the latest technology available in the country as a permanent and sustainable solution.

28. Consider the following statement regarding **One District-One Product**. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. Jitendra Singh unveiled the digital version of the One District-One Product (ODOP) gift catalog.
2. 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
3. It aims to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts.
4. Only 2 and 3
5. All of the above

- The government launched the digital version of the One District-One Product gift catalog.
- During the Export Promotion Councils and Industry Associations meeting, Piyush Goyal unveiled the digital version of the One District-One Product (ODOP) gift catalog.
- The ODOP gift catalog is a step toward showing the potential of all districts in the country.
- The catalog will help in promoting the brand image of local products in the international market.
- ODOP gift catalog has many different products like Oils, Indian Spirits, Home Decor products, etc.
- It will give a boost to the vision of the 'Make in India' and 'Make for World'.
- 'One District, One Product' (ODOP): It was launched by the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.
- It aims to encourage indigenous and specialized products and crafts.
- It aims to convert each district into an export hub by identifying products with export potential in the district.

29. Ministry of Communication hosted International Telecommunication Union's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region at Delhi on 8 August 2022. Where is the headquarter of the International Telecommunication Union?

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A. New Delhi
- B. New York
- C. Geneva
- D. Paris
- E. None of the above.

- Ministry of Communication hosted ITU's Regional Standardization Forum (RSF) for Asia and Oceania region on 8 August 2022 in New Delhi.
- The theme for International Telecommunication Union's RSF was "Regulatory and Policy aspects of Telecommunications/ICTs".
- Minister of State for Communications Devusinh Chauhan inaugurated the Regional Standardization Forum.
- Over 250 delegates from 20 countries participated in Regional Standardization Forum.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU): It is the United Nations' specialized agency for information and communication technologies.
- 193 countries are members of this Union. It is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- It was formed in 1865. Its current Secretary-General is Houlin Zhao.

30. In August _____ government approved the creation of the **Village Defense Guard Scheme (VDGS) 2022**.

- A. Rajasthan
- B. Jammu and Kashmir
- C. Himachal Pradesh
- D. Ladakh
- E. None of the above.

- The Government of Jammu and Kashmir has approved the Village Defense Guard Scheme (VDGS) 2022.
- The scheme has been launched to prevent incidents of terrorist acts inspired and supported from across the border and to boost the security grid in the Union Territory.
- The scheme has come into effect from August 15, 2022, and will have a possible positive impact.
- The approval for the creation of this scheme has been given by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- The scheme aims to mobilize a small group of volunteer armed civilians in identified villages along the border to inculcate the spirit of self-defense for the security of villages.
- A maximum of 15 individuals in each group will be designated as "Village Defense Guards" (VDGs).
- Each group will be known as the "Village Defense Group" and will be headed by a retired officer from the Army, CPMF, or J&K Police.
- The Village Defense Guard (VDG) will be divided into two categories:
- V1 category includes persons who will be leading and coordinating the Village Defence Guards in the "more vulnerable areas" and they will be paid Rs 4500 per month.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- V2 category includes persons who are members of "Village Defense Groups" voluntarily and will be paid a uniform rate of Rs.4000 per month.

31. Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, *the first Tiranga park has been set up in _____.*

- A. Gurugram
- B. Baragaon
- C. Pune
- D. Hyderabad
- E. None of the above.

- Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the first Tiranga park has been set up in the Gurugram by the district administration.
- This park has been constructed with the support of the M3M Foundation in the Swatantrata Senani Bhawan located in Civil Lines, Gurugram.
- In this, 75 national flags of 12-foot height have been installed on the 75th anniversary of independence.
- With the inauguration of the park, the residents will be able to come to visit this Tiranga park. On behalf of the administration, every effort is being made at the administrative level to ensure the participation of the general public in the district.



Union Minister Rao Inderjeet Singh inaugurates the Tiranga Park in Gurugram on Friday. S CHANDAN

First Tiranga Park set up in G'gram

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

GURUGRAM, AUGUST 12 Under the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, the first Tiranga Park was set up in the city by the district administration. This park has been constructed with the support of the M3M Foundation at the Swatantrata Senani Bhawan located at the Civil Lines, Gurugram.

In the park, 75 national flags of

75 national flags of 12-ft height installed

12-ft height have been installed on the 75th anniversary of Independence. The park was inaugurated today by the Union Minister of State, Rao Inderjit Singh.

On the occasion, birthdays of 75 children from the city, who were born on August 15,

were celebrated by cutting a cake and making the day even more special.

"The key agenda behind all initiatives is to make our younger generation aware of our Tricolour, its evolution and importance. Our aim is that every time a youngster holds the flag, his heart should be filled with pride and honour," said Singh.

32. In August _____ State Government launched Vidya Rath: school on wheels project to bring the economically-disadvantaged children under the ambit of the conventional education system.

- A. Assam
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Bihar
- D. West Bengal
- E. None of the above.

- The Assam government has launched a school on wheels project to bring the economically-disadvantaged children under the ambit of the conventional education system.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- According to official sources, the “Vidya Rath: School on Wheels” envisaged imparting elementary education to such children for 10 months. Subsequently, the sources added, that the government will integrate them into the conventional system of education.
 - Under the project, the students will be given free mid-day meals, uniforms, and textbooks.
 - The project Vidya Rath: School on Wheels will go a long way in imparting education to economically-challenged children and helping them to empower academically.
33. In August _____ government announced to implement PESA Rule-2022 in the scheduled areas.
- A. Punjab
 - B. Chattisgarh**
 - C. Uttarakhand
 - D. Jharkhand
 - E. None of the above.
- Chhattisgarh government announced to implementation of PESA Rule-2022 in the scheduled areas.
 - With the implementation of the PESA Act, the power of Gram Sabha will increase.
 - Gram Sabha will consist of 50% of the members from the tribal community. Out of the 50 percent, 25 percent will be women members.
 - Chattisgarh government has enacted rules under the central Act to protect the interest of tribals and to enhance the power of gram sabhas.
 - The state government will also launch an awareness campaign from 15 August to 26 January through gram sabhas.
 - Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Telangana have also framed State specific PESA Rules.
 - Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act or PESA Act:
 - PESA Act was enacted in 1996 for the extension of the provisions of Part IX of the Constitution related to Panchayats to the Scheduled areas.
 - It was enacted for self-governance through Gram Sabhas for people living in the Scheduled Areas.
 - It recognizes the right of tribal communities to govern themselves through their systems of self-government.
34. To promote honey export, Government organizes a series of events, in collaboration with the state govt and farmers. As a part of the government’s AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative to boost honey production, the government has approved an allocation of Rs _____ crore for the **National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23)**.
- A. Rs 200 Cr
 - B. Rs 500 Cr**
 - C. Rs 250 Cr
 - D. Rs 350 Cr

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

E. *None of the above.*

- **To harness the export potential of honey in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'sweet revolution' through the promotion of beekeeping and allied activities, the Government has planned to organize a series of events across the country in collaboration with state governments and farmers.**

To promote honey export, Government to organize series of events, in collaboration with state govts and farmers

Government calls upon farmers, traders and exporters to ensure quality and expansion to new markets

80% of India's honey exports is to United States

Posted On: 12 AUG 2022 5:35PM by PIB Delhi

To harness the export potential of honey in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a 'sweet revolution' through promotion of beekeeping and allied activities, Government has planned to organize a series of events across the country in collaboration with state governments and farmers.

One such event is scheduled to be organized by APEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for export promotion of honey involving exporters, stakeholders and government officials in Chandigarh, where focus would be to encourage farmers towards honey farming by ensuring quality production.

Given the manifold rise in honey consumption across the globe especially after Covid-19 pandemic due to its natural immunity booster characteristics and a healthier alternative to sugar, APEDA is aiming is to boost honey exports through ensuring quality production and market expansion to new countries as at present, India's natural honey exports are majorly dependent on one market --- the United States -- that account for more than 80 percent of the exports.

As a part of the government's AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative to boost honey production, the government has approved an allocation of Rs 500 crore for the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).

- **One such event is scheduled to be organized by APEDA, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for export promotion of honey.**
- **As a part of the government's AtmaNirbhar Bharat initiative to boost honey production, the government has approved an allocation of Rs 500 crore for the National Beekeeping and Honey Mission (NBHM) for three years (2020-21 to 2022-23).**
- **In India, North East Region and Maharashtra are the major natural honey-producing areas in the country, and around 50 percent of the honey produced in India is consumed domestically, while the rest is exported across the globe.**
- **As per the DGCIS, APEDA has achieved overall exports of USD 7.41 billion during April-June 2022 by registering a growth of 30.8 percent in terms of USD in comparison to the same period the previous year.**

35. Consider the following statement regarding **Paalan 1000 National Campaign**.

1. It focuses on the cognitive developments of children in the first 5 years of its life.
2. The program has aligned the mission of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK).

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **India has taken rapid strides in reducing child mortality since 2014 from 45 per 1000 live births to 35 per 1000 live births in 2019". Dr. Bharati Pravin Pawar, Union Minister of State stated this today as she virtually launched the Early Childhood Development Conclave, Paalan 1000 National Campaign, and Parenting App in Mumbai today.**
- **The child health program under the National Health Mission (NHM) comprehensively integrated interventions that improved child survival and addressed factors contributing to infant and under-five mortality.**
- **'Paalan 1000 - Journey of the First 1000 Days', focuses on the cognitive developments of children in the first 2 years of its life. Paalan 1000 combines early years coaching for parents, families, and other caregivers with services designed to meet**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

families' basic needs. Infants and toddlers are shaped by their experiences – and those experiences are shaped by their caregivers.

- *Caregivers are crucial for a strong start in the first years of life. The program has aligned the mission of the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), emphasizing responsive care and focusing interventions on the first 1000 days.*
 - *PAALAN 1000 parenting app will provide the caregiver with practical advice on what they can do in their everyday routine and will help resolve the various doubts of parents and will direct our efforts in the development of the child. The cognitive development of children under 2 years is a major focus area of this PAALAN 1000 and has focused on the 6 principles of Maximize Love, Talking & Engage, exploring through Movement and Play, Reading and Discuss Stories, Mother's Engagement with the Child while Breastfeeding and Managing Stress and Staying Calm.*
36. Consider the following statement regarding **Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited (HCSL)**. Which of the following statement is correct?
1. Shri Sarbananda Sonowal dedicated the newly built State-of-the-Art ship building facility of Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited at Nazirgunge, Howrah, West Bengal.
 2. It is built with Rs. 180 Crore.
 3. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Ltd, a PSE under the Ministry of Ports.
 4. Only 1
 5. All of the above
- *Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Port, Shipping and Waterways & AYUSH dedicated the newly built State-of-the-Art ship building facility of Hooghly Cochin Shipyard Limited at Nazirgunge, Howrah, West Bengal to the nation on 16 August 2022.*
 - *The Rs. 180 Crore facility, which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Cochin Shipyard Ltd, a PSE under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways was dedicated to the nation by the Union Minister of PSW and AYUSH in the presence of Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.*
 - *This will also be a great impetus to water transport connectivity to the North-Eastern states. The yard will not only enable economic development in the close region but will also provide direct and indirect employment as well as the development of MSME and Ancillaries.*
 - *HCSL was set up to revive the two-century-old HDPEL shipbuilding yard at Nazirgunge and therefore amalgamates its rich and long shipbuilding heritage with the outstanding expertise of CSL, which is the premier shipyard in India with proven experience of designing, building, and delivering high-quality complex vessels to clients throughout the world.*
 - *National Waterway-1 covers Ganga – Bhagirathi – Hooghly for a length of 1620 Km covering states UP, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and NW-2 covers West Bengal, Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, and Meghalaya. Jal Marg Vikas project is a Government of India initiative for capacity augmentation of shipping and navigation on the national waterways No 1. This would enable commercial navigation of 1500- 2000 ton vessels in Phase 1.*
37. In August _____ state government inaugurated "**UMEED Market Place**" under the **AVSAR Scheme of the Airport Authority of India** to support local art and artisans of Self Help Groups.

A. Haryana

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- B. Punjab
- C. Delhi
- D. **Jammu and Kashmir**
- E. None of the above.

- In Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated "UMEED Market Place" under the AVSAR Scheme of Airport Authority of India at Srinagar International airport. A similar Marketplace was also opened at Jammu Airport and both outlets will exhibit products from all 20 districts.
- Lt Governor Manoj Sinha in his address said that such an initiative will support local art and artisans of Self Help Groups of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, providing a platform to market local products directly to the customers.
- The marketplace at both Airports will provide huge visibility to the members of SHGs and promote their products to a wider spectrum, reaching out to the larger population and making rural handicraft products available at reasonable prices to the passengers.
- More than five lakh women will benefit every year from stalls & counters offered to them for 15 days on a rotational basis. It will also serve as a point for passengers to place bulk orders and request customized demands for corporate gifting as well, it was informed.
- Earlier, the Lt Governor unveiled a 20X20 ft LED Video wall at Srinagar Airport. The inauguration ceremony commenced with the display of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' theme on the LED Video Wall commemorating 75 years of Independence.

38. Narendra Singh Tomar launched the **indigenous vaccine Lumpi-ProVaInd to protect livestock from Lumpy Skin disease**. It has been developed by _____.

- A. Indira Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- B. All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi
- C. Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Medical Sciences, Hyderabad
- D. **National Equine Research Center, Hisar**
- E. None of the above.

- **Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, today launched the indigenous vaccine Lumpi-ProVaInd to protect livestock from Lumpy Skin disease.**
- **The vaccine has been developed by the National Equine Research Center, Hisar (Haryana) in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar (Bareilly).**
- **Describing this vaccine as a milestone for eradicating the Lumpy disease, Shri Tomar said that livestock, along with human resources, is the biggest asset of our country, which we have a big responsibility to preserve and prosper.**

Lumpy skin disease: Tomar launches vaccine

New Delhi: Union Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar on Wednesday launched an indigenous vaccine for lumpy skin disease, which has spread across states, causing deaths of hundreds of cattle since 2019. Lumpi-ProVaInd, the vaccine, has been developed by two institutes un-

der the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) -National Equine Research Center, Hisar (Haryana) in collaboration with the Indian Veterinary Research Institute, Izzatnagar (Bareilly). Tomar said the development of the vaccine was a milestone event as livestock, along with human

resource, is the "biggest asset of our country".

Ever since the disease came to India in 2019, research institutes have been engaged in developing the vaccine, the Ministry of Agriculture said in a statement. The vaccine is 100% effective, complying with all standards, it said. **ENS**

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- He congratulated the scientists of the Equine Research Center and the Veterinary Research Institute for developing the Lumpi disease vaccine. Ever since the disease came to India in 2019, research institutes have been engaged in developing the vaccine.

39. Consider the following statement regarding **SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise scheme**.

1. Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar launched the “SMILE-75 Initiative”.
2. Under the “SMILE-75 Initiative”, 75 identified Municipal Corporations, in the spirit of AzadikaAmritMahotsav, will undertake comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging.
3. The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has allocated a total budget of Rs.100 crore for the SMILE scheme for coming years till 2025-26

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- In the spirit of AzadikaAmritMahotsav, the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Government of India, has identified 75 Municipal Corporations to implement comprehensive rehabilitation of persons engaged in the act of begging under “SMILE: Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise” named as “SMILE-75 Initiative”.
- Under the SMILE-75 initiative, seventy-five (75) Municipal Corporations in collaboration with NGOs and other stakeholders will cover several comprehensive welfare measures for persons who are engaged in the act of begging with a focus extensively on rehabilitation, provision of medical facilities, counseling, awareness, education, skill development, economic linkages and convergence with other Government welfare programs, etc.
- The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment has allocated a total budget of Rs.100 crore for the SMILE project for coming years till 2025-26. Through this project, the Ministry envisions developing a support mechanism for holistic rehabilitation of those engaged in the act of begging and building an India where no person is forced to beg to survive and fulfill their basic need.
- The objective of SMILE- 75 is to make our cities/towns and municipal areas begging-free and make a strategy for comprehensive rehabilitation of the persons engaged in the act of begging through the coordinated action of various stakeholders.

40. In August _____ state chief minister launched the 'NEDFi Micro Lending Scheme' aimed at assisting small enterprises and entrepreneurs of the north-east region.

- A. Assam
- B. Jharkhand
- C. Bihar

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. West Bengal
- E. None of the above.

- **The Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched the 'NEDFi Micro Lending Scheme' aimed at assisting small enterprises and entrepreneurs of the northeast region.**
- **The scheme was launched at the 27th Foundation Day celebration of the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NEDFi), in Guwahati.**
- **At the event, the chief minister also launched the NEDFi Haat website, a mobile-based application titled 'Advancing Northeast' - a joint initiative between NEDFi and Northeastern Council (NEC).**
- **To help more and more entrepreneurs in the state, the Assam government has announced a contribution of Rs 100 crore towards the newly launched scheme. Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 7.89 crore on behalf of NEDFi was distributed among 669 borrowers.**
- **NEDFi Micro Lending Scheme is a loan size of up to Rs 2 lakh per beneficiary that will help micro-entrepreneurs in setting up and expanding their economic activities in Assam and other parts of the Northeast.**

Micro lending scheme for NE entrepreneurs launched

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
GUWAHATI, 10 AUGUST

With an aim to lend a helping hand to the small enterprises and entrepreneurs of north-eastern region, the North Eastern Development Finance Corporation (NeDFI) launched 'NeDFI Micro Lending Scheme' on its 27th foundation day celebration in the city.

Assam chief minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, while officially launching the initiative on Tuesday, also opened the NeDFI Haat website, a mobile-based application, jointly developed by NeDFI and North-eastern Council (NEC). He also inaugurated the training program being conducted by NeDFI for aspirants of the Agniveer recruitment scheme.



Sarma announced a contribution of Rupees 100 crore from the State government to the micro lending scheme. He also handed over a cheque of Rs 7.89 crore to be distributed among 669 number of

borrowers under the specific scheme. On the occasion, Sarma congratulated the financial institution for providing assistance to micro, small, medium and large enterprises for setting up industrial,

infrastructure projects in the region. "NeDFI is playing an important role in empowering our region and its people. I hope the NeDFI Micro Lending Scheme with loan size up-to two lakh per benefi-

ciary will help micro entrepreneurs in setting up and expanding their economic activities in Assam and other parts of Northeast," said Sarma, urging the north-eastern people to take benefits of the scheme and contribute towards the growth of the society.

Talking about the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, Sarma stated that self-help group members benefited through their participation in the supply chain of the national flags. In presence of NeDFI chairman cum managing director PVSLN Murty, its executive director SK Baruah and other dignitaries, Sarma also distributed local weavers-woven, handloom-produced uniforms to a group of school students.

41. **What is the name of Delhi's first bamboo theme park that is to come up along the Yamuna floodplain?**
- A. Baragaon
 - B. Baansera
 - C. Howitzer
 - D. Krisov
 - E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Delhi's first bamboo theme park 'Baansera' to come up along the Yamuna floodplain.**
- **The bamboo park will be spread across 10 hectares on the western bank near the Delhi-Meerut Expressway. There will also be other bamboo-related amenities such as kiosks, huts, a watchtower, and seats for public use in the greenway area of the park.**
- **Over 20,000 special varieties of bamboo saplings that have been procured from Assam will be planted at the park. It aims at expanding the "much needed public spaces" in the Capital and to ensure that "the rich biodiversity of the floodplain is preserved and maintained," the Delhi development authority said in a press note.**

Baansera: Delhi to get its 1st bamboo-themed park

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

An area of 10 hectares of the Yamuna river floodplain, south of NH-24 on the western bank is being developed as a theme-based, multipurpose area using bamboo as a material in biotic and abiotic form. Delhi Lieutenant-Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena on Tuesday laid the foundation of 'Baansera', the city's first Bamboo-themed park, and dedicated it to the people of the national Capital. A bamboo café is also proposed along with seating under bamboo trees. Large spaces for congregation have been designed with live bamboo plants forming a curbed enclosure.

The city's first-of-its-kind initiative has been named Baansera as derived from the Hindi word "baasa" meaning "abode".

The park will have more than 25,000 special variety of Bamboo saplings, brought from Assam. These will be planted to achieve the purpose of augmenting the much-needed public spaces in the Capital and also ensure that the rich biodiversity of the floodplain is preserved and maintained.

According to a senior Delhi Development Authority (DDA) official, on the occasion, the L-G said that plantation of Bamboo on a large scale will help address the Capital's problem of air pollution significantly as the Bamboo plant produces about 30 per cent more Oxygen even as it consumes far less water and enriches the soil.

While identifying the site



In June this year, the L-G had instructed for a 2.5 hectare depression over there, to be developed into a live water body. Works for the same has been completed and the water body will be a part of Baansera," he stated.

Elaborating about the project, L-G Saxena informed that "the entire area has been categorised into two parts: Bamboo recreation primarily in the greenway zone and Bamboo plantation along with other riverine plantations."

"Baansera" will have a unique experience in terms of plantation of different varieties of bamboo plants especially procured for this area. Apart from plantations, the park will have amenities

designed in Bamboo including kiosks, huts, watchtowers and seats for public use in greenway area along kachaa paths," official said.

The Bamboo recreation area in the greenway zone comprises of an Arrival zone. A transitional area that acts as a journey from the city's busy life into the pristine river floodplains with an experiential walk amongst plantations that takes you into gathering spaces," he informed.

On the occasion several senior dignitaries including Member of Parliament, Gautam Gambhir, Chief Secretary Delhi, Naresh Kumar, and Vice-Chairman of the DDA, Manish Kumar Gupta were present.

42. In August Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry launched a unique coffee table book titled - Fish and Seafood - a collection of 75 gourmet recipes in New Delhi. Who is the Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry?
- Dharmendra Pradhan
 - Meenakshi Leekhi
 - Parshottam Rupala**
 - Giriraj Singh
 - None of the above.

- **Minister of Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Parshottam Rupala today launched a unique coffee table book titled - Fish and Seafood - a collection of 75 gourmet recipes in New Delhi.**
- **The Department of Fisheries has come up with this initiative to boost the domestic consumption of fish and seafood, along with popularizing the local fish species.**
- **The book was launched in the presence of both the Minister of States for Fisheries and Animal Husbandry Dr. L. Murugan and Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Balyan.**
- **The recipe book is a highlight of the diversity of fish available within the domestic water bodies and the fish culinary heritage of the country that signifies the diverse cooking and eating styles across the country.**
- **Recognizing the importance of the fisheries sector, the Government of India launched Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) in May 2020 as part of the AtmaNirbhar Bharat Package with the highest ever investment of Rs. 20,050 crores.**
- **The schemes will be implemented from FY 2020-21 to FY 2024-25 in all states/UTs.**

43. In August _____ State Government launched "Raitha Vidya Nidhi " and a scheme on sanitation, nutrition, and the well-being of farmers, laborers, and the brave soldiers of the state.
- Odisha
 - Karnataka**
 - Uttar Pradesh

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said his government has decided to launch new schemes on sanitation, nutrition, and the well-being of farmers, laborers, and the brave soldiers of the state on the 75th anniversary of India's independence.
- He also said that the state government wants to empower Karnataka to contribute at least USD 1 trillion to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of transforming India into a USD 5 trillion economy.
- The "Raitha Vidya Nidhi" for farmers' children will be extended to landless agriculture laborers too.
- Aimed at promoting education for farmers' children, the Chief Minister's Raita Vidya Nidhi scheme was launched by the government for the first time in the country, under which, a scholarship of Rs 439.95 crore to 10.03 lakh children has been distributed. The scheme was subsequently extended to weavers, fishermen, and yellow board taxi drivers' children too.

44. Consider the following statement regarding **Elephant Reserves of India: An Atlas**, **"Elephant Reserves of India: Land Use Land Cover Classification"**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. World Elephant day - 2022 was celebrated at Periyar, Kerala.
2. 1st ever Gaj Gaurav award was conferred to the Malasar Community Tamil Nadu and mahouts of Kerala and Assam.
3. The population of 29,964 elephants as recorded in the last elephant census conducted in 2017.
4. India has 25 Elephant Reserves.
5. Total area under Elephant Reserves in India to about 76,508 sqkm across 14 states of the country.

- World Elephant day - 2022 was celebrated today at Periyar, Kerala.
- The Union Minister Shri Bhupender Yadav released **"Elephant Reserves of India: An Atlas"**, **"Elephant Reserves of India: Land Use Land Cover Classification"**, and **"Caring for Elephant: Managing health and welfare in captivity"** and the Special edition of **"Trumpet"**.

Environment Ministry looks to curb elephant deaths on railway tracks, resolve human-jumbo conflict

ESHA ROY
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 12

THE UNION Environment Ministry will make a fresh push to curb unnatural elephant deaths by taking up track casualties with the Railway Ministry and holding workshops across the country to address human-elephant conflict, sources said.

The decisions were taken at the 17th steering committee meeting of Project Elephant which was held at Periyar National Park in Kerala Friday. The meeting was chaired by Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav.

As per the last count in 2017, India has 29,964 elephants. Yadav said that on an average, 500 people are killed annually by elephants and about 100 elephants are killed in retaliation.

"To find a long-term solution,



World Elephant Day is marked at Assam's Manas National Park on Friday. PTI

EXPLAINED

E An issue of concern

ELEPHANT CASUALTIES as a result of unnatural or man-made causes have long been an issue in the country. The human toll is also considerable. According to data furnished by Yadav in Parliament during this Monsoon Session, 1,578 people have died in elephant attacks in the last three years. In the same period, 222 elephants have died from electrocution, 45 in train accidents, 29 from poaching and 11 due to poisoning.

Odisha has reported 13 cases of unnatural elephant deaths in the past two months, with five deaths caused by poaching. Last year, its Environment Minister,

we are revisiting the elephant corridors of the country and have finished more than 50 per cent of the task involving key stakeholders in this endeavour," he said.

Marking World Elephant Day at an event in Periyar, Yadav Friday also announced the creation of a new elephant reserve.

Agasthyamalai in Tamil Nadu will be India's 32nd elephant reserve and the state's fifth.

Sources said the steering committee has decided to set up a panel to look into the deaths of elephants in Odisha and Jharkhand and furnish a detailed report to the Centre by September 10.

Bilgram Keshari Arukh, informed the Assembly that 406 elephants died in the state owing to multiple reasons in the last five years. These deaths were caused by accidents with trains and electrocution, among others. Jharkhand, meanwhile, has historically seen a high level of human-elephant conflict.

The steering committee has also decided that separate management plans for elephants should be developed and incorporated in management plans of reserves, national parks, sanctuaries and the working plans of territorial divisions.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, meanwhile, acknowledged World Elephant Day through a series of tweets - "On #WorldElephantDay, reiterating our commitment to protect the elephant. You would be happy to know that India houses about 60% of all Asian elephants. The number of elephant reserves has risen in the last 8 years. I also laud all those involved in protecting elephants," he said.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Commemorating 30 years of completion of Project Elephant, a poster on elephant conservation in India was released by all dignitaries.
- For the first time in an initiative taken by the Hon'ble Minister, the Gaj Gaurav award was conferred.
- This year the Malasar Community belonging to the Anamalai of Tamil Nadu and mahouts of Kerala and Assam were awarded the Gaj Gaurav award by the Union Minister, EF&CC.
- The Union Minister informed the audience that India has the largest and the most stable population of Asian elephants. More than 60% of wild Asian elephants are in India.
- The population of 29,964 elephants was recorded in the last elephant census conducted in 2017.
- Union Minister further said that India has 31 Elephant Reserves. In the last 3 years, Dandeli Elephant Reserve has been notified by the state of Karnataka, Singphan Elephant Reserve by Nagaland, and Lemru Elephant Reserve in Chhattisgarh. This has brought the total area under Elephant Reserves in India to about 76,508 sqkm across 14 states of the country.
- He also shared that India is going to witness the establishment of one more Elephant Reserve, the Agasthiyamalai in Tamil Nadu, adding yet another 1197 sqkm of Protected Area dedicated to the protection and conservation of elephants in India.

45. Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) - Housing for All Mission up to _____.

- A. 31st December 2024
- B. 31st December 2025
- C. 31st December 2026
- D. 31st December 2027
- E. None of the above.

- Union Cabinet has approved the continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) - Housing

Vast majority of new PMAY homes owned by women: Report

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Mumbai, August 9

HOME OWNERSHIP HAS undergone a radical shift since PM's housing scheme launch in 2015, as 94 lakh of 1.23 lakh houses under the scheme are either in women's name or jointly owned, says a report.

The Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY) was launched in 2015 with a view to help ensure home for all the needy. Since then 1.23 such houses have been sanctioned. Of them, work on 1.01 lakh units has started as of

Of the 1.23 lakh homes sanctioned under PMAY, as much as 94 lakh are in the name of women or are jointly owned by them

FY22 and 61 lakh houses have been completed. Of these 1.23 lakh homes sanctioned, as much as 94 lakh are in the

name of women or are jointly owned by them, shows an SBI Research study of the scheme.

Since June 2015, the government has approved ₹2.03 trillion in central subsidy to 1.23 lakh homes, while the total investment needed for the scheme which seeks to build 20 million homes by 2022 is ₹8.31 trillion. Of the approved funds, central assistance worth ₹1.20 trillion have been released till FY22.

financialreport.in

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

for All Mission up to 31st December 2024.

- Under the scheme, financial assistance will be provided for the completion of already sanctioned 122.69 lakh houses by March 31, 2022.
 - The scheme is one of the major flagship programs being implemented by the Central Government to provide all-weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States, Union Territories, and Central Nodal Agencies.
 - The continuation of the scheme based on the request of States and UTs up to 31st December 2024 will help in the completion of already sanctioned houses under Beneficiary Led Construction, Affordable Housing in Partnership, and In-situ Slum Redevelopment verticals.
 - Central Assistance approved since 2015 is two lakh three thousand crore rupees against 20 thousand crore rupees in 2004-2014.
 - Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban): It was launched on 25th June 2015.
 - It is implemented by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
 - The scheme is implemented through four verticals: Beneficiary Led Construction/Enhancement (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR), and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).
46. Consider the following statement regarding the **virtual Asian Regional Forum meeting**. Which of the following statement is correct?
1. It will be held on the theme of 'Making our Elections Inclusive, Accessible, and Participative'.
 2. Global Summit for Democracy, will be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico.
 3. India is hosting the Asian Regional Forum meeting of the EMBs.
 4. Only 1 and 3
 5. All 1, 2 and 3
- Election Commission will host a virtual Asian Regional Forum meeting on 11 August.
 - This Regional Forum meeting will be held on the theme of 'Making our Elections Inclusive, Accessible, and Participative'.
 - It is the precursor of the Global Summit for Democracy, which will be hosted by the National Electoral Institute of Mexico.
 - Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar and Election Commissioner Anup Chandra Pandey will chair the Asian Regional Forum meeting.
 - Representatives from the election management bodies of Mexico, Mauritius, Philippines, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and the Maldives will participate in the meeting.
 - The first session of the meeting will be on 'Inclusive Elections: Enhancing Participation of Youth, Gender and Citizens in Remote Areas.

Union Cabinet approves extension of PMAY-U

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the proposal for continuation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY-U) up to December 31, 2024 wherein financial assistance is to be provided for the completion of already sanctioned 122.69 lakh houses till March 31 2022.

"PMAY-U is a housing for All is one of the major flagship programmes being implemented by Government of India to provide all weather pucca houses to all eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the country through States/UTs/Central Nodal Agencies. The scheme covers the entire urban area of the country, i.e., all statutory towns as per Census 2011 and towns notified subsequently, including Notified

Planning/ Development Areas. The scheme is being implemented through four verticals: Beneficiary Led Construction/Enhancement (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS," said Government in a statement.

In this project Government of India provides financial assistance and State Governments implement the scheme including selection of beneficiaries. During the period of 2004-2014, 8.04 lakh houses were completed under Urban Housing Scheme. "Under the Modi Govt, the issue of providing houses to all eligible Urban dwellers in saturation mode was brought into focus and the scheme of PMAY-Urban was conceptualised. In 2017, the original projected demand was 100 lakh houses. Against this original projected demand, 102 lakh houses have been grounded/under construction.

1 Floor, roj Bagh, NR NAITHANI/ an facility vide

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *The Global Summit and Regional Forum meetings encourage intellectual and institutional mobilization to strengthen global electoral democracy.*
 - *As part of this 'Global Summit for Democracy', five Regional Forums namely Africa, America, Asia, Europe, and countries of the Arab States have been created. India is hosting the Asian Regional Forum meeting of the EMs.*
47. Consider the following statement regarding Defence Expo. Which of the following statement is incorrect?
1. It will be the 12th edition of the Defence Expo.
 2. It will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October.
 3. The theme for this edition will be 'Path to Pride'.
 4. Only 2 and 3
 5. None of the above
- *The 12th edition of the Defence Expo will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.*
 - *The five-day 12th DefExpo based on Land, Naval, and Homeland Security systems will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 18-22 October.*
 - *DefExpo 2022 will be held in a three-venue format at Helipad Exhibition Centre.*
 - *The theme for this edition will be 'Path to Pride'. It will encourage people to participate in nation-building through the establishment of efficient indigenous defense industry.*
 - *In the DefExpo-2022, there will be three business days followed by two public days.*
 - *Live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skill set of the Armed Forces, DPSUs, and Industry will be held on all five days.*
 - *The main focus of DefExpo 2022 will be on promoting Indian start-ups and MSMEs and also on the setting of State Pavilions for further A&D policies.*
 - *The DefExpo-2022 will boost investment, and expand manufacturing capabilities.*

DefExpo set to be held in Guj from Oct 18 to 22

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

The 12th edition of India's international defence exhibition DefExpo on land, naval and homeland security systems will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from October 18 to 22.

Earlier scheduled to be held in March, it was postponed as many countries were not able to reach India due to logistical issues arising out of the Ukraine-Russia conflict.

The five-day event will witness three business days followed by two public days. Live demonstrations showcasing the equipment and skill set of the armed forces, defence public sector undertakings and industry will be held on all five days at Sabarmati River Front through active participation and synchronized efforts at all levels, the defence ministry said here on Monday.

DefExpo-2022 will be held in a three-venue format across an area of 01+ lakh square metres at Helipad Exhibition Centre, inaugural event and seminars at Mahatma Mandir

Convention and Exhibition Centre and live demonstration at Sabarmati River Front.

The exhibition is being planned with events such as Bandhan for forging of partnerships between companies, seminars and webinars showcasing of start-ups including cutting-edge technology solutions for future battlefield, artificial intelligence in defence, student visits and showcasing Gujarat as an investment destination for aerospace and defence sector.

DefExpo 2022 is in line with the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to achieve self-reliance in defence and achieve export of \$5 billion by 2025.

India has successfully established itself as an emerging defence manufacturing hub with numerous international orders being bagged by Indian companies in recent years.

The Indian Defence industry has been keenly anticipating DefExpo-2022 which is Asia's largest event in the defence sector. It was postponed in March 2022 due to logistical problems being faced



India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub
DEFEXPO 22
INDIA 18-22 MARCH 2022 GANDHINAGAR
 Ministry of Defence

by the participants.

As India celebrates its 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', DefExpo 2022 gains further significance with its theme 'Path to Pride' invoking nationalistic pride and encouraging citizens to partake in nation building through establishing a capable indigenous defence industry.

The reforms in defence manufacturing are attracting greater interest from Indian Defence manufacturers and it is therefore anticipated that DefExpo-2022 would attract active participation from Indian companies.

At DefExpo-2022, the participants will get an opportunity to showcase their equipment and platforms and also be able to explore the strengths and capabilities of the expanse of Indian defence industry for

forging business partnerships.

The event will help boost investment, expand manufacturing capacities and capabilities, discover avenues for technology absorption. The DefExpo-2022 website (www.defexpo.gov.in) is available providing online services to exhibitors, besides hosting informative content about the various indigenous defence products and promoting heritage and leisure at Gujarat.

The exhibitor booking would be available for Indian companies which will include Indian subsidiaries of Foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers(OEM) and joint ventures between Indian and foreign companies.

The website will be the first interface making the process of booking and information access effortless.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. None of the above

- **Electricity Amendment Bill 2022 seeks to amend the Electricity Act of 2003. It has been introduced multiple times since 2014.**
- **The bill proposes a minimum tariff ceiling to avoid predatory pricing by power distribution companies as well as a maximum price to protect consumers.**
- **If the bill gets passed in parliament, then customers will have the option to choose the supplier of electricity.**
- **The bill seeks to amend section 42 of the Electricity Act to facilitate non-discriminatory open access to the distribution network of a distribution licensee.**
- **The bill also seeks to amend section 14 of the Act to allow private companies to use distribution networks built by the public sector electricity companies.**
- **'Electricity' is listed in the Concurrent list of the constitution, so opposition leaders demanded that the central government should discuss the bill with the state government before presenting it.**
- **There is a perception that profit-making areas will be snatched from government-distributing companies and they will become loss-making companies.**

Govt refers Electricity Amendment Bill to panel amid widespread protests

Farmer bodies, Opposition say amendments weaken the power of States

RISHIRANJAN KALA
New Delhi, August 8

The contentious Electricity Amendment Bill was on Monday introduced in the Lok Sabha amid strong protests by the Opposition and farm unions. It was subsequently referred to a Parliamentary Standing Committee for consultations as farmer bodies, power employee associations and Central trade unions (CTUs) threatened nationwide protests.

The amendments

The Bill, if passed by Parliament, will allow the entry of private companies in power distribution and enable consumers to choose from a multiple set of service providers, like for mobile phone services. It aims to amend Section 14 of the Act – to allow usage of distribution networks by all licensees under provisions of non-discriminatory open access to enable competition, increase efficiency of discoms for improving services. It also seeks to strengthen payment security mechanisms and give more power to regulators.

The Bill also seeks to amend Section 62 to make provisions for a graded revision in tariff over a year. It also provides for amending Section 166 to strengthen functions that will

Highlights

- The Bill aims to allow entry of private companies in power distribution
- It also seeks to allow consumers the freedom of choice in deciding which set of service providers they want, similar to mobile phone services
- Power Minister RK Singh says farmers will continue to get subsidies; no provision in the Bill to reduce them



Power sector employees staging a protest against the proposed Bill in Vijayawada on Monday

be discharged by the regulators.

While more than 27 lakh power sector employees protested against the Bill on Monday, the Samyukta Kisan Morcha (SKM) and 10 CTUs are scheduled to hold protests on Tuesday. The Opposition termed the amendments as an act of limiting State government's autonomy and against the federal structure. They claimed that amendments allow for indiscriminate privatisation of power distribution.

On the other hand, the Power Ministry assured that the amendments are pro-people and for growth of the economy. Emphasising that there is no

change in subsidy provisions, the Ministry said States can offer any amount of subsidy, even free power to any category of consumers. Besides, there is no provision affecting farmers. The amendments strive for stronger State electricity commissions to regulate discoms – public or private. There are also new safeguards against cherry picking.

Opposition to the Bill

Terming the Bill "dangerous", Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal claimed that it will only benefit a few power distribution companies. "This will make the electricity problem

more serious, instead of addressing it. People's suffering will increase. Only a few companies will benefit. I appeal to the Centre to not bring this (Bill) in haste," he added.

Through the proposed Bill, the Centre is effectively curbing the right of State governments to regulate tariff as well as distribution, a senior State government official said, adding that States are keen to preserve their "autonomy" and "constitutional right".

Meanwhile, CTUs termed the Bill as a prescription for privatising electricity distribution, and said it will make electricity unaffordable for ordinary people and farmers.

Congress' Manish Tewari, in Lok Sabha, said: "The amendment substantially weakens the power of States by allowing multiple private agencies to distribute power in one place. This paves the way for privatisation of profits and nationalisation of losses and usurps the rights of States."

The All India Power Engineers Federation (AIPEF) Chairman Shailendra Dubey said the claim of providing a choice of multiple service providers to consumers is 'misleading' and will make State-run discoms loss-making entities.

Many of the States will oppose the implementation of de-licensing and appeal to the APTEL (Appellate Tribunal For Electricity) to stall this, as discoms will feel the risk of losing their cream customers, said Arindam Ghosh of Nangia Andersen Leader.

49. Consider the following statement regarding **Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav**. Which of the following is correct?

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

1. It began on March 12, 2021, and will conclude after a year on August 15, 2023.
2. The five main themes of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign are Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Resolve@75, Actions@75, and Achievements@75.
3. A sub-campaign called "Har Ghar Tiranga" is being run under Azadi Ka Amrit.
4. on July 22, 1947, the National Flag of India (in its current form) was adopted.
5. All of the above.

- At Red Fort in New Delhi, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the nation on August 15, a multi-layered security cover and Facial Recognition System cameras have been erected in preparation for the 2022 Independence Day celebrations.
- This year, PM Modi declared two massive campaigns to celebrate India's 75 years of independence.
- The grand celebration of independence, Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, is dedicated to the Indian people who have not only contributed to the country's advancement but also possess the strength and capacity to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of enacting India 2.0.
- The 75-week countdown to India's 75th anniversary of independence began on March 12, 2021, and the formal journey of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav began on that date. It will conclude after a year on August 15, 2023.
- The five main themes of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav campaign are Freedom Struggle, Ideas@75, Resolve@75, Actions@75, and Achievements@75. To mark the nation's 75th anniversary of independence, several events based on the themes were planned over the previous 75 weeks.
- A sub-campaign called "Har Ghar Tiranga" is being run under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to get people to bring the Tricolour home and hoist it to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence.
- To encourage people to bring the Tricolour home and hoist it to commemorate India's 75th anniversary of independence, Prime Minister Modi launched the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign in July.
- The Constituent Assembly meeting on July 22, 1947, took place just days before India attained independence on August 15, 1947, and this is when the National Flag of India (in its current form) was adopted. The National Flag of India's colors were carefully picked to represent the spirit of India and have immense symbolic value. Saffron represents power and bravery, white for harmony and righteousness, and green for growth and fertility. The flag's central chakra represents movement, progress, and advancement.
- Several new milestones like the Guinness World Record of World's 'Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag' in Cricket Stadium, Sector 16, Chandigarh with the participation of 5,885 people have been created during the campaign. The event was organized by the NID Foundation and Chandigarh University to strengthen Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.
- In another stupendous achievement, more than 6 crore Tiranga selfies have been uploaded on the Har Ghar Tiranga website to date.
- Also, to mark the celebrations under the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign as a part of ongoing 'Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav', the District Administration Srinagar established a national record by displaying 1850-metre long National Flag at Bakshi Stadium to celebrate 75 years of Independence.

50. Consider the following statement **regarding Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022**. Which of the following is incorrect?

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

1. The bill aims to tap the \$800-billion global carbon market.
2. It seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, of 2003.
3. The bill makes it mandatory for buildings with a minimum connected load of 100 KW
4. The government aims to save an estimated 300 billion units of electricity by 2030.
5. All of the above

- Lok Sabha has passed Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022.
- The bill aims to tap the \$800-billion global carbon market. It seeks to amend the Energy Conservation Act, of 2001.
- The bill makes it mandatory for buildings with a minimum connected load of 100 KW to meet their energy requirements from renewable sources.
- Through the bill, the government wants to enhance the scope of the Energy Conservation Building Code.
- Through the bill, the government also wants to increase members in the Governing Council of the Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- The government aims to save an estimated 300 billion units of electricity by 2030.
- Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE): It is a statutory body that was formed as per the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- It was formed in 2002 and comes under the Ministry of Power.

51. Recently Department of Culture of _____ state has launched the community radio channel "Radio Jaighosh" to promote folk art, performing arts, and regional delicacies of the state.

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh
- C. Delhi
- D. Punjab
- E. None of the above.

- To commemorate the anniversary of the Kakori Train Action, CM Yogi Adityanath launched 'Radio Jaighosh'.
- The Department of Culture of Uttar Pradesh has launched the community radio channel "Radio Jaighosh" to promote folk art, performing arts, and regional delicacies of Uttar Pradesh.
- Radio Jaighosh will be available at 107.8 MHz and will broadcast programs from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m.
- It will help in connecting youths and children with the ethos, customs, and values of Uttar Pradesh.
- The state government will also promote artists and unsung heroes of the state.

LS passes Bill to tap \$800-b global carbon opportunity

Move will facilitate more FDI in green technologies

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 8

The Lok Sabha on Monday passed the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill, 2022 which aims to tap the \$800-billion global carbon market, a move that will facilitate more foreign direct investment in green technologies to fast track India's clean energy transition.

Besides, the legislation sought to mandate the use of non-fossil sources, including green hydrogen, green ammonia, biomass and ethanol for energy and feedstock.

'Bill of the future'

Terming it as "the Bill for the future", Power Minister RK Singh said it also seeks to introduce new concepts such as carbon trading and mandating use of non-fossil sources to ensure



'Buildings with minimum connected load of 100 kW have to tap renewable energy'

faster decarbonisation of the Indian economy and achieving sustainable development goals in line with the Paris Agreement.

He said that India's renewable energy transition is the fastest in the world.

New areas

Amidst growing energy needs and changing global climate landscape, the Centre has identified new areas to achieve higher levels of penetration of

renewable energy. For instance, the Energy Conservation (Amendment) Bill aims to make it mandatory for buildings with a minimum connected load of 100 kW to meet their energy requirements from renewable sources

By adopting energy efficiency measures, India holds a potential to reduce about 550 MTCO₂ by 2030. It also provides for penalties for violations by industrial units or vessels, and manufacturers if a vehicle fails to comply with fuel consumption norms.

Welcoming the development, Nandia Andersen Lead Partner (Sustainability & Development)/ CSR Services) Rajib Kumar Debnath said it may boost increased FDI in green and up-to-date advanced technologies, thereby, facilitating India to meet its commitment of 50 per cent of its energy requirements from renewable sources by the year 2030, as well as reduce the total projected carbon emissions by one billion tonnes.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A daily radio show, 'Parakram', will be broadcast which will revolve around soldiers of the pre and post-Independence time and unsung heroes.
- A daily show, 'Shaurya Nagar', will promote folktales from all the 75 districts of the state.
- Many other different shows will be broadcast such as 'Rajya ki Rasoi' on the delicacies of Uttar Pradesh, 'Rang Shala' on theatre artists, 'Rajya ki Raftaar' on government schemes, and 'Rang Yatra' on performing arts.
- **Kakori Train Action: The Kakori Train Action or Kakori Conspiracy is a train robbery that took place at the village Kakori near Lucknow on 9 August 1925.**
- **The robbery was executed by Ram Prasad Bismil, Ashfaqulla Khan, Rajendra Lahiri, Chandrashekhara Azad, and other members of the Hindustan Republican Association.**

52. Consider the following statement regarding the 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. On the occasion of World Biofuel Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant in Purnea, Bihar.
2. This 2nd generation ethanol plant has been built by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore.
3. The government has set an ethanol blending target of 20% in petrol by 2025.
4. Only 1 and 2
5. Only 2 and 3

- **PM Modi to dedicate 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant on 10 August to the nation in Panipat.**
- **On the occasion of World Biofuel Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 2nd generation (2G) ethanol plant in Panipat, Haryana.**
- **This 2nd generation ethanol plant has been built by Indian Oil Corporation Ltd at an estimated cost of Rs 900 crore.**
- **It has been built as part of increasing the production and usage of biofuels in the country.**
- **This plant will generate around 3 crore liters of ethanol annually by using about 2 lakh tonnes of rice straw (parali).**
- **This project will have zero liquid discharge and will reduce around 3 lakh tonnes of Carbon Dioxide emissions per annum.**
- **This plant will provide indirect employment in the supply chain for rice straw cutting, handling, storage, etc.**
- **The government has set an ethanol blending target of 20% in petrol by 2025-26.**
- **Ethanol is a biofuel made from various sources such as starch, sugars, and vegetable oils**



PM to open IOC ethanol plant tomorrow

PRIME MINISTER NARENDRA Modi will inaugurate Indian Oil Corporation's ₹900-crore ethanol plant on August 10. The plant is located near the state-run firm's Panipat refinery.

53. The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, laid the foundation stone of the **Indo-Israel Center of Excellence for Vegetables** at _____.

- A. Bargaon
- B. Diu
- C. **Chanudali**
- D. Lucknow
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A center of excellence for vegetable farming will be established in Chandauli in Uttar Pradesh.
- A center of excellence will be established in Chandauli to give training for vegetable farming.
- The foundation stone of the center has been laid and it will be built with an investment of Rs 13.67 crore.
- This center of excellence will give training on using advanced technologies for vegetable and fruit cultivation.
- UP agriculture minister Surya Pratap Shahi inaugurated nurseries at the Centre for agriculture science Kallipur and the horticulture campus near the district headquarters.
- The UP government is also taking all measures to encourage farmers for opting natural farming to save soil and water.
- Chandauli district is known as the rice bowl of east Uttar Pradesh.

International / Report News

54. In August **Union Cabinet approved the signing of an audio-visual co-production treaty between India and _____** with the view to **promote the co-production of films.**
- A. **Australia**
 - B. USA
 - C. Russia
 - D. Bangladesh
 - E. None of the above.
- The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the signing of an audio-visual co-production treaty between India and Australia with the view to promote the co-production of films.
 - These are umbrella agreements under which private, quasi-government, or governmental agencies enter contracts to produce films together. Audio-visual co-production treaties are enabling documents that facilitate the co-production of films between two countries.
 - India has, so far, signed 15 audio-visual co-production treaties with foreign countries. Australia has emerged as a preferred destination for the shooting of Indian films. India is fast emerging as a major content hub for filmmakers looking for new projects.
 - In 2019, the ministry of information and broadcasting met a delegation from Bangladesh, for agreements on movie co-production and content sharing.
 - The meeting had focused on the making of a feature film on the life and works of Bangladeshi politician and statesman Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, to be directed by Shyam Benegal, written by Atul Tiwari, and co-produced by both countries.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

55. *Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is planning to submit a written proposal to the UN to create a commission, made up of three world leaders, to promote a world truce for five years. Which among the following is not on the list?*

- A. **Joe Biden**
- B. Narendra Modi
- C. Antonio Guterres
- D. Pope Francis
- E. None of the above.

- *Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador is planning to submit a written proposal to the UN to create a commission, made up of three world leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, to promote a world truce for five years.*
- *The Mexican President proposed that the top commission should include Pope Francis, the UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, and Indian PM Narendra Modi.*
- *The commission would aim to present a proposal to stop the wars around the world and reach an agreement to seek a truce for at least five years.*
- *The three of them meet and soon present a proposal to stop the war everywhere, and reach an agreement to seek a truce of at least five years so that governments around the world dedicate themselves to supporting their peoples, especially the people who are suffering the most from the war and its effects; that we have five years without tension, without violence, and with peace.*

Mexico's President proposes peace panel: Modi, Pope, UN chief

YOSHITA SINGH
NEW YORK, AUGUST 10

MEXICAN PRESIDENT Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador has said that he will propose to the UN for setting up a commission, comprising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Pope Francis and UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres, aimed at stopping war and seeking a truce of at least five years to ensure world peace.

At a press meet Monday, Obrador said he feels that the governments of three great powers, Russia, China and the US, will hopefully listen to it and accept an intermediation like the one he is proposing. He proposed that the panel will comprise Modi, Guterres and Pope Francis and they will meet and present a proposal soon to end war everywhere.



Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

According to information on his official website, the Mexican President said the commission's aim will be to stop war everywhere and reach an agreement to seek a truce of at least five years so that the governments of the whole world dedicate themselves to supporting their people, especially those who are suffering the most from the war and from its effects. He said he agrees with what the Secretary General of the UN has raised that countries must stop military confrontation, must opt for dialogue and not the use of force. **PTI**

56. *Recently ASEAN has decided to ban which country's ruler from attending meetings until the progress of the peace plan.*

- A. Thailand
- B. **Myanmar**
- C. Singapore
- D. Vietnam
- E. None of the above.

- *ASEAN bans Myanmar General from attending meetings until the progress of the peace plan.*
- *The foreign ministers of ASEAN countries have agreed to refrain Myanmar's ruling general from attending any meetings until progress is made on the peace plan.*
- *The Army chief and coup leader Min Aung Hlaing had agreed upon the Five-Point Consensus on 24th April 2021 in Jakarta for the immediate ending of violence in Myanmar and dialogue among all parties.*
- *They also agreed upon the Special Envoy of ASEAN for the mediation of the dialogue process with all concerned parties.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The Myanmar crisis began after the military detained elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and seized the power.
- After the Military coup in February 2021, the mass civil disobedience movement and protests started all over the country.
- Under a previous military regime, Myanmar joined ASEAN in 1997.
- Association of Southeast Asian Countries (ASEAN): It was formed on 8 August 1967.
- Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei, Myanmar (Burma), Cambodia, and Laos are members of ASEAN.
- ASEAN is India's fourth largest trading partner and is headquartered in Jakarta, Indonesia.

57. Recently in August _____ organisations/institutes has launched a project to digitally map soil nutrients in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Central America.

- A. World Health Organization
- B. International Food Policy Research Institute
- C. Food and Agriculture Organization
- D. International Institute of Agriculture
- E. None of the above.

- FAO launched a project to digitally map soil nutrients in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) and Central America.
- The project to digitally map soil nutrients has been launched to increase the efficiency of using fertilizers and to boost food security and nutrition.
- The project will also help in improving the existing soil maps in Guatemala, Honduras, and other countries of Central America.
- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) will also scale up a soil-mapping project in Ethiopia.
- FAO is creating a regional soil information system around Latin America and the Caribbean.
- In 2020-21, the largest increase in moderate or severe food insecurity was seen in Africa.
- The Global Soil Partnership is supporting countries in establishing national soil information systems and developing country-driven global maps.
- The Global Soil Partnership is a globally recognized mechanism to promote sustainable soil management.
- The FAO-UNESCO Soil Map of the World was launched in 1961.

58. Recently seen in the news, Hambantota port is located in which of the following country?

- A. Iran
- B. Israel
- C. Sri Lanka
- D. Ukraine
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry has asked China to defer the arrival of the Yuan Wang 5, a military vessel, at its southern port of Hambantota.
- The second-largest Lankan port, Hambantota sits on the route connecting Southeast Asia with Africa and West Asia.
- The development of this port has been largely funded by China, and in 2017, Colombo handed over its majority stake to a Chinese firm after failing to repay the debt.
- For China, it is an important step in its Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).
- However, security experts point out that this port fits right into China's 'string of pearls' strategy to surround India in the Indian Ocean.
- Chinese control of this port could harm India's interests in the Indian Ocean by becoming a hub for the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy.

59. **AGM-88 HARM**, recently seen in the news is a missile of which of the following country?

- A. USA
- B. Ukraine
- C. Russia
- D. UK
- E. None of the above.

- The United States Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl confirmed on August 8, 2022, that Washington has supplied some "anti-radiation missiles" to Ukraine, which could be fired from some Ukrainian Air Force aircraft.
- The statement, kind of, confirms Russian allegations that an American anti-radar missile, AGM-88 HARM, which is part of NATO's inventory, has been used in the theatre of conflict.
- The acronym 'HARM' in the AGM-88 HARM air-to-surface missile stands for High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile.
- It is a tactical weapon fired from fighter aircraft and can detect and home to radiation emitted by hostile radar stations that have surface-to-air detection capabilities.
- The missile was originally developed by the Dallas-headquartered Texas Instruments but is now produced by the major American defense contractor Raytheon Corporation.

EVERYDAY GLOBAL

WHAT IS AGM-88 HARM, THE NEW US MISSILE SUPPLIED TO UKRAINE

MAN AMAN SINGH CHHINA
CHANDIGARH, AUGUST 9

UNITED STATES Under Secretary of Defence for Policy Colin Kahl confirmed Monday (August 8) that Washington has supplied some "anti-radiation missiles" to Ukraine, which could be fired from some Ukrainian Air Force aircraft. The statement has put meat on Russian allegations that an American anti-radar missile, AGM-88 HARM, which is part of NATO's inventory, has been used in the theatre of conflict.

The weapon

The acronym 'HARM' in the AGM-88 HARM air-to-surface missile stands for High-Speed Anti-Radiation Missile. It is a tactical weapon fired from fighter aircraft, and has the capability to detect and home in on radiation emitted by hostile radar stations that have surface-to-air detection capabilities.

The AGM-88 HARM is 14 metres in length, but only 10 inches in diameter. It weighs around 360 kg, and carries a fragmentation-type warhead that is optimised for radar targets. It has an anti-radar homing seeker broadband RF antenna and receiver, and a solid state digital processor. The missile has a range of more than 100 km.

The missile was originally developed by the Dallas-headquartered Texas Instruments, but is now produced by the major American defence contractor Raytheon Corporation. An advanced version of the weapon is manufactured by Dulles, Virginia-based Northrop Grumman.

Several NATO aircraft in Europe – including the Tornado ECR, F-16CM Block 50, and F/A-18-EA-18G – can fire the AGM-88 HARM missiles.



The AGM-88 HARM missile. Wikimedia Commons

Use in Ukraine war

For the past several days, Russian social media users have been sharing open-source information on Telegram to the effect that remnants of the AGM-88 HARM have been found near a Russian surface-to-air missile site.

The pictures of the seeming remnants of the missile appeared to show genuine serial numbers, which were traced to AGM-88 HARM by open source intelligence analysts. The statement by the US has now confirmed these deductions.

A CNN report noted that the Russia-Ukraine war is the first in which the weapon has been confirmed to have been used by a military other than the US. The report also said that given Ukraine does not have aircraft known to be compatible with the missile, there is speculation that the missiles may have been fired by NATO aircraft secretly supporting the Ukraine military in combat roles.

Theoretically, however, it may be possible to use the AGM-88 HARM in a limited mode in a Russian-origin aircraft.

60. In August which of the following countries **withdrew from the China and Central and Eastern European countries cooperation group?**

- A. Latvia and Estonia
- B. Estonia and Taiwan
- C. Latvia and Taiwan
- D. None of the above

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Latvia and Estonia withdraw from the China and Central and Eastern European countries cooperation group.*
- *This action is a response to Western criticism of China's increasing military pressure on Taiwan.*
- *The relationship between Lithuania and China deteriorated after Lithuania let Taiwan open a de facto embassy at the end of last year.*
- *So, Lithuania also left the cooperation group in 2021.*
- *Latvia and Estonia both stated that they will continue to pursue constructive and pragmatic relations with China while maintaining the international order based on rules and human rights.*
- *Latvia: Its currency is Euro. Its capital is Riga.*
- *Estonia: Its capital is Tallinn. Its currency is Euro.*

Latvia, Estonia leave East European forum

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BEIJING, 12 AUGUST

Latvia and Estonia say they have left a Chinese-backed forum aimed at boosting relations with Eastern European countries, in what appears to be a new setback for China's increasingly assertive diplomacy.

The move follows China's boosting of its relations with Russia, whose invasion of Ukraine is seen as a possible first step in a series of moves against countries that were once part of the Soviet Union. China has refused to criticize Russia and has condemned punishing economic sanctions imposed on Moscow by the West. Weeks before the invasion, President and Communist Party leader Xi Jinping hosted Russian President Vladimir

Putin in Beijing and declared their bilateral relations had "no limits" in a joint statement.

The move also comes after Beijing launched economic and diplomatic retaliation against another Baltic state, Lithuania, in retaliation for its expanded ties with the self-governing island democracy of Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force. China's increasing assertiveness and recent threatening military exercises near Taiwan have brought a sharp backlash from the U.S., the EU, Japan, Australia and others.

"In view of the current priorities of Latvian foreign and trade policy, Latvia has decided to cease its participation in the cooperation framework of Central and Eastern European Countries and China," Latvia's Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday.

DER

61. In August _____ Country made its first official import order using cryptocurrency worth \$10 million.

- A. *Iran*
- B. *Italy*
- C. *France*
- D. *Germany*
- E. *None of the above.*

- *Iran made its first official import order using cryptocurrency this week, a move that could enable the Islamic Republic to circumvent U.S. sanctions that have crippled the economy.*
- *The order, worth \$10 million, was a first step towards allowing the country to trade through digital assets that bypass the dollar-dominated global financial system and to trade with other countries similarly limited by US sanctions, such as Russia. The agency didn't specify which cryptocurrency was used in the transaction.*
- *The United States imposes an almost total economic embargo on Iran, including a ban on all imports including those from the country's oil, banking and shipping sectors.*
- *Tehran is one of the largest economies yet to embrace cryptocurrency technology, born in 2008 as a payments tool aimed at eroding governmental control over finance and economies.*
- *The European Union on Monday said it put forward a "final" text to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal as four days of indirect talks between US and Iranian officials wrapped up in Vienna.*
- *Under the 2015 agreement, Iran curbed its nuclear program in return for relief from US, EU, and U.N. sanctions. But former US President Donald Trump reneged on the nuclear deal in 2018 and restored harsh US sanctions, prompting Tehran to start violating the agreement's nuclear limits about a year later.*
- *Central African Republic (CAR), one of the world's poorest countries, has also embraced crypto. It became the first African state to make bitcoin legal tender in April, and last month launched its digital coin.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *El Salvador last year also adopted bitcoin as legal tender, though the project has been beset by public skepticism amid tumbling crypto prices.*
- 62. Lake Garda which was seen in the news recently is the largest lake in which of the following country?**
- A. Italy
 - B. Iran
 - C. Japan
 - D. Russia
 - E. None of the above.
- *Italy's worst drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded, exposing swaths of previously underwater rocks and warming the water to temperatures that approach the average in the Caribbean Sea.*
 - *Northern Italy hasn't seen significant rainfall for months, and snowfall this year was down 70%, drying up important rivers like the Po, which flows across Italy's agricultural and industrial heartland.*

LAKE GARDA'S TEMPERATURES NEARS THE AVERAGE IN THE CARIBBEAN SEA

Italy's largest lake shrinks to near-historic low amid drought

ANDREA ROSA & LUIGI NAVARRA
SIRMIONE, AUGUST 13

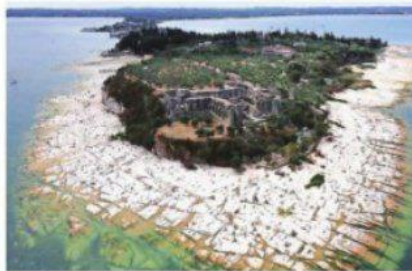
ITALY'S WORST drought in decades has reduced Lake Garda, the country's largest lake, to near its lowest level ever recorded, exposing swaths of previously underwater rocks and warming the water to temperatures that approach the average in the Caribbean Sea.

Tourists flocking to the popular northern lake Friday for the start of Italy's key summer long weekend found a vastly different landscape than in past years.

An expansive stretch of bleached rock extended far from the normal shoreline, ringing the southern Sirmione Peninsula with a yellow halo between the green hues of the water and the trees on the shore.

"We came last year, we liked it, and we came back this year," tourist Beatrice Masi said as she sat on the rocks. "We found the landscape had changed a lot. We were a bit shocked when we arrived because we had our usual walk around, and the water wasn't there."

Northern Italy hasn't seen significant rainfall for months, and snowfall this year was down



The peninsula of Sirmione on Garda lake in Italy. AP

70%, drying up important rivers like the Po, which flows across Italy's agricultural and industrial heartland. Many European countries, including Spain, Germany, Portugal, France, the Netherlands and Britain, are enduring droughts this summer that have hurt farmers and shippers and prompted authorities to restrict water use.

The parched condition of the Po, Italy's longest river, has already caused billions of euros in losses to farmers who normally rely on it to irrigate fields and rice paddies.

To compensate, authorities allowed more water from Lake

Garda to flow out to local rivers — 70 cubic meters of water per second. But in late July, they reduced the amount to protect the lake and the financially important tourism tied to it.

With 45 cubic meters (1,589 cubic feet) of water per second being diverted to rivers, the lake on Friday was 32 centimeters above the water table, near the record lows in 2003 and 2007.

Garda Mayor Davide Bedinelli said he had to protect both farmers and the tourist industry. He insisted that the summer tourist season was going better than expected, despite cancellations, mostly from

German tourists, during Italy's latest heat wave in late July.

"Drought is a fact that we have to deal with this year, but the tourist season is in no danger," Bedinelli wrote in a July 20 Facebook post.

He confirmed the lake was losing two centimeters of water a day. The lake's temperature, meanwhile, has been above average for August, according to seatemperature.org. On Friday, the Garda's water was nearly 26 degrees Celsius, several degrees warmer than the average August temperature of 22 C and nearing the Caribbean Sea's average of around 27 C. AP

- 63. Pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson (J&J) announced that it would discontinue the sale of its talc-based baby powder globally in**

- A. 2022
- B. 2023
- C. 2024
- D. 2025
- E. None of the above.

J&J set to wind up worldwide sale of talc-based baby powder

It will now make cornstarch-based product

ASSOCIATED PRESS
WASHINGTON

Johnson & Johnson is pulling baby powder containing talc worldwide next year after it did the same in the U.S. and Canada amid thousands of lawsuits claiming it caused cancer.

Talc will be replaced by cornstarch, the company said.

The company has faced litigation alleging its talcum powder caused users to develop ovarian cancer, through use for feminine hygiene, or mesothelioma, a cancer that strikes the lungs and other organs.

J&J insists, and the overwhelming majority of medical research on talc indicates, that the talc baby powder

is safe and doesn't cause cancer.

However, demand for the company's baby powder fell off, and J&J removed the talc-based product in most of North America in 2020. The company did so after it saw demand drop due to "misleading talc litigation advertising that caused global confusion and unfounded concern" about product safety, a company spokeswoman said.

J&J said the change announced late Thursday will simplify its product selection and meet evolving global trends. Last October, J&J said a subsidiary it created to manage talc litigation claims had filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Pharmaceutical giant Johnson and Johnson (J&J) announced that it would discontinue the sale of its talc-based baby powder globally in 2023.**
- **The announcement came amidst the tens of thousands of lawsuits from women who claim that the product caused them to have ovarian cancer, due to the alleged contamination of asbestos, a known carcinogen.**
- **Talc is the softest known mineral and is mined from underground deposits. Chemically, it is hydrous magnesium silicate, according to the US Food & Drug Administration (FDA), and is used in a variety of cosmetic and personal care products, like baby powder, lipstick, eyeshadow, and foundation.**
- **When reduced to a fine powder, it can absorb moisture and reduce friction which keeps the skin dry, helps prevent rashes, stops makeup from caking, and generally helps improve the feel and texture of a product.**
- **Asbestos, the name for another group of naturally occurring silicate minerals, can also be found near talc deposits.**
- **There is the potential for contamination of talc with asbestos. Asbestos has been used in construction and manufacturing and is known to cause lung cancer, ovarian cancer, mesothelioma, and other health conditions.**

64. In August _____ become the first country to give a green light to a variant adapted shot that targets both the original and Omicron version of the virus.

- A. UK
- B. India
- C. Mexico
- D. Japan
- E. None of the above.

- **The UK has become the first country to give a green light to a variant adapted shot that targets both the original and Omicron version of the virus.**
- **The UK medicines regulator (MHRA) gave the so-called bivalent vaccine made by US drug company Moderna conditional approval as a booster for adults.**
- **UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) backed the use of the variant-adapted shot in the country's booster campaign starting in September.**
- **The MHRA's Moderna decision was based on clinical trial data that showed the booster triggered "a strong immune response" against both Omicron (BA.1) and the original virus.**

U.K. authorises Moderna's Omicron-specific booster

All adults over 50 would be offered the vaccine dose

SRIRAM LAKSHMAN
LONDON

British health authorities on Monday authorised the use of Moderna's Omicron variant-specific COVID-19 vaccine booster for adults, the first country to do so. The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) granted conditional approval to Moderna's bivalent vaccine, Spikevax, which combines mRNA sequences that code for the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein from both the original and the Omicron BA.1 variant.

The U.K. government had, in July, said all adults



'Vaccine potent against both original strain of virus and the BA.1 variant.' •REUTERS

over 50 would be offered a COVID-19 vaccine booster dose (no vaccine was specified) in the autumn.

The vaccine provided a "strong immune response" against the original strain of the virus as well as the BA.1 strain, MHRA Chief Executive June Raine said in a statement.

"Like all medicines, the

vaccine can cause side effects, although not everybody gets them," said a patient information sheet on Spikevax, published by the U.K. government. Included in the possible side effects are an increased risk of myocarditis/pericarditis (inflammation of the heart muscle/pericardium, the lining around the heart).

A few cases of capillary leak syndrome (CLS), i.e., the leakage of fluid from small blood vessels, have also been reported.

"We have in place a comprehensive safety surveillance strategy for monitoring the safety of all U.K.-approved COVID-19 vaccines and this will include the vaccine approved today," Ms. Raine said.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Moderna in June said trial data showed that when given as a fourth dose, the variant-adapted shot raised virus-neutralizing antibodies by eight-fold against Omicron.
- The MHRA also cited an exploratory analysis in which the shot was found to generate a "good immune response" against the currently dominant Omicron offshoots BA.4 and BA.5.
- Moderna, which signed a 1 billion pound (\$1.2 billion) deal with the British government to build the country's first mRNA vaccine facility earlier this year, expected further approvals for the adapted vaccine in Australia, Canada, and the EU in the coming weeks.

65. According to the United Nations' "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022," the total global number of unemployed youths should fall to _____ million in 2022.
- 50 million
 - 73 million
 - 91 million
 - 62 million
 - None of the above.

- The total global number of unemployed youths should fall to 73 million in 2022, down by two million from the year before, the United Nations said.
- Their 300-page "Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022" update on key youth labor market indicators and trends said the pandemic exacerbated the market challenges generally facing young people.
- The report said that 27.4 percent of young women were projected to be in work in 2022, compared to 40.3 percent of young men.
- The global youth unemployment rate is projected to be 14.9 percent in 2022. The report highlighted the differences in youth unemployment between the regions.

Recovery in youth employment continues to lag worldwide: ILO

Although the number of unemployed young people worldwide fell from 75 mn in 2021 to 73 mn in 2022, it is 6 mn more than pre-pandemic levels

SHIVA RAJORA
New Delhi, 12 August

The unemployment rate for 15- to 24-year-olds stands at 15.6 per cent worldwide, which is three times more than the adult unemployment rate, notes the Global Employment Trends for Youth 2022 report, released by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on Thursday. The report is part of a Global Call to Action for a "human-centred recovery from the Covid-19 crisis", which was adopted by the ILO in June 2021.

The number of unemployed young people worldwide fell from 75 million in 2021 to 73 million in 2022 — which is still six million more than the pre-pandemic levels. The report highlights significant regional variations in the youth unemployment rate in 2022.

The report notes that though the rate is 12.7 per cent in Africa, well below the global average of 14.9 per cent, this only highlights that many young people have chosen to withdraw from labour markets altogether. Similar discouraged dropouts have been noted by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) and Employee Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) in their reports on India earlier this year.

The CMIE report noted that India's Labour Force Participation Rate (LPR) fell to 38.8 per cent in June 2022, implying that people have altogether given up on finding employment. Similarly, the share of the 18-21 age group in the net EPF accounts created fell from 37.9 per cent in 2018-19 to 24.1 per cent in 2021-22, implying heightened challenges for the young in gaining employment.

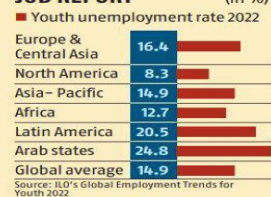
Rise in NEET rate

The exacerbated labour market challenges faced by the young are further amplified by the share of the youth "not in employment, education or training" (NEET) rising to 23.3 per cent — an increase of 1.5 per cent from 2019. This group of young people (around 280 million) is at a particular risk of seeing their labour market further deteriorate since this is a level not seen in the last 15 years.

Economists generally take the NEET rate as a better indicator of the employment



JOB REPORT (In %)



situation, as a declining NEET rate implies further investment by people in their education and training. However, the education being mostly online or distance, and falling family incomes during the pandemic, meant that youth had to give up their education and training as well, thus making it difficult for them to search for new jobs with employers hesitant to invest in the relatively young and inexperienced workforce.

In India, the report added that school closures lasted 18 months, and among the 240 million school-going children, only 8 per cent in rural and 23 per cent in urban areas had adequate access to online education. Due to this, 92 per cent of children on average lost at least one foundational ability in language and 82 per cent lost at least one foundational ability in mathematics, thus

driving up the NEET rate globally.

Employment to population ratio

The report highlights the profound gender gap in the employment to population ratio (EPR) across the globe. While the EPR for men stands at 40.3 per cent, it is 27.4 per cent for women. The gap is highest at 17.3 per cent in lower- and middle-income countries as compared to 2.3 per cent in high-income countries.

It adds that India has a very low youth female labour market participation, and the country's young women experienced larger relative employment losses than young men in 2021 and 2022. Earlier, CMIE had noted that the lower EPR is due to the low Female LPR, which was just 9.2 per cent in 2021-22, compared to 15 per cent in 2016-17.

The report also highlights the 'blind spots' in the policy response to the young people during the pandemic and notes that these support programmes were sporadic. It calls for new investments in strategic sectors and economic areas with growing social demand, such as the green, blue, digital, creative and care economies.

The report mentions that investment in these new technologies would raise global GDP by 4.2 per cent and create an additional 139 million jobs worldwide for all age groups, out of which 32 million would be for young people. Investment in these sectors must be accompanied by the promotion of decent working conditions for all young workers, the report notes.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Arab states have the highest and fastest-growing unemployment rate of young people worldwide at 24.8 percent -- a figure that hits 42.5 percent for young women in the region.

66. In August India with _____ hold 4th Defence Dialogue to strengthen defence cooperation and also elevate military engagements.
- Australia
 - Bangladesh**
 - Japan
 - Maldives
 - None of the above.

- India and Bangladesh held Defence Dialogue here agreeing to strengthen defense cooperation and also elevate military engagements.
- This was the 4th India-Bangladesh Annual Defence Dialogue, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar and Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman.
- Both sides emphasized the need to work closely to implement the USD 500 million line of credit extended by India for defense items.
- The two sides reviewed the progress on various bilateral defense cooperation initiatives and expressed commitment to further elevate engagements between the Armed Forces.

India, Bangladesh agree to reinforce military exercises

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 11

The fourth India-Bangladesh annual defence dialogue, co-chaired by Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar and Lt Gen Waker-Uz-Zaman, Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh, was held here today.

The two sides agreed upon widening the scope of military bilateral exercises and raising their complexity, a statement by the Ministry of Defence said. Both sides emphasised the need to work closely to implement the USD 500 million line of credit extended from India for defence items, the statement said.

Various aspects of defence, industrial and capability-



Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar with Principal Staff Officer of Armed Forces Division of Bangladesh Lieutenant General Waker-Uz-Zaman. PTI

building cooperation came up for detailed discussions. Both sides reviewed the progress of various bilateral defence cooperation initiatives and expressed commitment to elevate engagements between

the armed forces. Kumar invited the delegation for the upcoming Def Expo 2022 and said both countries had a great potential for cooperation in defence trade, co-development and joint production. — TNS

Banking / Economy News

67. Recently in August Kotak Mahindra Bank Limited announced the launch of _____ a lifestyle-focused corporate salary account, offering an upgraded banking experience to new-age professionals working with eminent corporates.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A. Kotak Cherry
- B. Kotak Blossoms
- C. Kotak Creme**
- D. Kotak Plus
- E. None of the above.

- **Kotak Mahindra Bank announced the launch of Kotak Crème – a lifestyle-focused corporate salary account. With Kotak Bank’s flagship premium banking program, Privy League at the core of its design.**
- **Kotak Crème offers an upgraded banking experience to new-age professionals working with eminent corporates including MNCs, Consulting Firms, Law Firms, Non Retail FIs and Unicorn companies, among others.**
- **Most importantly, each Kotak Crème account will offer premium rewards and banking experiences to each employee of the partner corporate-whatever their position or designation in the organization.**
- **Kotak Crème is being launched in Bangalore owing to the city’s diverse hotbed of talent and corporates. In this digital revolution, the city is home to the highest number of unicorns in the country and has also seen an increase of 10% in overall hiring trends in the recent past. Kotak Crème will be available to corporates pan India.**

68. In August _____ has become the first big tech company to join Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), an Indian government-backed platform created to provide a level playing field to all e-commerce companies.

- A. Microsoft**
- B. Amazon
- C. Meta
- D. Apple
- E. None of the above.

- **ONDC (OPEN Network of digital commerce), which is developing a first-of-its-kind open network for digital commerce, said US tech giant Microsoft has onboarded its platform.**
- **Microsoft intends to introduce social e-commerce – a group buying experience – in the Indian market.**
- **Microsoft, among the three largest tech companies, is the first in its league to announce onboarding efforts with ONDC.**
- **This year, it plans to launch a shopping app for Indian consumers along with their social circle,**

Microsoft gives ONDC its first Big Tech push

Network may open to Bengaluru public later this month

SHARLEEN D'SOUZA & SHIVANI SHINDE
Mumbai, 9 August

Microsoft has become the first global Big Tech company to join the Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC), an Indian government initiative for developing a first-of-its-kind open network for digital commerce. The world's second-largest technology firm intends to introduce social e-commerce via its app in the Indian market later this year.

ONDC is expected to open to the public in Bengaluru over the next fortnight as it enters into the next phase of the pilot for further fine-tuning before rollouts in other cities, according to a source in the know. ONDC already has a large number of merchants from the city on the platform. While announcing its ONDC onboarding efforts, Microsoft said it plans to launch a shopping app for Indian consumers, along with their social circle, harnessing the open network to discover the best pricing among retailers and sellers.

"The Indian e-commerce industry has tremendous growth potential in the next decade. Initiatives like ONDC can be a game-changer amid this boom. Their UPI-like network for digital commerce is a win-win for both buyers and sellers, as it will enable them to connect without dependency on any e-commerce solution. We are delighted to collaborate with ONDC and can't wait to witness this journey unfold as we plan to introduce a new



EXPANDING NETWORK

- ▶ **9 platforms** have onboarded ONDC
- ▶ **₹7.5 trillion** targeted annual gross merchandise value (GMV) of digital transactions over the next 5 years. It is ₹4.5 trillion currently
- ▶ **2 million** retailers on digital commerce platforms in the next five years. Currently, there are 15,000.
- ▶ **250 million** e-commerce users over the above-mentioned period, from 90 million now

consumer app experience in the social commerce space," a Microsoft spokesperson said. The US-based tech giant is still in the process of integrating with the network.

The government-backed network is currently in the pilot phase in 36 cities across the country and has already onboarded nine platforms and is in an advanced stage of devel-

opment of adding another 17. ONDC also has garnered interest from various other platforms, which including telecom majors and banks, according to a source in the know. The network first began its pilot on April 29 in Delhi, Bengaluru, Coimbatore, Bhopal and Shillong and is in the process of adding more cities before a nationwide launch.

Turn to Page 7 ▶

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

harnessing the ONDC network to discover the best pricing among retailers and sellers.

- *ONDC was launched earlier this year by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), to create an inclusive e-commerce market and enable all kinds of sellers and buyers to leverage digitization of commerce through its network.*

69. In August _____ partnered with the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) to provide a vibrant medium to train and empower 5000 Jammu and Kashmir youth in Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Sector.

- A. **State Bank Of India**
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Axis Bank
- E. None of the above.

- *Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday appreciated the efforts of Mission Youth, Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), and State Bank of India (SBI) for coming together to provide a vibrant medium to train and empower 5000 Jammu and Kashmir youth in Banking, Financial Services, and Insurance (BFSI) Sector.*
- *Launching the second phase of the Skill Development Training Program for women and youth in BFSI Sector, at SKICC, the Lieutenant Governor said that in the second phase, 5000 youth from the Union Territory will be trained to tap the employment avenues in the flourishing Banking and Financial Services sector. Emphasizing on equal participation of girls in the BFSI training program, the Lt Governor asked the Mission Youth and BSE to ensure that 2500 young girls from the UT are enrolled in the training.*
- *Some customized livelihood generation schemes including Mumkin, Tejaswini, Spurring Entrepreneurship, Rise Together, Avsar, Re-defining Paradise and Home Stay Development have already been designed for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir wherein the government is acting as a facilitator for the youth to establish a sustainable livelihood in various economic sector.*

70. In August _____ announced to organize its first hackathon -- Bima Manthan 2022 -- with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'.

- A. **IRDAI**
- B. NABARD
- C. SEBI
- D. SIDBI
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Insurance regulator IRDAI has invited entities to develop technology-driven innovative solutions for automated death claim settlement, curtail miss-selling, and other areas of the insurance ecosystem, to protect the interest of policyholders.
- Applications have been invited by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as part of its first hackathon - Bima Manthan 2022 -- with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'.
- IRDAI has sought innovative ideas/solutions for automated death claim settlement using technology and tech-based solution to curtail the miss-selling of insurance products.
- Fraud mitigation/ prevention in motor insurance by using technology is another area identified for Bima Manthan 2022.
- IRDAI said the participants of Bima Manthan 2022 will get an opportunity to exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes.
- Bima Manthan also provides an opportunity to the winner for direct entry into the IRDAI Regulatory Sandbox regime; demo-day in front of insurers/intermediaries and other stakeholders; or collaboration with the insurer(s) on the winning project/platform.

IRDAI organises hackathon, invites innovative solutions for insurance

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

Insurance regulator IRDAI has invited entities to develop technology-driven innovative solutions for automated death claim settlement, curtail miss-selling, and other areas of the insurance ecosystem, with an aim to protect the interest of policyholders.

Applications have been invited by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) as part of its first hackathon -- Bima Manthan 2022 -- with the theme 'Innovation in Insurance'.

"The hackathon invites participants to identify and develop solutions that have the potential to make the insurance available to every individual in a seamless and swift manner with the use of technology and protecting the interests of the policyholders," the regulator said in a state-

ment.

IRDAI has sought innovative ideas/solutions for automated death claim settlement using technology and tech-based solution to curtail miss-selling of insurance products.

The regulator is also looking for technology-enabled solutions to identify uninsured motor vehicles and ensure issuance of mandatory motor third party insurance, and technology-based distribution of insurance products, including micro insurance in "difficult terrains and less penetrable areas".

Fraud mitigation/ prevention in motor insurance by using technology is another area identified for Bima Manthan 2022.

IRDAI said the participants of Bima Manthan 2022 will get an opportunity to exhibit their innovative solutions before an eminent jury and win exciting prizes.

71. In August _____ announced the launch of the **Tiranga Deposit Scheme**, a special term deposit product offering higher interest rates.

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. State Bank of India
- C. Punjab National Bank
- D. Axis Bank
- E. None of the above.

Bank of Baroda launches Baroda Tiranga Deposits

Mumbai, Aug 16 (UNI) Public sector lender Bank of Baroda (BoB) on Tuesday announced the launch of the Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme, a special term deposit product offering higher interest rates.

The Baroda Tiranga Deposits are available in two tenor buckets – offering interest rates of 5.75 pc p.a. for 444 days and 6.00 pc p.a. for 555 days.

The scheme opens on August 16 up till December 31, 2022 and is applicable on retail deposits below Rs 2 crore.

Further, senior citizens will earn an additional interest rate of 0.5 pc p.a., while Non-Callable Deposits will get 0.15 pc p.a. extra.

Shri Ajay K. Khurana, Executive Director, Bank of Baroda said, "As India marks 75 years of independence, we are delighted to give consumers one more reason to celebrate. The Baroda Tiranga Deposit Scheme offers a higher rate of interest and the flexibility to choose from two tenures, backed by one of India's leading and most trusted banks."

Bank of Baroda customers can use bob World to open an online FD through Mobile.

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- Bank of Baroda customers can use bob World to open an online FD through Mobile.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

72. In August Paytm partnered with _____ to facilitate smart payments as well as Paytm Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later) at their retail outlets through the deployment of PoS devices.

- A. Apple
- B. Flipkart
- C. Samsung
- D. Reliance Jio
- E. None of the above.

- **Leading digital payments and financial services, Paytm has partnered with Samsung authorized stores across India to facilitate smart payments as well as Paytm Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later) at their retail outlets through the deployment of PoS devices.**
- **With this partnership, Paytm will enable consumers to make digital payments seamlessly at Samsung Authorized store: spread across the country.**
- **Now, consumers purchasing Samsung devices from laptops, and smartphones to television sets, smart watches, refrigerators, and more - from any authorized store in the country will be able to pay via a host of flexible payment options offered by Paytm including- Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid and also all major debit cards, credit cards, and prepaid cards.**
- **Consumers can easily opt for Paytm Postpaid, which is offered in association with financial partners, and get a monthly credit limit of up to Rs 60,000.**
- **In addition to Paytm Postpaid, consumers can opt for low-cost personal loans up to Rs 2 lakh - offered by Paytm's financial institution partners - to purchase goods.**

Paytm partners with Samsung stores

Mumbai, Aug 16 (UNI) Leading digital payments and financial services, Paytm has partnered with Samsung authorized stores across India to facilitate smart payments as well as Paytm Postpaid (Buy Now, Pay Later) at their retail outlets through deployment of PoS devices. With this partnership, Paytm will enable consumers to make digital payments seamlessly at Samsung Authorized stores spread across the country.

Now, consumers purchasing Samsung devices from laptops, smartphones to television sets, smart watches, refrigerators and more - from any authorized store in the country will be able to pay via a host of flexible payment options offered by Paytm including- Paytm UPI, Paytm Wallet, Paytm Postpaid and also all major debit cards, credit cards and prepaid cards.

The option to pay using Paytm Postpaid or 'Buy now, pay later' through PoS devices deployed at Samsung stores will be hugely beneficial to consumers, allowing them to purchase products without having to worry about budget. Consumers can easily opt for Paytm Postpaid, which is offered in association with financial partners, and get a monthly credit limit of up to Rs 60,000. They can use this credit for buying products at authorized stores and repay through flexible EMIs at low interest rates. In addition to Paytm Postpaid, consumers can opt for low-cost personal loans up to Rs 2 lakh - offered by Paytm's financial institution partners - to purchase goods. To bring further convenience to consumers, Paytm will also offer No Cost EMI options along with attractive offers for payments made through Paytm PoS devices. The company's PoS

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

73. India's Wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to _____ percent in July 2022 from 15.18 percent in June.

- A. 13.93 %
- B. 13.52 %
- C. 12.56 %
- D. 13.69 %
- E. None of the above.

India's wholesale inflation dips to 13.93pc in July from June's 15.18pc



New Delhi, Aug 16 (UNI) India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to 13.93 per cent in July 2022 from 15.18 per cent in the previous month, data from the Commerce & Industry Ministry showed on Tuesday.

Even as wholesale inflation has eased it remains elevated and in double-digit for the last 16 months.

"Inflation in July, 2022 is primarily contributed by rise in prices of mineral oils, food articles, crude petroleum & natural gas, basic metals, electricity, chemicals & chemical products, food products etc. as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year," said the official release.

- India's wholesale price index (WPI)-based inflation eased to 13.93 percent in July 2022 from 15.18 percent in the previous month, data from the Commerce & Industry Ministry showed.
- Even as wholesale inflation has eased it remains elevated and in double-digit for the last 16 months.
- Last week, data released by the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) showed retail inflation had dipped to a five-month low of 6.71 percent in July providing much-needed respite to policy-makers who have been concerned about the spike in prices, especially of food and fuel.

74. In August _____ has been honored with the "Best CEO of the Year Award" by the Indian Achiever's Forum.

- A. Anshu Jain
- B. Amitabh Choudhary
- C. Shiv Shankar Singh
- D. Dinesh Khara
- E. None of the above.

Shiv Shankar Singh of Gramin Vikas Trust gets Best CEO of Year Award

Singh has also extended his expertise in managing various projects toward socio-economic development and environmental sustainability.



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Shiv Shankar Singh.

By Express News Service

NEW DELHI: Shiv Shankar Singh, CEO of Gramin Vikas Trust (established by KRIBHCO of GoI) has been honoured with the "Best CEO of the Year Award" by the Indian Achiever's Forum.

He was selected among a few from their respective fields and sectors for outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the Indian economy and society.

Singh was virtually awarded on August 10. He started his career as a research associate at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology in 1993. In 1995, he joined the National Tree Grower Cooperative Federation of the National Dairy Development Board in Rajasthan, where he was also facilitated the process of wasteland management by organising and strengthening tree grower cooperative societies.

In 2001, Singh was leading the team at the Foundation for Ecological Security (FES), Rajasthan, towards the conservation and restoration of land, water and

- Shiv Shankar Singh, CEO of Gramin Vikas Trust (established by KRIBHCO of GoI) has been honored with the "Best CEO of the Year Award" by the Indian Achiever's Forum.
- He was selected among a few from their respective fields and sectors for outstanding contributions to the progress and development of the Indian economy and society.
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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Indian Achievers Forum is an apex body that promotes and encourages commendable achievements from all over the country.*

75. Recently in August, The Reserve Bank of _____ country with the *Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC)* announced that it would launch a year-long pilot project to examine the potential economic benefits of the digital currency.

- A. Japan
- B. Zimbabwe
- C. **Australia**
- D. Bangladesh
- E. None of the above.

- *The Reserve Bank of Australia (RBA) announced that it would launch a year-long pilot project to examine the potential economic benefits of the digital currency.*
- *The Reserve Bank of Australia will join hands with the Digital Finance Cooperative Research Centre (DFCRC) for the project.*
- *The result of the pilot project will determine the probability of CBDC in Australia.*
- *As per the IMF, around 100 countries are planning to launch central bank digital currency (CBDC).*
- *CBDC will help in faster and cheaper transactions, promote financial inclusion and provide flexibility to central banks in determining monetary policy.*
- *CBDC is different from digital tokens like Bitcoin as it is controlled by a central authority.*
- *India is expected to launch CBDC or the digital rupee in the financial year 2022-23.*
- *CBDC is Central Bank Digital Currency, which is backed by the central bank of the concerned nation.*

76. In August State-owned NBCC Ltd signed an agreement with the External Affairs Ministry to redevelop a housing complex in central Delhi for _____ crores.

- A. Rs 200 Cr
- B. **Rs 175 Cr**
- C. Rs 250 Cr
- D. Rs 300 Cr
- E. None of the above.

- *State-owned NBCC Ltd on Wednesday said it has signed an agreement with the External Affairs Ministry to redevelop a housing complex in central Delhi for Rs 175 crore.*
- *The tentative cost of the project is Rs 175 crore, according to a regulatory filing.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- NBCC has signed another MoU with Aligarh Smart City Ltd for providing ‘PMC (Project Management and Consultancy) services for the project ‘Development & Modernisation of Infrastructure at Naurangilal College, SH: Sports facilities. The estimated cost is around Rs 50 crore.
 - It has also signed MoU with the National Cooperative Union of India (NCUI) for ‘Demolition and construction of NCCE Hostel building at NCUI complex’. The tentative cost for this project is Rs 33 crore.
 - In a separate filing, NBCC said it has secured a total business of Rs 83.12 crore in July 2022.
77. In August **Regional rural banks (RRBs) and their sponsors decided to set up a working group under _____ to firm up a road map to undertake a massive technological upgrade at RRBs.**
- A. KV Kamath
 - B. KV Subramanian
 - C. Shreenath H Joshi**
 - D. Jayant Prakash Dash
 - E. None of the above.
- **Regional rural banks (RRBs) and their sponsors have decided to set up a working group under Karnataka Gramin Bank chairman Shreenath H Joshi to firm up a road map to undertake a massive technological upgrade at RRBs and bring them on a par with commercial lenders on this front.**
 - **Amitabh Banarjee, chairman of Aryvart Bank, will be the “alternate chairman” of the group. It will also have a senior representative from Nabard, which is a supervisory authority of RRBs.**
 - **The move comes after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, at a meeting with chiefs of various public sector banks and RRBs last month, asked sponsor banks to “formulate a clear road map in a time-bound manner to further strengthen the RRBs and support the post-pandemic economic recovery.**
 - **The working group will comprise senior representations (general manager level) from sponsor banks, heads of select RRBs, and those heading IT operations at some of them.**
 - **According to RBI data, RRBs remained unprofitable for nearly two decades since their inception in 1975, thanks to limited operational flexibility, the inadequate scope**

RRB sponsor banks form panel for tech upgrade

BANIKINKAR PATTANAYAK
New Delhi, August 14

REGIONAL RURAL BANKS (RRBs) and their sponsors have decided to set up a working group under Karnataka Gramin Bank chairman Shreenath H Joshi to firm up a road map to undertake a massive technological upgrade at RRBs and bring them on a par with commercial lenders on this front, official and banking sources told FE.

Amitabh Banarjee, chairman of Aryvart Bank, will be the “alternate chairman” of the group. It will also have a senior representative from Nabard, a supervisory authority of RRBs, one of the sources said.

The move comes after finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman, at a meeting with chiefs of various public sector banks and RRBs last month, asked sponsor banks to “formulate a clear road map in a time-bound manner to further strengthen the RRBs and support the post-pandemic economic recovery”, given their crucial role in boosting credit flow in rural India. The Indian Banks Association was impressed upon to take the initiative to

FACELIFT PLAN

- The aim is to carry out a massive upgrade and bring RRBs on a par with commercial lenders
- The FM has called for a clear road map in a time-bound manner to strengthen RRBs
- The working group will include senior representations from sponsor banks, heads of select RRBs

ensure technological advancements at RRBs, which is a key prerequisite to modernising them.

The working group will comprise senior representations (general manager level) from sponsor banks, heads of select RRBs and those heading IT operations at some of them.

According to RBI data, RRBs remained unprofitable for nearly two decades since their inception in 1975, thanks to limited operational flexibility,

inadequate scope for expansion or diversification and small ticket but high-risk lending profiles. In 1994-95, the government started reforms which, coupled with capital infusion, helped them turn profitable. However, at the end of March 2005, about 42% of the RRBs still carried legacy losses.

To improve their operational viability and to take advantage of economies of scale, the government initiated a consolidation programme in 2005-06. In the first phase, RRBs belonging to the same sponsor bank within a state were amalgamated. After three phases of amalgamation (the latest one was in 2018-19), the number of RRBs which had sponsors dropped from 196 in 2005 to 43 at the end of March 2021, while the number of standalone RRBs that have never undergone any amalgamation stood at nine.

RRBs, historically, have had a higher gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio than commercial banks. As of March 2021, while the GNPA ratio of commercial banks hit 7.3% of their advances, that of RRBs was 9.4%, showed RBI data.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

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- RRBs, historically, have witnessed a higher gross non-performing assets (GNPA) ratio than commercial banks. As of March 2021, while the GNPA ratio of commercial banks hit 7.3% of their advances, that of RRBs was 9.4%, showed RBI data.

78. Consider the following statement regarding **digital banking units (DBUs)**.

1. **Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget announcement to set up these units in 75 districts to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence.**
2. **State Bank of India will set up the highest number of DBUs (12), followed by Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India (8 each), and Bank of Baroda (7).**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **State Bank of India will set up the highest number of DBUs (12), followed by Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India (8 each), Bank of Baroda (7), Canara Bank (6), and India Bank (3)** Among private lenders, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank will establish three DBUs each and HDFC Bank two DBUs, according to the IBA.
- **The move is in sync with finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman's latest Budget announcement to set up these units in 75 districts to commemorate the 75 years of India's independence.**
- **DBUs will be treated as banking outlets and each unit needs to be housed distinctly, with separate entry and exit provisions, the IBA said. Each DBU has to offer certain minimum digital banking products and services, both on the asset (loan) and liabilities (deposits) side.**
- **A panel for the establishment of the DBUs was set up under Ajay Kumar Choudhary, executive director of, the fintech department of the RBI, with the representation of senior officials from the central bank, and select banks, and IBA. A working group under IBA chief executive Sunil Mehta and select banks were constituted to assist the committee.**

Digital banking units may feature in PM speech

BANKS SETTING UP 75 digital banking units (DBUs), proposed in the Budget for FY23, and the government's focus on financial inclusion may feature in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's speech marking the country's 75th year of Independence on Monday. He may formally inaugurate the DBUs as well, according to sources.

The PM may highlight the government's efforts to win the war against Covid and the economy's resilience in the face of strong external headwinds.

All state-run banks, 10 private sector banks and one small finance bank have completed work to operationalise the 75 DBUs. They were given a target to do so by the end of July. The idea was to ensure benefits of digital banking reach every nook and corner of the country.

SBI will set up the maximum number of DBUs (12), followed by Punjab National Bank and Union Bank of India (8 each), Bank of Baroda (7), Canara Bank (6) and India Bank (3). Among private lenders, ICICI Bank and Axis Bank will establish three DBUs each and HDFC Bank 2 DBUs.

FE BUREAU

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

79. In August **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** approved the acquisition of _____ stake in **IIFL Home** indirectly by **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**.

- A. 15 %
- B. 20 %**
- C. 25 %
- D. 30 %
- E. None of the above.

- **The Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has approved the acquisition of a stake in **IIFL Home** indirectly by **Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA)**.
- The proposed transaction relates to the acquisition of up to a 20 percent stake in **IIFL Home Finance** by **Platinum Owl C 2018 RSC Ltd**, a trustee acting for **Platinum Jasmine Trust**.
- **ADIA** is the sole beneficiary and settlor of the **Platinum Jasmine Trust**.
- In June, **IIFL Home Finance**, a subsidiary of **IIFL Finance Ltd**, had entered into definitive agreements for raising **Rs 2,200 crore** of primary capital for a 20 percent stake from a wholly-owned subsidiary of **ADIA**.
- **IIFL Home** is a housing finance company and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of **IIFL Finance Limited**.

80. In August _____ has become the first Indian company to be named in the **2022 Forbes Cloud 100 List**, the definitive ranking of the top 100 private cloud companies in the world.

- A. **Paytm**
- B. Razorpay**
- C. **Flipkart**
- D. **Phone Pe**
- E. None of the above.

RANK ^	COMPANY	CEO	HEADQUARTERS	EMPLOYEES	VALUATION	WHAT IT DOES
1.	Stripe	Patrick Collison	Dublin, Ireland; San Francisco, California, United States	8,000	\$95 B	Economic infrastructure
2.	Databricks	Ali Ghodsi	San Francisco, California, United States	4,000	\$38 B	Data and AI platform
3.	Canva	Melanie Perkins	Sydney, Australia	3,100	\$40 B	Visual communication platform

- **Razorpay**, India's leading full-stack Payments and Banking Platform for Businesses have become the first Indian company to be named in the **2022 Forbes Cloud 100 List**, the definitive ranking of the top 100 private cloud companies in the world.
- Published for the seventh time by **Forbes** in partnership with **Bessemer Venture Partners** and **Salesforce Ventures**, **Razorpay** has entered the list for the second time, being listed at the **#49th** position for being a **Financial Solutions Software** (last year **Razorpay** ranked 57th).
- This places **Razorpay** amongst world leaders such as **Canva**, **DataBricks**, and **Airtable**, to name a few.
- The **Cloud 100** list recognizes standouts in the technology category from small startups to private-equity-backed giants.
- The evaluation process involved four factors: estimated valuation (30 percent), operating metrics (20 percent), people and culture (15 percent), and market leadership (35 percent), which the judging panel then weighed to select, score and rank the winners.
- **Razorpay** recently received the **Payment Aggregator license** from the **Reserve Bank of India**, making it one of the first few companies to receive the same.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- CEO: Harshil Mathur (May 2014–), Founded: 2013.

81. In August _____ is to become the **fifth state to implement the Model Tenancy Act (MTA)** which was approved by the Union cabinet in June 2020.

- A. Uttar Pradesh
- B. Madhya Pradesh**
- C. Jharkhand
- D. Odisha
- E. None of the above.

- **Madhya Pradesh is preparing to become the fifth state to implement the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) which was approved by the Union cabinet in June 2020.**
- **The process to implement the tenancy laws has been initiated and a draft has been prepared by the urban development department of the Madhya Pradesh government. The state government has recently sought public suggestions regarding the implementation of this law and this proposal is likely to be put before the cabinet soon.**
- **There are many important aspects of this act, the most important of which is that the mutual agreement between the landlord and the tenant will now become a right. This agreement shall be within the legal framework.**
- **At present, such agreements are done on nominal stamp paper and they do not remain in any legal framework. After the MTA system is introduced, the tenant will not be able to occupy the house illegally.**
- **Notably, over a year since the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry circulated the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) in June 2021, only four states have so far revised their tenancy laws.**
- **Earlier in July, Union Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Kaushal Kishore replying to a query in the Rajya Sabha said, As per information available with MoHUA, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, and Assam have revised Tenancy Acts on the lines of MTA.**

MP set to become fifth state to implement Model Tenancy Act

SNS & AGENCIES
BHOPAL, 14 AUGUST

Madhya Pradesh is preparing to become the fifth state to implement the Model Tenancy Act (MTA) which was approved by the Union cabinet in June 2020.

The process to implement the tenancy laws has been initiated and a draft has been prepared by the urban development department of the Madhya Pradesh government. The state government has recently sought public suggestions regarding the implementation of this law and this proposal is likely to be put before the cabinet soon.

Sources claimed that once the proposal gets approval

from the cabinet, it can be introduced in the Monsoon Session of the Assembly. The Monsoon Session is scheduled in September.

Officials who are associated with this development said the state has prepared the Madhya Pradesh Tenancy Act on the basis of the Model Tenancy Act, 2021 of the Centre. The officials said the intention of the government is that the tenancy market should grow and should be regulated by proper norms.

"There are many important aspects of this act, the most important of which is that the mutual agreement between the landlord and the tenant will now become a right. This agreement shall be within

the legal framework," said an official in the urban housing department.

At present, such agreements are done on nominal stamp paper and they do not remain in any legal framework.

After the MTA system is introduced, the tenant will not be able to occupy the house illegally. If someone wants to rent a house for living, then he will have to give two months advance payment and if he wants to take the place for business then he will have to give six months advance payment.

Similarly, the owner of the building will have to appeal to the competent authority to vacate the premises before the expiry of the contract.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

82. In August _____ has partnered with TreasuryTech solutions provider IBSFINtech in a move to explore untapped opportunities in corporate finance.

- A. Yes Bank
B. RBL Bank
C. Axis Bank
D. HDFC Bank
E. None of the above.

- Yes, Bank has partnered with TreasuryTech solutions provider IBSFINtech in a move to explore untapped opportunities in corporate finance.
• IBSFINtech will provide the partnership with a technology framework while Yes Bank will provide a banking infrastructure and leadership in the corporate digital solutions space. This in turn helps a corporate's ERP and a bank's solution.
• The partnership will help the corporate treasury ecosystem with robust decision-making and automated workflows powered by seamless bank connectivity.
• The collaboration will enable paperless communication between Yes Bank and corporates for treasury and trade finance.

83. In August _____ became the first Indian lender to frame a policy to fund makers of lab-grown diamonds.

- A. State Bank Of India
B. RBL Bank
C. Yes Bank
D. Bank Of Baroda
E. None of the above.

- State of Bank of India (SBI) is the first Indian lender to frame a policy to fund makers of lab-grown diamonds which come across as replicas of the natural stones but are often looked at with suspicion by high-street banks and scoffed at by many traditional diamantaires.
• Reflecting the slow shift in the diamond trade, the decision by the country's largest bank comes amid some of the jewelers putting up factories in Surat to produce synthetic diamonds and many diamond houses considering relocating from the financial capital Mumbai to the southern Gujarat town, which for decades has been the hub of diamond cutters and polishers.
• To begin with (SBI's) Diamond Bourse branch in Mumbai Bandra Kurla Complex and the Commercial branch in Surat have been identified for the business.
• First produced by General Electric in the 1950s, the synthetic diamond technology - involving recreating the pressure and temperature existing in the bowels of the earth in a lab - has been honed over the years.

EMERGING BUSINESS?
In a First, State Bank Formalises Policy to Finance Makers of Lab-grown Diamonds

Move comes at a time the lobby backing man-made diamonds is becoming stronger; units coming up in Surat

Mumbai: State of Bank of India (SBI) is the first Indian lender to frame a policy to fund makers of lab-grown diamonds which come across as replicas of the natural stones, but are often looked at with suspicion by high-street banks and scoffed at by many traditional diamantaires.

Reflecting the slow shift in the diamond trade, the decision by the country's largest bank comes amid some of the jewelers putting up factories in Surat to produce synthetic diamonds and many diamond houses considering relocating from the financial capital Mumbai to the southern Gujarat town, which for decades has been the hub of diamond cutters and polishers.

To begin with (SBI's) Diamond Bourse branch in Mumbai Bandra Kurla Complex and the Commercial branch in Surat have been identified for the business.

First produced by General Electric in the 1950s, the synthetic diamond technology - involving recreating the pressure and temperature existing in the bowels of the earth in a lab - has been honed over the years.



New & Shiny Post Nitro Modi Placed many bets on diamond houses

SBI's decision to finance makers of synthetic diamonds is a move that has been honed over the years.

10/22

Interpreting, however, the central bank also allows that there have been \$1.5 billion worth of rough lab-grown diamonds from Brazil on inventory \$1.4 million in the near-zero period.

These rough stones going after all, SBI is the diamond cutting center, not India, it says.

SBI's operational guidelines for developing lab-grown diamond business include the strict "proving non-fund limits" at which diamond houses can raise credit on single basis as percentage of annual sales.

The bank is also not setting hold of audited balance-sheet of lenders which are not companies and foreign clients that are closely associated with local borrower. In a business that thrives on trust, bank must ensure diamond houses are deal with entities managed by reputable of their close-knit community like Patanjali or other health-care, which should make the trade.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

84. Consider the following statement regarding RBI rules on digital lending to protect customers.
1. The RBI mandated that digital loans must be credited directly to the bank accounts of borrowers and not through any third party.
 2. Digital lending entities and not the borrowers should pay fees or charges payable to Lending Service Providers (LSPs) in the credit intermediation process.
 3. The RBI had constituted a Working Group on 'digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile applications under the chairmanship of Jayant Kumar Dash.

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 the above.

- The RBI mandated that digital loans must be credited directly to the bank accounts of borrowers and not through any third party, as it put in place strict norms to curb rising malpractice in the digital lending space.
- Besides, the Reserve Bank of India said digital lending entities and not the borrowers should pay fees or charges payable to Lending Service Providers (LSPs) in the credit intermediation process.
- The RBI had constituted a Working Group on 'digital lending. including lending through online platforms and mobile applications (WGDL) on January 13, 2021, under the chairmanship of Jayant Kumar Dash.
- It further said regulatory framework to support orderly growth of credit delivery through digital lending methods while mitigating the regulatory concerns has been firmed up.
- The Reserve Bank's framework is focused on the digital lending ecosystem of RBI's Regulated Entities (REs) and the LSPs engaged by them to extend various permissible credit facilitation services.
- Also, any fees, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower, it added.
- It further said a standardized Key Fact Statement (KFS) must be provided to the borrower before executing the loan contract.
- This has been mandated to be followed by REs, their LSPs, and Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) of REs, among others.
- If any complaint lodged by the borrower is not resolved by the RE within the stipulated period (currently 30 days), he/she can complain to the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

Digital loans must be credited directly in bank accounts: RBI

Mumbai: The RBI on Wednesday mandated that digital loans must be credited directly in the bank accounts of borrowers and not through any third party, as it put in place strict norms to curb rising malpractice in digital lending space.

Besides, the Reserve Bank of India said digital lending entities and not the borrowers should pay fees or charges payable to Lending Service Providers (LSPs) in the credit intermediation process.

Issuing a detailed set of guidelines for digital lending, the RBI mentioned about the concerns primarily related to unbridled engagement of third parties, mis-selling, breach of data privacy, unfair business conduct, charging of exorbitant interest rates, and unethical recovery practices.

The RBI had constituted a Working Group on 'digital lending including lending through online platforms and mobile applications' (WGDL) on January 13, 2021.

It further said regulatory framework to support orderly growth of credit delivery through digital lending meth-

ods while mitigating the regulatory concerns has been firmed up. "This regulatory framework is based on the principle that lending business can be carried out only by entities that are either regulated by the Reserve Bank or entities permitted to do so under any other law," it said.

The Reserve Bank's regulatory framework is focused on the digital lending ecosystem of RBI's Regulated Entities (REs) and the LSPs engaged by them to extend various permissible credit facilitation services.

"All loan disbursements and repayments are required to be executed only between the bank accounts of borrower and the RE without any pass-through/ pool account of the LSP or any third party," the RBI said. Also, any fees, charges, payable to LSPs in the credit intermediation process shall be paid directly by RE and not by the borrower, it added.

It further said a standardized Key Fact Statement (KFS) must be provided to the borrower before executing the loan contract.

This has been mandated to be followed by REs, their LSPs,

and Digital Lending Apps (DLAs) of REs, among others.

If any complaint lodged by the borrower is not resolved by the RE within the stipulated period (currently 30 days), he/she can lodge a complaint under the Reserve Bank – Integrated Ombudsman Scheme (RB-IOS).

The RBI further said data collected by DLAs should be need-based, have clear audit trails and only done with prior explicit consent of the borrower. Option may be provided for borrowers to accept or deny consent for use of specific data, including option to revoke previously granted consent, besides option to delete the data collected from borrowers by DLAs/ LSPs.

RBI also said certain recommendations of the working group have been accepted in principle, but they require further examination.

Also, there are recommendations which require wider engagement with the central government and other stakeholders in view of the technical complexities, setting up of institutional mechanism and legislative interventions. PTI

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

85. In August _____ created history by breaking the Guinness World Records title for 'Most number of people holding the abdominal plank position.

- A. Edelweiss Tokio Life Insurance
- B. Aviva Life Insurance
- C. Exide Life Insurance
- D. **Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance**
- E. None of the above.

- Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of India's leading private life insurers, created history by breaking the Guinness World Records title for 'Most number of people holding the abdominal plank position.
- 4,454 people held the plank for a minute together at the Bajaj Allianz Life Plankathon event held in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi.
- The company achieved this feat by beating the earlier record of 3,118 held by China.
- The new world record set at the current third edition of the Plankathon event is part of the company's #PlankToThank initiative that commenced on 1 July 2022

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance: Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance, one of the leading private life insurers, created history by breaking the Guinness World Records title for 'Most number of people holding the abdominal plank position. 4,454 people held the plank for a minute together at the Bajaj Allianz Life Plankathon event held in Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Delhi.

SNS

86. In August _____ signed an MOU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide an "Ultima Salary package", a best-in-class salary account with exclusive benefits and features to all its employees.

- A. **Axis Bank**
- B. RBL Bank
- C. Yes Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda
- E. None of the above.

- Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, has signed an MOU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide an "Ultima Salary package", a best-in-class salary account with exclusive benefits and features to all its employees.
- With this MOU, the Bank has reinstated its commitment to offering holistic banking services to the employees of the Public Sector Undertakings (PSU) sector.

Axis Bank signs MOU with FCI



Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, has signed an MOU with the Food Corporation of India (FCI) to provide "Ultima Salary package", a best in class salary account with exclusive benefits and features to all its employees.

With this MOU, the Bank has reinstated its commitment towards offering holistic banking services to the employees of Public

Sector Undertakings (PSU) sector.

A signing ceremony was held at FCI Headquarters in New Delhi where FCI was represented by G N Raju, General Manager, HQ, and Axis Bank was represented by Anil Agarwal, President, Financial Institutions Group, and Lt Col M K Sharma, National Accounts Head.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The Food Corporation of India is a statutory body created and run by the Government of India. It is under the ownership of the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India formed by the enactment of the Food Corporation Act, 1964 by the Parliament of India.

87. In August **Tata Motors** has partnered with the _____ to offer **Electronic Dealer Finance solution (e-DFS)** to its authorized passenger EV dealers.

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. **State Bank Of India**
- C. Union Bank Of India
- D. Canara Bank
- E. None of the above.

- **Tata Motors** has partnered with the **State Bank of India (SBI)** to offer an **Electronic Dealer Finance solution (e-DFS)** to its authorized passenger EV dealers.

- Commenting on the offer, **Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd, and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd** said: “To ensure we have faster EV adoption in the country, it is very important to have a strong network and empowered channel partners.

- By partnering with SBI, we have taken another step in this direction. They are India’s largest public sector bank with an extensive network and we are delighted to partner with them.

- **Tata Motors Limited** is an Indian multinational automotive manufacturing company, headquartered in the city of Mumbai, India which is part of **Tata Group**.

88. In August _____ signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with **Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank** here on the promotion and financing of **700 Joint Liability Groups**.

- A. SEBI
- B. SIDBI
- C. **NABARD**
- D. RBI
- E. None of the above.

Tata Motors partner with SBI



Mumbai, Aug 12 (UNI) Tata Motors has partnered with the State Bank of India (SBI) to offer Electronic Dealer Finance solution (e-DFS) to its authorized passenger EV dealers.

Commenting on the offer, Shailesh Chandra, Managing Director, Tata Motors Passenger Vehicles Ltd and Tata Passenger Electric Mobility Ltd, said: “To ensure we have faster EV adoption in the country, it is very

important to have a strong network and empowered channel partners.

“By partnering with SBI, we have taken another step in this direction. They are India’s largest public sector bank with an extensive network and we are delighted to partner with them.

“We want to provide an exclusive financing programme to our authorized electric passenger vehicle dealers, who will play an important role in driving the green mobility mission, bolstering sustainability in the country.”

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The J&K Regional Office NABARD on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank here on the promotion and financing of 700 Joint Liability Groups.
- The NABARD spokesman said that General Manager, NABARD, Sandeep Sharma, and Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, Sanjay Gupta signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank respectively.
- The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Dr. Ajay Kumar Sood, Chief General Manager.
- Dr. Sood highlighted that the main objective of the signing of the MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers/oral lessees/sharecroppers, SF/MF, etc.
- Dr. Sood highlighted that the main objective of the signing of the MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers/oral lessees/sharecroppers, SF/MF, etc.
- Under this MoU, J&K Grameen Bank will form and finance 700 JLGs in J&K (UT) and Ladakh (UT) and NABARD will provide promotional grant support of Rs 4000/- per JLG to J&K Grameen Bank.

NABARD signs MOU with J&K Grameen Bank for financing of 700 JLGs in



Jammu, Aug 11 (UNI) The J&K Regional Office NABARD on Thursday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jammu and Kashmir Grameen Bank here on promotion and financing of 700 Joint Liability Groups.

The NABARD spokesman said that General Manager, NABARD, Sandeep Sharma and Chairman, J&K Grameen Bank, Sanjay Gupta

signed the MoU on behalf of NABARD and J&K Grameen Bank respectively.

The MoU signing ceremony was presided over by Dr Ajay Kumar Sood, Chief General Manager.

Dr Sood highlighted that main objective of the signing of MoU is to enhance the flow of credit to tenant farmers/oral lessees/sharecroppers, SF/MF etc., who may not have proper title to their land holding and to meet the credit requirements of the lower strata of the society by formation and credit linkage of JLGs.

89. Global investment firm **KKR**, the largest shareholder in Max Healthcare Institute, plans to exit the New Delhi-based hospital chain by selling its entire _____ stake for about Rs 9,000 crore.

- A. 27.54%
- B. 22.28%
- C. 20.56%
- D. 31.64%
- E. None of the above.

DEAL COULD BE AT 5% TO EXISTING SHARE PRICE

KKR plans to exit Max Healthcare

Will sell entire 27.54% stake for about ₹9,000 cr

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, August 13

GLOBAL INVESTMENT FIRM KKR, the largest shareholder in Max Healthcare Institute, plans to exit the New Delhi-based hospital chain by selling its entire 27.54% stake for

about ₹9,000 crore.

The private equity giant, which holds the stake through an affiliate firm Kayak Investment, intends to sell its total 267 million shares through the deal "soon". The deal, which would be at a discount of up to 5% to the current share price, is intended to be executed probably within the next fortnight, said sources close to the development.

On Saturday, certain media reports also stated that Kayak Investment was looking to sell its entire stake in the company.

STAKE SALE

- KKR holds the stake through an affiliate firm **Kayak Investment**
- PE firm hopes for good interest, like previously when it offloaded the stake

"KKR's plan is to sell the entire stake held in the company. However, this would also depend on the market interest. The PE firm hopes there would be a good interest, like previous

In March this year, Kayak Investment sold **10%** of Max Healthcare for nearly **₹3,300 cr**

As of June 2021, Kayak Investments held **466.3 m** shares, totalling **47.94% stake** in the firm and has been diluting its stake over the past one year.

Later in September, it sold **86.4 m** shares for **₹9,956 cr** through open market transactions

declined to comment on the development. On Friday, Max Healthcare's shares closed down 2.74% at ₹361.95 on the BSE.

Since 2014, KKR has executed several transactions as part of the firm's healthcare growth equity strategy.

As of June 2022, the company's promoters hold a 50.24% stake, mutual funds hold 19.21% and that of foreign institutional investors was at 23.34%.

Continued on Page 2

• Global investment firm **KKR**, the largest shareholder in Max Healthcare Institute, plans to exit the New Delhi-based hospital chain by selling its entire 27.54% stake for about Rs 9,000 crore.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The private equity giant, which holds the stake through an affiliate firm Kayak Investment, intends to sell its total 267 million shares through the deal ‘soon’. The deal, which would be at a discount of up to 5% to the current share price, is intended to be executed probably within the next fortnight, said sources close to the development.
- As of June 2022, the company’s promoters hold a 50.64% stake, mutual funds hold 19.21% and that of foreign institutional investors was at 23.34%.
- Non-institutional investors held a 6.61% stake, other domestic institutional investors held 0.17% and that insurance company stood at 0.04%, according to stock exchange data.
- SBI-focused equity fund, with a 9.27% stake, is the highest public shareholder in the firm, the data showed.
- In 2018, KKR along with Mumbai-headquartered Radiant had acquired a 49.70% stake in Max Healthcare from South Africa-based Life Healthcare Group Holdings, an equal joint venture partner in Max Healthcare Institute along with Max India, for about Rs 2,120 crore. KKR-Radiant had acquired more than 266 million shares in Max Healthcare at Rs 80 per share through the deal.

90. In August amid mounting complaints of harassment by banks’ recovery agents Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked regulated entities (banks, NBFCs, etc) to ensure that the recovery agents employed by them don’t call borrowers before _____ and after 7:00 pm for recovery of overdue loans.

- A. 8.30 Am
- B. 8.00 Am**
- C. 9.00 Am
- D. 7.00 Am
- E. None of the above.

RBI tells lenders to rein in loan recovery agents

- Amid mounting complaints of harassment by banks’ recovery agents, the central bank on Friday issued tighter rules for their conduct and asked lenders to strictly ensure that their collection agents do not intimidate borrowers or resort to strong-arm tactics.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked regulated entities (banks, NBFCs, etc) to ensure that the recovery agents employed by them don’t call borrowers before 8:00 am and after 7:00 pm for recovery of overdue loans.
- Any violation in this regard..will be viewed seriously,” warned the central bank.

The central bank’s move comes in the wake of complaints of unfair recovery practices and the use of strong-arm tactics

Gopika Gopakumar
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MUMBAI: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Friday tightened rules for loan recovery agents following several complaints of unfair recovery practices and the use of strong-arm tactics. The banking regulator told banks to ensure that their agents do not harass borrowers while collecting dues.

“In view of concerns arising from the activities of the agents, it is advised that the REs shall strictly ensure that they or their agents do not resort to intimidation or harassment, either verbal or physical, against any person in their debt collection efforts,” the central bank said in a press note.

The RBI said banks, non-banking financial companies, cooperative banks, housing finance companies, and asset



RBI has told banks to ensure that their agents do not harass borrowers while collecting dues.

MINT

reconstruction companies should ensure that recovery agents desist from publicly humiliating borrowers or sending inappropriate messages on mobile or through social media platforms. They should also avoid calling borrowers before 8:00 am and after 7:00 pm for recovery of overdue loans and should not make any false or misleading representation.

RBI has come down hard on illegal activities by digital lenders following a Chinese loan app scam.

On Wednesday, the banking regulator came out with a regulatory framework for digital lenders.

RBI said regulated entities must ensure that loan servicing and repayments are executed directly in their bank accounts without any third party pass-through or pool account.

The disbursements need to be made in the borrower’s bank account, it said.

The central bank said any fee or charge payable to lending service providers should be paid

CRACKING DOWN

- Financial institutions should ensure that agents do not publicly humiliate borrowers.
- Recovery agents should not send inappropriate messages on mobiles or through social media.
- Agents should not call borrowers before 8 am and after 7 pm.
- The agents should also not make misleading or false representations.

directly by the regulated entity and not by the borrower.

Regulated entities will also have to offer a cool-off period during which the borrowers can exit digital loans by paying the principal amount and the proportionate costs without any penalty.

In addition, regulated entities should also ensure that all loan service providers engaged by them have a nodal grievance redressal officer to deal with digital lending-related complaints.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *The instructions will apply to all commercial banks (including regional rural banks), co-operative banks, non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), asset reconstruction companies (ARCs), and All-India financial institutions.*
 - *A recovery agency is usually a third-party agency, appointed by a bank to collect a customer's loan dues for a fee or a percentage of the total amount owed.*
 - *Many people are scared of recovery agents, because of their high-handed nature and illegal ways of collecting money.*
91. In August Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja Ltd and ACC Ltd by the _____.
- A. Tata Group
 - B. Adani Group**
 - C. Reliance Industries
 - D. Larsen & Turbo
 - E. None of the above.
- *The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has given its approval for the acquisition of Holcim's stake in Ambuja Ltd and ACC Ltd by the Adani Group.*
 - *The proposed combination involves the acquisition of a 100 percent stake in Holderind Investments Ltd by Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd.*
 - *Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd is a Mauritius-based company and belongs to the Adani Group.*
 - *Holderind Investments is held by Holderfin BV and belongs to the Switzerland-based Holcim group and is a holding company of cement manufacturers Ambuja Cements and ACC Ltd.*
 - *Holderind Investments owned a 63.11 percent stake in Ambuja Cements and a 4.48 percent stake in ACC and further, Ambuja held a 50.05 percent stake in ACC.*
 - *In May, Adani Group announced a deal to acquire a controlling stake in Holcim Ltd's businesses in India -- Ambuja Ltd and ACC Ltd.*
 - *Along with it, Adani Group had made an open offer to both the companies' public shareholders to acquire a 26 percent stake each.*

CCI OKs Adani co stake buy in Holderind Invest, Ambuja Cements, ACC

New Delhi: The Competition Commission of India on Friday approved the acquisition of stake by Adani Group's Mauritius-based offshore company in Ambuja Cements Ltd, ACC Ltd, and Holcim Group company Holderind Investments Ltd.

On May 16, the offshore company, Endeavour Trade and Investment Ltd, had made an open offer to acquire 516.35 mln shares of Ambuja Cements at a price of 385 rupees per share. It had also offered to buy 48.96 mln shares of ACC at a price of 2,300 rupees per share.

The offer came in the light of Adani Group entering into an agreement with Swiss building material-maker Holcim Group to buy its 63.11% stake in Ambuja Cements



and 50.05% stake in ACC for 502 bln rupees.

The open offer for Ambuja Cements and ACC would aggregate a total consideration of 311.40 bln rupees.

The deal to buy Holcim's stake in the Indian cement makers and the open offer is valued at around \$10.5 bln.

The deal will make Adani Group the second-largest cement company in India in terms of capacity. It will also get access to a combined cement capacity of over 67 mln tn per annum of ACC and Ambuja Cements.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

92. In August _____ partnered with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and NSRCEL- the start-up hub at IIMB to implement the Women Startup Program (WSP 4) to support women by developing their entrepreneurial and managerial skills.

- A. Canara Bank
- B. Union Bank Of India
- C. **Kotak Mahindra Bank**
- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of the above.

- **Private Sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and NSRCEL- the start-up hub at IIMB to implement the Women Startup Program (WSP 4) to support women by developing their entrepreneurial and managerial skills. The program, launched under KMBL's CSR project on Education & Livelihood, aims to support ambitious and innovative women entrepreneurs by enabling them to transform their ideas into successful business ventures.**

- **NSRCEL at IIMB started the Women Startup Program in 2016 and has constantly reinvented itself and addressed the needs of women entrepreneurs at every stage in their entrepreneurial journeys. It has incubated 400+ female-led and owned start-ups.**
- **WSP 4 is the fourth edition of this program by NSRCEL - the center for excellence on innovation and entrepreneurship at IIMB. WSP 4 will incubate early-stage companies founded by women entrepreneurs that demonstrate the potential to innovate, implement and create social or financial impact, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.**
- **The program commences with a five-week training through Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) to be offered on the digital learning initiative of IIMB, IIMBx platform, for all applicants of WSP 4.**

Kotak Mahindra Bank partners with IIM Bangalore & NSRCEL to churn out India's Future Women Entrepreneurs

Mumbai, Aug 11 (UNI) Private Sector lender Kotak Mahindra Bank has partnered with Indian Institute of Management Bangalore (IIMB) and NSRCEL- the start-up hub at IIMB to implement the Women Startup Program (WSP 4) to support women by developing their entrepreneurial and managerial skills. The program, launched under KMBL's CSR project on Education & Livelihood, aims to support ambitious and innovative women entrepreneurs by enabling them to transform their ideas into successful business ventures.

NSRCEL at IIMB started the Women Startup Program in 2016 and has constantly reinvented itself and addressed the needs of women entrepreneurs at every stage in their entrepreneurial journeys. It has incubated 400+ female led and owned start-ups.

WSP 4 is the fourth edition of this program by NSRCEL - the centre for excellence on innovation and entrepreneurship at IIMB. WSP 4 will incubate early-stage companies founded by women entrepreneurs that demonstrate the potential to innovate, implement and create social or financial impact, especially in tier-2 and tier-3 cities.

93. Which of the following is the **country's first urea plant based on Coal Gasification technology?**

- A. Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL)-Sindri
- B. Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL)-Barauni
- C. **Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL)**
- D. Mahanadi Coal Limited

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

E. *None of the above.*

- *Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers reviewed the progress of Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited (HURL)-Sindri and Barauni projects.*
- *At the meeting, the Union Minister noted that the Government of India is committed to starting the production of urea from the HURL-Barauni and Sindri plants shortly.*
- *These two plants will add more than 25 LMTPA of indigenous production of Urea which will help in the reduction of an equivalent amount of imported urea.*
- *The Union Minister also reviewed the progress of Talcher Fertilizers Ltd. (TFL), the country's first urea plant based on Coal Gasification technology for the production of ammonia/urea. The production capacity of TFL would be 12.7 LMTPA. The commissioning of TFL is expected in the year 2024.*
- *The government has mandated the revival of Gorakhpur, Sindri, and Barauni units through a nomination basis by forming a Joint Venture company of nominated PSUs i.e., National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC), Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Coal India Limited (CIL) and Fertilizers Corporation of India Ltd. (FCIL)/Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFCL). Accordingly, a Joint Venture company named Hindustan Urvarak & Rasayan Limited was incorporated with equity participations of 29.67% each by NTPC, IOCL, and CIL and 11% by FCIL for setting up gas-based Ammonia urea plants of 12.7 LMTPA capacities each at Gorakhpur, Sindri, and Barauni.*
- *Accordingly, a Joint Venture company named Talcher Fertilizer Limited (TFL) was incorporated with equity participations of 31.85% each by GAIL, RCF & CIL while FCIL retained 4.45% equity.*

94. *In August which of the following won the 'best growth performance award' at Dun & Bradstreet's 22nd edition of 'India's Top 500 Companies' corporate awards?*

- A. *HDFC Bank Finance*
- B. *India Infoline Finance*
- C. *Manappuram Finance*
- D. ***Muthoot Finance***
- E. *None of the above.*

- *Muthoot Finance has won the 'best growth performance award' at Dun & Bradstreet's 22nd edition of 'India's Top 500 Companies' corporate awards.*
- *Dun & Bradstreet's top-500 list identifies private and public sector Indian enterprises across 60 sectors based on income, net profit, net worth, and other financial parameters.*
- *"ESG: The only way for sustainable and responsible growth" was the theme for the event of this year.*
- *Dun & Bradstreet is a business decisioning data and analytics provider.*
- *Muthoot Finance is the largest gold loan Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) in India. It is headquartered in Kochi, Kerala.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

95. In August _____ in association with Amity Global Business School (AGBS), one of India's leading educational institutions has launched an eight-month certification program known as 'Rising Bankers' for aspiring bankers.

- A. **HDFC Bank**
- B. Axis Bank
- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Union Bank Of India
- E. None of the above.

HDFC launches programme with Amity



Mumbai, Aug 11 (UNI) Private sector lender HDFC Bank in association with Amity Global Business School (AGBS), one of India's leading educational institutions, has launched an eight-month certification programme known as 'Rising Bankers' for aspiring bankers.

The programme aims to turn young graduates into well-trained, customer-facing

personnel. It involves on-campus learning, an internship and a full-time job opportunity at the bank on successful completion of the certification.

The programme is accepting applications from candidates across the country looking to get real world experience and earn while they learn. Through this programme HDFC Bank will create a pipeline of qualified talent who will offer a consistent, high-quality customer service experience across geographies and languages in the country.

- Private sector lender HDFC Bank in association with Amity Global Business School (AGBS), one of India's leading educational institutions, has launched an eight-month certification program known as 'Rising Bankers' for aspiring bankers.
- The program aims to turn young graduates into well-trained, customer-facing personnel. It involves on-campus learning, an internship, and a full-time job opportunity at the bank on successful completion of the certification.
- The program is accepting applications from candidates across the country looking to get real-world experience and earn while they learn. Through this program, HDFC Bank will create a pipeline of qualified talent who will offer a consistent, high-quality customer service experience across geographies and languages in the country.

96. In August _____ introduced a unique term deposit programme called "Utsav Deposit."

- A. Bank Of Baroda
- B. **State Bank Of India**
- C. Union Bank Of India
- D. Punjab National Bank
- E. None of the above.

- On the occasion of the nation's 76th year of Independence, celebrated as Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the largest lender in the nation, State Bank of India (SBI), introduced a unique term deposit program called "Utsav Deposit." This fixed deposit scheme has higher interest rates and is only available for a limited time.
- On Utsav Fixed Deposit Scheme, SBI is offering an interest rate of 6.10% per annum on fixed deposits with a tenure of 1000 days. And senior citizens will be eligible to get an additional interest rate of 0.50% over and above the regular rate. These rates are effective as of 15th August 2022 and the scheme is valid for 75 days.
- Interest rates on fixed deposits under ₹2 Cr were recently increased at SBI. SBI announced the new interest rates on August 13, 2022, and as a result of the adjustment, the bank increased interest rates by 15 bps for various tenors.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- For senior citizens, SBI has mentioned on its website that “A special “SBI Wecare” Deposit for Senior Citizens introduced in the Retail TD segment wherein an additional premium of 30 bps (over & above the existing 50 bps as detailed in the above table) will be paid to Senior Citizen’s on their retail TD for '5 Years and above' tenor only.

97. In August Aditya Birla Capital Ltd and its unit, Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. Ltd approved an investment of _____ crore in the health insurer by Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) for a 9.99% stake.

- A. ₹820 crore
- B. ₹665 crore**
- C. ₹564 crore
- D. ₹721 crore
- E. None of the above.

- The Board of Directors of Aditya Birla Capital (ABCL) and Aditya Birla Health Insurance Co. (ABHI) approved a proposal for a primary capital infusion of approximately Rs. 665 crores in ABHI, from a wholly owned subsidiary of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA).
- Aditya Birla Health Insurance is a 51:49 joint venture between Aditya Birla Capital Limited and Momentum Metropolitan Strategic Investments (Pty) Ltd, a wholly-owned subsidiary of South African-based Momentum Metropolitan Holdings (together MMH).

- The transaction values ABHI at approximately Rs. 6,650 crores.
- Completion is subject to receipt of statutory and regulatory approvals, including the approval of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI).
- Upon the completion of the transaction, ADIA will own a 9.99% stake, ABCL will hold a 45.91% stake, and MMH a 44.10% stake, respectively, in ABHI.

98. In August _____ and LetsVenture announced a partnership to explore synergies and support the startup ecosystem by offering curated products and solutions to startups, founders and investors.

- A. RBL Bank
- B. IDFC First Bank**
- C. YES Bank
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of the above.

ADIA to Buy 9.99% in Aditya Birla Health Insurance Biz

SWF to invest ₹665 cr; co to use capital to drive growth

Our Bureau

Mumbai: The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA), the sovereign wealth fund of the Emirate state, will invest ₹665 crore in Aditya Birla Health Insurance (ABHI), for a 9.99% stake, valuing the company at ₹6,650 crore.

The transaction has been approved by the board of directors of Aditya Birla Capital Ltd (ABCL), the holding company for financial services of the aluminium-to-telecom conglomerate, the company said.

ET had reported the possibility of the deal in its July 18 edition.

Upon the completion of the transaction, ADIA will own a 9.99% stake, ABCL will hold a 45.91% stake and Momentum Metropolitan

THE ECONOMIC TIMES

ADIA Eyes Stake in Aditya Birla's Health Insurance Business

ET had in its July 18 edition reported about a possible deal

After completion of deal, Aditya Birla Capital will hold **45.91%** and Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Limited a **44.10%** stake in ABHI

Holdings Limited a 44.10% stake in ABHI.

ABHI is a 51:49 joint venture between Aditya Birla Capital Limited and Momentum Metropolitan Strategic Investments Proprietary Ltd, a wholly owned subsidiary of South Africa-based Momentum Metropolitan Holdings Limited.

'Significant Potential' >> 9

SBI Sells KSK Mahanadi Loans to Aditya Birla ARC

SBI has sold ₹3,815 crore outstanding loans given to KSK Mahanadi Power to Aditya Birla ARC for ₹1,622 crore. Sangita Mehta reports. >> 6

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *IDFC FIRST Bank and LetsVenture, India's leading early-stage platform for investors and founders have announced a partnership to explore synergies and support the startup ecosystem by offering curated products and solutions to startups, founders and investors.*
- *LetsVenture's Scalix is a newly launched platform that supports the startup ecosystem through fundraising solutions, knowledge series, and investor connect.*
- *IDFC FIRST Bank offers customized solutions to startups under its FIRST WINGS program, dedicated to powering the startup ecosystem. Offerings under FIRST WINGS range from providing Zero Balance Startup Current Account with unlimited free IMPS, NEFT, RTGS transactions, and doorstep banking for three years, uniquely designed Working Capital solutions for Pre-Profit startups, Business Credit Cards for Startups with step-up credit, tailored 'Founder Success Program' and 40+ 'Beyond Banking' offers from its partners.*
- *IDFC FIRST Bank was formed by the merger of erstwhile IDFC Bank, promoted by renowned infrastructure financing institution IDFC Ltd. and leading technology NBFC, Capital First.*

99. In August _____ becomes the first Indian bank to launch Axis Receivables Suite (ARS)-an innovative Cash Management proposition that simplifies Receivables reconciliation, accelerates cash flow, enhances the client experience, and reduces the cost of doing business.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Axis Bank**
- C. Bank of Baroda
- D. HDFC Bank
- E. None of the above.

- *Axis Bank becomes the first Indian bank to launch Axis Receivables Suite (ARS)-an innovative Cash Management proposition that simplifies Receivables reconciliation, accelerates cash flow, enhances the client experience, and reduces the cost of doing business.*
- *ARS is an end-to-end proposition, along with a mobile app to automate the reconciliation of receivables against sales invoices raised by clients.*
- *Using ARS, Axis Bank clients can customize and automate fully what has traditionally been a very time-consuming, costly, manual, and error-prone activity. Clients also benefit from knowing their upcoming/pending payments which give them real-time control over all their receivables.*
- *Axis Bank Limited, formerly known as UTI Bank, is an Indian banking and financial services company headquartered in Mumbai, Maharashtra.*

100. In August trade receivables discounting platform, M1xchange tied up with _____ Bank to provide more liquidity to small businesses at competitive interest rates.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. HDFC Bank**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. ICICI Bank
- D. Bank Of Baroda
- E. None of the above.

- Trade receivables discounting platform M1xchange has tied up with HDFC Bank to provide more liquidity to small businesses at competitive interest rates.
- HDFC Bank has partnered with M1xchange promoted by Mynd Solutions Pvt Ltd to make a debut in the Trade receivables Discounting System (TReDs) platform. This move is expected to bring in high liquidity to buyer corporates and MSMEs at competitive interest rates
- TReDS system, regulated by RBI, enables Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to auction their trade receivables online and borrow funds from the financial institution which offers loans at the lowest rate of interest.
- The collaboration between HDFC Bank and M1xchange is another significant step forward in the provision of financing to MSME and micro-category businesses.

101. According to [government data public sector banks \(PSBs\) have recovered _____ of non-performing loans and written-off loans since FY15.](#)

- A. ₹5.42 lakh crore
- B. ₹7.81 lakh crore
- C. ₹6.42 lakh crore
- D. ₹5.36 lakh crore
- E. None of the above.

- The public sector banks (PSBs) have recovered ₹6.42 lakh crore of non-performing loans and written-off loans since FY15 and filed suits against 98.5% of wilful defaulters, data available with the government showed.
- Over FY16 to FY21, the government has infused ₹3.36 lakh crore of capital in PSBs while the banks themselves have raised an additional ₹2.99 lakh crore from the markets.
- The provision coverage ratio of the PSBs, a measure of health that captures amounts set aside to cover bad loans, has improved to 86.9% at the end of March 2022 from 46% at the end of March 2015.

102. In August _____ bank and Indian Institute of Science (IISc) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under free [Vidya Turant Educational loan](#) which students can avail of education loans without collaterals

- A. Union Bank Of India
- B. Canara Bank
- C. RBL Bank
- D. YES Bank
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Canara Bank has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Institute of Science to provide hassle-free Vidya Turant Educational Loans to students.*
- *Under this scheme, students can get education loans without collateral with 100% finance on the project cost with a flexible repayment period of up to 15 years. IISc students will have the option of availing of loans either from their place of domicile or from the place where they got admission to IISc,*
- *It is headquartered in Bangalore. Established in 1906*
- *CEO: Lingam Venkat Prabhakar*

103. In August _____ bank marked the win for the 'Best CRM Implementation' at the Asian Banker Financial Technology Innovation Awards 2022.

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

- *Axis Bank, India's third largest private sector bank, in partnership with CRMNEXT, the leading digital customer experience platform for banks and financial services, marked the win for the 'Best CRM Implementation' at the Asian Banker Financial Technology Innovation Awards 2022.*
- *The event concluded on August 04, 2022, and witnessed strong competition from over 200 leading banks across the Asia Pacific, Middle East, and Africa. The most prestigious award in the banking industry, it measures both project implementation and sustainable business impact.*
- *It recognized Axis Bank's resilient customer satisfaction and consistent delivery of high-quality services exceeding client expectations, delivered using the CRMNEXT platform.*

104. Consider the following statement regarding the **Start-Up ecosystem in India**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns, out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.
2. India ranks globally 3rd in the Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns.
3. India ranks 1st among 10 Central and Southern Asian economies in terms of the Global Innovation Index (GII).
4. **75 percent of the start-ups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.**
5. None of the above

- *India ranks globally 3rd in the Start-Up ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns, out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.*
- *As per the latest data, India has over 5 lakh R&D personnel, a number that has shown a 40-50% increase in the last 8 years.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

AS PER LATEST DATA, THERE ARE CURRENTLY 105 UNICORNS OUT OF WHICH 19 WERE BORN IN 2022

‘India ranks 3rd in global startup ecosystem & number of unicorns’

AGENCIES
New Delhi

India ranks third in the global Startup ecosystem and also in terms of the number of Unicorns. As per the latest data, there are currently 105 unicorns out of which 44 were born in 2021 and 19 in 2022.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology, Jitendra Singh while delivering a keynote address at ‘DST StartUp Utsav’ at Dr Ambedkar International Centre, said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s special focus on Science, Technology and Innovation has fired the imagination of the youth in the country to innovate and solve problems with new



ideas. He also pointed out that India’s startups today are not limited to only metros or big cities and added that 49 per cent of the startups were from tier-2 and tier-3 cities. He said, we have startups emerging in the fields like IT, agriculture, aviation, education, energy,

health and space sectors.

The minister said, India ranks third among the most attractive investment destinations for technology transactions in the world as it has a strong focus on science and technology. Singh said India is among the topmost countries in the world in the field of scientific research, positioned as one of the top five nations in the field for space exploration and also actively engaged in emerging technologies such as quantum technologies, artificial intelligence, etc.

The minister informed that India has created a massive jump in its global ranking of Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81st in the year 2015 to 46th in 2021 among 130 economies of the world.

- In the last 8 years, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, women’s participation in extramural R&D has also doubled, and now India occupies 3rd rank in terms of the number of PhDs awarded in Science and Engineering (S&E) after the USA and China.
- Prime Minister Modi’s launch of StartUp India from the ramparts of Red Fort in 2015.
- India’s startups today are not limited to only metros or big cities and added that 49 percent of the start-ups are from tier-2 and tier-3 cities.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh also released 4 publications featuring promising Startups under various components of NIDHI including the flagship program of Technology Business Incubator (TBI) and a coffee table book of 51 CAWACH-funded start-ups.
- The Centre for Augmenting WAR with COVID-19 Health Crisis (CAWACH) program carved out in record time by DST just when Covid hit, was the first program by any department of the Government of India to support Startups working on Covid products and solutions.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh informed that India has created a massive jump in its global ranking on Global Innovation Index (GII) from 81st in the year 2015 to 46th in 2021 among 130 economies of the world. India ranks 2nd among 34 lower-middle-income economies and 1st among 10 Central and Southern Asian economies in terms of GI.

104. In August _____ has announced the **launch India’s first open-ended index fund India Manufacturing Index Fund.**

- A. Edelweiss Mutual Fund
- B. HDFC Mutual Fund
- C. Canara Robeco Mutual Fund
- D. **Navi Mutual Fund**
- E. None of the above.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Navi Mutual Fund has announced the launch of its sixth fund for this year, the Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund.*
- *This is India's first open-ended index fund that will seek to replicate the Nifty India Manufacturing Index, which tracks the performance of manufacturers among the top 300 companies in India.*
- *Navi Nifty India Manufacturing Index Fund aims to simplify investing in the Indian manufacturing sector.*
- *The companies in the index are selected from the combined universe of the Nifty 100, Nifty Midcap 150, and Nifty Smallcap 50 index based on the 6-month average free-float market.*
- *Sachin Bansal, Co-Founder of Navi Group.*

105. In August *Aviva Life Insurance Company India* has appointed _____ as its chairperson.

- A. *Eranti Venkataramagupta*
- B. *Venu Iyer*
- C. *Kirti Malleswaram*
- D. *Krishna Subramaniam*
- E. *None of the above.*

- *Aviva India on Thursday announced the appointment of Sumithasri Eranti Venkataramagupta as chairperson of Aviva Life Insurance Company India. Venkataramagupta succeeds Mohit Burman, who served as the chairperson for over 14 years and will continue as a non-executive director on the board.*
- *Venkataramagupta has been associated with Aviva India as an independent director since February 2018.*
- *Aviva India is an Indian life assurance company, and a joint venture between Aviva plc, a British assurance company, and Dabur Group, an Indian conglomerate. Aviva began operations in July 2002 as a joint venture with Dabur Group, one of India's oldest business houses. Headquarters: Gurugram.*

106. In August _____ announced a partnership with *Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited* to expand the distribution of merchant loans to small cities and towns.

- A. *Paytm*
- B. *PhonePe*
- C. *RBL Bank*
- D. *Axis Bank*
- E. *None of the above.*

- *Paytm, owned by One 97 Communications Limited, announced a partnership with Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Limited, to expand the distribution of merchant loans to small cities and towns.*
- *This partnership will expand Paytm's loan distribution business, supported by Piramal Finance's wide network of over 300 branches across India. It will also help drive financial inclusion by bringing access to -credit to small businesses and retailers.*
- *It will offer merchants loans of up to 10 lakh, with a tenure of 6-24 months.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Ltd is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Piramal Enterprises Limited and an established financial services company in India.

107. Recently In August _____ proposed the concept of blue bonds as a mode of sustainable finance for various blue economy-related activities, including oceanic resource mining and sustainable fishing.

- A. RBI
- B. NABARD
- C. SEBI
- D. SIDBI
- E. None of the above.

- Markets regulator Sebi has proposed the concept of blue bonds as a mode of sustainable finance, saying such securities can be utilized for various blue economy-related activities, including oceanic resource mining and sustainable fishing.
- Also, the watchdog has suggested strengthening the framework for green bonds by amplifying the definition of green debt securities and enhancing disclosures.
- The proposals are aimed at aligning with the updated Green Bond Principles (GBP) published by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).
- Since the framework of green debt securities was laid down by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), there have been multiple events in the sustainable finance space around the world, thereby necessitating a review in the Indian context.
- According to the World Bank, the blue economy is the "sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of ocean ecosystem".
- India has a 7,500-kilometre-long coastline and 14,500 kilometers of the blue economy can serve as a growth catalyst.
- At present, the blue economy comprises 4.1 percent of India's economy, Sebi said.
- Further, the regulator has suggested adding two categories -- pollution prevention and control and circular economy adapted products -- as eligible green projects.

108. In August _____ launched a cross-border payments platform called Global Pay, which will let U.S. businesses make secure domestic and international B2B payments.

SEBI proposes 'blue bonds' to boost sustainable financing

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

New Delhi, August 8

Markets regulator SEBI has proposed the concept of blue bonds as a mode of sustainable finance, saying such securities can be utilised for various blue economy-related activities, including oceanic resource mining and sustainable fishing.

Also, the watchdog has suggested strengthening the framework for green bonds by amplifying the definition of green debt securities and enhancing disclosures, according to a consultation paper.

The proposals are aimed at aligning with the updated Green Bond Principles (GBP) published by the International Capital Market Association (ICMA).

Since the framework of green debt securities was laid down by the SEBI, there have been multiple events in the sustainable finance space

around the world, thereby necessitating a review in the Indian context, as per the consultation paper issued on Thursday.

"India has tremendous scope for deployment of blue bonds in various aspects of the blue economy" like oceanic resource mining, sustainable fishing, national offshore wind energy policy and in the area of blue flag beach eco-tourism model that provide the tourists clean and hygienic bathing water facilities, it said.

India has a 7,500 km-long coastline and 14,500 kms of navigable inland waterways, and the blue economy comprises 4.1 per cent of India's economy, SEBI said.

SEBI framework defines Green Debt Securities (GDS) as debt securities issued for raising funds that are to be utilised for projects or assets falling under certain categories.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A. Fedex
- B. Amex
- C. WazirX
- D. Fintex
- E. None of the above

- American Express has announced the launch of a cross-border payments platform for small to medium-sized businesses called Global Pay. It will act as a digital solution that will let U.S. businesses make secure domestic and international B2B payments.
- Additionally, eligible customers can earn rewards points on foreign exchange payments.
- Global Pay is now open to eligible American Express Small Business Card Members in the U.S.
- Through this new digital solution, business customers can send payments funded from their business bank account to their suppliers in more than 40 countries, across a range of currencies, using a simple, mobile-friendly platform.

109. In August Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries Ltd entered into a commercial arrangement with Greenko Energies Pvt Ltd to set up a renewable energy project for the supply of 100 MW round-the-clock carbon-free power to its smelter in

- A. Odisha
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Karnataka
- D. Uttar Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- Aditya Birla Group's Hindalco Industries Ltd has entered into a commercial arrangement with Greenko Energies Pvt Ltd to set up a renewable energy project for the supply of 100 MW round-the-clock carbon-free power to its smelter in Odisha.
- The arrangement involves the development of 375-400 MW of solar and wind capacity.
- The renewable energy project will be set up as a captive generation facility under a 25-year offtake arrangement and will supply power to Hindalco's Aditya Aluminium smelter in Odisha, enabling a reduction of CO2 emissions by 680,000 tonnes annually.
- Aluminum smelting requires reliable and continuous power. According to Hindalco, the project will be one of the world's first for the aluminum sector with very high (over 85%) reliability from solar and wind power without dependence on grid electricity.
- Hindalco will also be the first aluminum company in India to use such RTC (round-the-clock) carbon-free power for smelting.

Greenko to Set Up 100mw Clean Power Project for Hindalco

Our Bureau

Mumbai: Aditya Birla Group's aluminium arm Hindalco has entered into an agreement with Greenko Energies to set up a renewable energy project for the supply of 100 megawatts of round-the-clock carbon-free power to its smelter in Odisha.

The arrangement covers the development of 375-400 megawatts of solar and wind capacity, the companies said in a joint statement on Thursday. Greenko will design, construct, partly own and operate the solar and wind facilities.

Greenko will also make available power storage capacity from its hydro pump storage project at Pinnapuram, Andhra Pradesh to ensure up to 85% reliability on clean power.

The renewable energy project will be set up as a captive generation facility under a 25-year offtake arrangement. Further discussions between the parties to execute a power purchase agreement along with the other supplementary agreements is expected to be completed soon, as per the press statement.

The project is estimated to help Hindalco cut carbon dioxide emissions by 680,000 tonnes annually. The companies did not disclose the investment required for this project.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

110. Recently in August _____ partnered with agri-focused IFFCO Kisan Finance Ltd. to provide organized financial products and services to 50,000 marginalized farmers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.

- A. **Lawrencedale Agro Processing**
- B. National Agro-Industry.
- C. Kaveri Seed Company Ltd.
- D. Dhunseri Tea & Industries Ltd.
- E. None of the above.

- Ooty-based Lawrencedale Agro Processing (LEAF) has entered into a strategic partnership with agri-focused IFFCO Kisan Finance Ltd. to provide organized financial products and services to 50,000 marginalized farmers in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka.
- According to the pact, LEAF has structured a model through which agricultural inputs such as seeds, crop nutrition, and protection products are provided to these marginalized farmers through a controlled dispensing process.
- IFFCO Kisan Finance is a non-banking finance company, promoted by the Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd., while LEAF is a premier full-stack agriculture technology services firm.
- LEAF Farmer Network (LFN), powered by Mastercard, brings in complete visibility and makes the farmers credit-worthy for organized financial services.
- Ranjan Sharma, MD, IFFCO Kisan Finance.

111. Recently in August **Kalrock-Jalan consortium** selected _____ to develop a passenger service system for Jet Airways.

- A. IBM
- B. **IBS Software**
- C. Google
- D. Meta
- E. None of the above.

- The Kalrock-Jalan consortium has selected IBS Software to develop a passenger service system for Jet Airways.
- This will comprise a booking engine, inventory and revenue management, departure control, and loyalty management systems. IBS will also build a website and mobile app for the airline to optimize passenger experience.
- The consortium won the National Company Law Tribunal approval to revive Jet Airways last June. In May the airline received the Directorate General of Civil Aviation permission to start operations. The consortium intends to start operations next month.

IBS to build passenger service system for Jet



The Kalrock-Jalan consortium has selected IBS Software to develop a passenger service system for Jet Airways. This will comprise booking engine, inventory and revenue management, departure control and loyalty management systems. IBS will also build a website and mobile app for the airline to optimize passenger experience. The consortium won the National Company Law Tribunal approval to revive Jet Airways last June. In May the airline received Directorate General of Civil Aviation permission to start operations. The consortium intends to start operations next month

BS REPORTER

112. As per CAG Report, all four public sector insurers incurred losses of _____ crore in the health insurance portfolio for the last five years due to higher claims in group policies.

- A. ₹24,568 crore
- B. ₹26,364 crore
- C. ₹22,698 crore
- D. ₹21,589 crore
- E. None of the above.

- All four public sector insurers incurred losses of ₹26,364 crore in the health insurance portfolio for the last five years due to higher claims in group policies, a CAG report said.
- The aggregate loss of the four PSU insurers — New India Assurance Company Limited (NIACL), United India Insurance Company Limited (UIICL), Oriental Insurance Company Limited (OICL), and National Insurance Company Limited (NICK) — was ₹26,364 crore during 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- The health insurance business is the second largest line of business of the PSU insurers (the first being motor insurance), having a gross direct premium of ₹1,16,551 crore during the five years from 2016-17 to 2020-21.
- The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) report said the Finance Ministry laid down (September 2012/May 2013) guidelines for the underwriting of group policies as per which the combined ratio of standalone group policies shall not exceed 95% and for group policies involving cross-subsidy, the combined ratio shall not exceed 100%.

113. Recently as per government data, all the 12 public sector banks earned a cumulative profit of about _____, registering a 9.2% growth annually during the April-June period.

- A. ₹11,213 crore
- B. ₹12,054 crore
- C. ₹14,013 crore
- D. ₹15,306 crore
- E. None of the above.

CAG report: 4 PSU insurers lacked checks & controls

Report finds lapses such as multiple settlement of claims, excess payment over insured sum

NIKUNJ OHRI
New Delhi, 5 August

Inadequate checks leading to multiple claim settlements, excess payment over sum insured, and breach of caps limit for specific diseases are some of the lapses by four public sector insurers that the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) has flagged in its report.

The four insurers are New India Assurance Company (NIACL), United India Insurance Company (UIICL), Oriental Insurance Company (OICL), and National Insurance Company (NICK). According to the report, the insurers have incurred an aggregate loss of ₹26,364 crore in their health insurance portfolio between 2016-17 and 2020-21 on account of group health insurance policies where premium charged was less and claim outgo was more in comparison to retail policies.

The CAG report on "Third Party Administrators (TPAs) in Health Insurance business of Public Sector Insurance Companies" said processing of claims was done digitally both by insurers and TPAs. However, information technology systems of the insurers lacked appropriate checks and controls.

This resulted in lapses, among others, excess payments by ignoring waiting period clause for specific diseases, non-application of co-payment clause, incorrect assessment of admissible claim amount, irregular payments on implants, and non-payment of interest on delayed settlement, the report said.

The auditor's findings revealed New India Assurance and United India Insurance settled claims more than once on different dates although the policy number, insured name, beneficiary name, hospitalisation dates, illness code, hospital name, and disease were the same.

While New India Assurance had 792 cases of multiple settlements involving a sum of ₹4.93 crore, 12,532 such cases of ₹8.60 crore were found at United India Insurance. Besides, 139 instances were found where



UNDER THE SCANNER

- 4 PSU insurers incurred aggregate loss of ₹26,364 crore in health insurance portfolio from 2016-17 to 2020-21
- Losses were on account of group health insurance policies where premium charged was less and claim outgo was more in comparison to retail policies
- About 792 cases of multiple settlements of ₹4.93 crore found at New India Assurance and 12,532 such cases of ₹8.60 crore found at United India Insurance
- New India Assurance failed to initiate action against hospitals whose staff was involved in fraudulent cashless claims

claims settled exceeded the sum insured, including bonus, by ₹33 lakh at New India Assurance. At United India, claims paid, including group claims, exceeded the sum insured in 2,223 cases involving ₹36.13 crore. Group policies include a provision for such excess payment over the sum insured by way of 'corporate buffer', the auditor said. However, the verification of claims did not indicate use of such a buffer, the auditor said.

PSU insurance companies have their own network of hospitals called a Preferred Provider Network (PPN), but even after 10 years, enrolment of hospitals under PPN coverage was inadequate, the auditor said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- All the 12 public sector banks earned a cumulative profit of about ₹15,306 crores, registering a 9.2% growth annually, despite poor showing by large lenders like SBI and PNB.
- During the April-June period of the previous fiscal, state-owned banks recorded a total profit of ₹14,013 crores, according to quarterly numbers published by public sector lenders.
- Of the total 12, three lenders - State Bank of India, Punjab National Bank, and Bank of India - reported fall in profits ranging from 7-70%.

Profit of public sector banks rises 9% to ₹ 15,306 cr in April-June

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

All the 12 public sector banks earned a cumulative profit of about Rs 15,306 crore, registering a 9.2 per cent growth annually, despite poor showing by large lenders like SBI and PNB.

During the April-June period of the previous fiscal, state-owned banks recorded a total profit of Rs 14,013 crore, according to quarterly numbers published by public sector lenders.

Of the total 12, three lenders — State Bank of India (SBI), Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of India — reported fall in their profits ranging from 7-70 per cent.

Decline in profit by these lenders has been attributed to Mark-to-Market (MTM) losses due to hardening bond yields.

MTM losses occur when the financial assets held are valued by the mar-



ket at a price lower than the purchase price.

Nine lenders have recorded profit ranging from 3-117 per cent during the first quarter of FY23. The highest percentage growth was recorded by Punjab Bank of Maharashtra which earned a profit of Rs 452 crore against Rs 208 crore in the same quarter of the previous year.

It was followed by Bank of Baroda which recorded a 79 per cent bottom line growth at Rs 2,168 crore compared to Rs 1,209 crore a year ago.

Despite having witnessed a fall in its profit, SBI remained the highest contributor to the combined profit of banks with Rs 6,068 crore. SBI alone contributed about 40 per cent of the total profit. It was followed by Bank of

Baroda with Rs 2,168 crore.

During 2021-22, the collective profit of public sector banks more than doubled to Rs 66,539 crore as against Rs 31,816 crore in the preceding year. In FY21, only two public sector banks (Central Bank and Punjab & Sind Bank) reported losses, which dragged down the collective net profit.

Many state-owned banks after a hiatus also declared dividend in the last financial year. In all, nine banks including SBI declared dividends of Rs 7,867 crore to shareholders.

There were collective losses recorded in the five straight years from 2015-16 to 2019-20.

The highest amount of net loss was registered in 2017-18 at Rs 85,370 crore, followed by Rs 66,636 crore in 2018-19; Rs 25,941 crore in 2019-20; Rs 17,993 crore in 2015-16 and Rs 11,389 crore in 2016-17.

- The decline in profit by these lenders has been attributed to Mark-to-Market (MTM) losses due to hardening bond yields.
- MTM losses occur when the financial assets held are valued by the market at a price lower than the purchase price.
- Nine lenders have recorded profits ranging from 3-117% during the first quarter of FY23. The highest percentage growth was recorded by the Bank of Maharashtra which earned a profit of ₹452 crores against ₹208 crores in the year-ago period. It was followed by the Bank of Baroda which recorded a 79% bottom line growth at ₹2,168 crores compared to ₹1,209 crores a year ago.

114. Consider the following statement regarding the [Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India \(Irdai\) revamped grievance redressal mechanism](#). Which of the following is correct?

1. It should be renamed Bhima Bharosa.
2. The Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS) was launched in 2011.
3. It will be available in 13 regional languages for redressal of their complaints
4. Only 2 and 3
5. All of the above

- Insurance regulator Irdai will soon launch a revamped grievance redressal mechanism to make grievance redressal more efficient with the ability to submit customer complaints in regional languages.
- The Integrated Grievance Redressal System (IGMS), launched in 2011, is being revamped to make it more convenient for customers. It should be renamed Bhima Bharosa.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

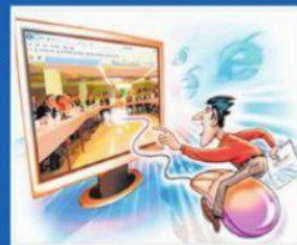
- *The new portal will not only be a gateway for online registration and tracking of complaints but will also act as an industry-wide complaint repository for the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irdai) to monitor the redressal of complaints by insurance companies.*
- *All transactions will take place on this portal, which will enable policyholders to file complaints in 13 regional languages for redressal of their complaints.*
- *This is part of the Irdai reform process. The regulator has taken several decisions in the last meeting of its board in the interest of customers and industry.*
- *Irdai has decided to waive the requirement for prior approval by insurers to raise capital through preferred shares and subordinated debt.*
- *According to the decision, the issuance of other types of capital (OFC) should not exceed 50 percent of the paid-up authorized capital or net worth of the insurance company.*
- *The Board also waived the requirement of prior approval for the exercise of an option on OFCs subject to a solvency ratio of not less than 180 percent.*

115. In August _____ partnered with the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Capacity Building Commission (CBC) to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants of the Central government
- A. Google
 - B. Amazon
 - C. Microsoft
 - D. Meta
 - E. None of the above.

- *Microsoft has partnered with the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Capacity Building Commission (CBC) to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants of the Central government.*
- *The project -- Capacity Building by MSDE in Microsoft Digital Productivity Skills -- will digitally empower them to provide efficient and effective citizen-centric services to the vulnerable and underprivileged sections of society.*
- *This initiative will not only drive more productivity but will also enable ease of doing business with more digital solutions.*
- *As part of the collaboration, Microsoft will develop an online, self-paced learning course on Microsoft Office 365 digital productivity suite offerings for MSDE, enabling MSDE to provide digital skills training to the officials in central government ministries and departments.*

Microsoft to help 25L govt staffers use computers

Tech giant Microsoft on Wednesday partnered with the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), and Capacity Building Commission (CBC) to enhance the functional computer literacy of nearly 2.5 million civil servants of the Central government. The project – Capacity Building by MSDE in Microsoft Digital Productivity Skills – will digitally empower them to provide efficient and effective citizen-centric services to the vulnerable and underprivileged sections of society. "Through this programme, we are aiming to empower central government employees on key digital skills and amplify the



vision of Digital India," Ashutosh Chadha, Group Head and Director, Government Affairs, Microsoft India. Within the project, the training will include job roles such as Section Officers, Assistant Section Officers, Clerks, Upper Division Clerks, Lower Division Clerks, Under Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries, and equivalent officers at senior, junior and supporting levels in the central government entities. As part of the collaboration, Microsoft will develop an online, self-paced learning course on Microsoft Office 365 digital productivity. The courses will be created under two categories – Beginners and Advanced.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The courses will be created under two categories -- *Beginners and Advanced courses of 12 hours duration each* -- and the learners would be enabled with access to the Advanced course after receiving the certificate of completion in the Beginners course.

116. In August *Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled India's first virtual space museum named _____ on August 10 in Bengaluru.*

- A. HELINA
- B. SPARK**
- C. GLITTER
- D. AZADISAT
- E. None of the above.

Virtual space museum



While the country is celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' marking the 75th year of Independence, the Indian Space Research Organisation has come up with an innovative idea of showcasing digital content regarding various ISRO missions in an interactive manner. The virtual space museum 'SPARK' was launched by ISRO Chairman S Somanath on Wednesday for public use. "The platform hosts several documents, images & videos related to ISRO launch vehicles, satellites and scientific missions," the Bengaluru-headquartered space agency said in a statement.

- Amid Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations to commemorate 75 years of independence, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) unveiled 'SPARK', India's first virtual space museum on Wednesday, August 10.
- S Somanath, chairman of ISRO, launched the virtual space museum for public use. SPARK will showcase digital content related to different ISRO missions interactively.
- On the platform, one can see various documents, images, and videos related to ISRO launch vehicles, satellites, and scientific machines, according to the official website of the Indian space agency.
- One can access the beta version of the virtual space museum through the ISRO website, or visit <https://spacepark.isro.gov.in/introduction.html>.
- The beta version of the platform provides a virtual tour of SPARK. One can virtually board a bus called Space on Wheels. In April 2022, ISRO shared a documentary titled "Space on Wheels", which portrays an exhibition of 75 Indian satellites as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations. The documentary also highlights ISRO's upcoming missions including the Gaganyaan Programme and Chandrayaan-3 mission.
- The three-dimensional virtual space tech park is a fun-filled park that includes a museum, a theatre, an observatory, a garden with life-sized rockets, a lakeside cafe area, a children's play area, and several other attractions.
- There is a Solar System park in which the sizes of the different planets, from Mercury to Neptune, and that of Earth's Moon have been displayed.

117. In August Center shortlisted _____ merchant bankers to assist the government in offloading its 29.5 percent residual stake in Hindustan Zinc in tranches.

- A. 5
- B. 4
- C. 6**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

D. 9

E. None of the above.

- The Center has shortlisted six merchant bankers to assist the government in offloading its 29.5 percent residual stake in Hindustan Zinc in tranches.
- The merchant banks, which include ICICI Securities, SBI Capital Markets, HDFC Bank, IIFL Securities, Axis Capital, and Citigroup Global Markets, will make presentations before an inter-ministerial group on August 12. Post the presentations, the selected merchant bank would be notified.
- The selected investment bank would have to assist the government with the timing and modalities of the divestment, conduct a market survey, hold domestic and international road shows to generate interest among prospective investors and seek regulatory approvals, among others. They will have to prepare a list of domestic and international investors to be approached by them within seven days.
- The Center is looking to sell its stake through the offer-for-sale mechanism.
- The offer will have to be structured, keeping in consideration the provisions of the shareholders' agreement between the government and Vedanta group, signed in 2002, which had led to prolonged litigation.

118. In August **Airtel Africa**, has signed a _____ million revolving credit facility with Citi through its branch offices/subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.

- A. \$200 million
- B. \$125 million**
- C. \$250 million
- D. \$280 million
- E. None of the above.

- Telecommunications firm, **Airtel Africa**, has signed a \$125 million revolving credit facility with Citi through its branch offices/subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.
- This is contained in a disclosure signed by **Simon O'Hara**, Group Company Secretary

HIND ZINC STAKE SALE

Govt shortlists six merchant bankers

AGENCIES / New Delhi

The government has shortlisted six merchant bankers to sell its remaining stake of 29.58% in Hindustan Zinc Ltd, the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management said today in a notice.

The shortlisted bankers include ICICI Securities Ltd, SBI Capital Markets Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd, IIFL Securities Ltd, Axis Capital Ltd and Citigroup Global Markets Inc. Six of them will give their presentation on Aug 12, as per the notice. The government had called for bids from merchant bankers in July.

In May, the Cabinet had ap-

proved the sale of the government's remaining stake in Hindustan Zinc through offer-for-sale route.

The government had sold 26% stake in Hindustan Zinc to Vedanta Group company Sterlite in 2002 for 4.45 bln rupees. Vedanta subsequently increased its stake in Hindustan Zinc to 64.92% through open market offer and call option.

In November, the Supreme Court had allowed the government to sell its residual stake in Hindustan Zinc, but ordered the Central Bureau of Investigation to probe allegations of undervaluation during the divestment of the company in 2002.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

titled, 'Airtel Africa's First Sustainability-Linked Loan Facility.

- It stated that the facility is in line with the company's strategy to raise debt in its local operating companies and will include both local currency and US dollar-denominated debt.
- The telecoms firm operates in 14 countries in Africa, primarily in East, Central, and West Africa. Airtel Africa is majorly owned by the Indian communication services company, Bharti Airtel.
- The facility has a tenor up to September 2024 and will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries.

Airtel Africa signs up for \$125 mn credit pact with Citi

Mumbai: Airtel Africa has signed up for a USD 125 million revolving facility from American banking major Citi.

The company, which has telecom and mobile money operations in 14 African countries, said the facility involves borrowing both in local currencies and US dollar.

"The facility has a tenor up to September 2024 and will be used to support Airtel Africa's operations and investments in four of its subsidiaries," the telco said in a statement. It provides interest rate savings in exchange for achieving social impact milestones relating to digital



inclusion and gender diversity with a focus on rural areas and women, the statement said. Citi said the deal was executed by its Indian unit, where Airtel Africa's parent Bharti Airtel is headquartered, and the credit facility will be extended through its branch offices or subsidiaries in sub-Saharan Africa.

119. In August **NLC India (NLCIL)** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with _____ **State Power Distribution Company** to develop solar power projects in the state.

- A. Tamil Nadu
- B. Assam**
- C. Uttar Pradesh
- D. Uttarakhand
- E. None of the above.

- Public sector power generator **NLC India (NLCIL)** has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with **Assam Power Distribution Company (APDCL)** to develop solar power projects.
- The MoU between **Tamil Nadu-based NLCIL** and **APDCL**, wholly owned by the Assam government, is for setting up a joint venture company with equity participation of 51% by **NLCIL** and 49% by **APDCL** to develop 1,000 MW solar projects in Assam.
- **NLCIL** operationalizes mining along with a power generation capacity of 6,061 MW, including a renewable energy capacity of 1421.06 MW with 1,370.06 MW of solar and 51 MW of wind-based power generation.
- **NLCIL** is the first CPSE to cross 1 GW capacity in solar power generation and is also a member.
- The establishment of this solar project will act as a stepping stone for **NLCIL** to achieve its ambitious plans of having a capacity of around 17,171 MW, including 6,031 MW of renewable energy, by 2030.

120. Consider the following statement regarding **Atal Pension Yojana**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1. It was Launched in 2015.
- 2. It is administered by the Pension Fund PFRDA.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

3. It is currently open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years.

4. **Subscribers would receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension at the age of 65.**

5. None of the above.

- Income taxpayers will not be eligible for the Atal Pension Yojana (APY), a universal social security scheme, from 1 October.
- In case a subscriber of the scheme, who joined on or after 1 October 2022, is subsequently found to have been an income-tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated pension wealth to date would be given to the subscriber, as per the order.
- Atal Pension Yojana was launched in 2015 to create a universal social security system for the citizens, especially the poor, the underprivileged, and the workers in the unorganized sector.
- It is administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- It is currently open to all bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 40 years and the contributions differ, based on the pension amount chosen. Subscribers would receive a guaranteed minimum monthly pension at the age of 60.

Income-tax payers cannot join Atal Pension Yojana from Oct 1

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 11

Income-tax payers will not be eligible to join the Atal Pension Yojana (APY) following an amendment in the scheme.

“From October 1, 2022, any citizen who is or has been an income-tax payer, shall not be eligible to join APY,” a notification issued by the Finance Ministry said.

APY is a Government of India scheme that was launched on May 9, 2015, and operationalised on June 1, 2015. It is open to all citizens of India between 18-40

years of age, having a savings account in a bank or post-office.

The notification further said: “In case a subscriber who joined on or after October 1, 2022, is subsequently found to have been an income-tax payer on or before the date of application, the APY account shall be closed and the accumulated pension wealth till date would be given to the subscriber.” Initially, the government had co-contributed 50 per cent of the total contribution or ₹1,000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber who joined the scheme

between June 1, 2015 and March 31, 2016, and who is not a beneficiary of any social security scheme and is not an income-tax payer. The Government’s co-contribution was given for five years from the financial year 2015-16 to the financial year 2019-20. Since the condition of non-income tax payers was added for initial joiners, where the government is making a contribution, and there was no specific provision mentioned in the notification, it appears the government has included a new provision to make things clearer.

121. The government has set a target of **reducing import dependence on palm oil by 25 to 30% through the production of _____ (MT) of oil by 2030 under the National Edible Oil Mission.**

- A. 1.4 million tonne
- B. 2.8 million tonne**
- C. 3.6 million tonne
- D. 4.2 million tone
- E. None of the above.

- The government is aiming at reducing import dependence on palm oil by 25 to 30% through the production of 2.8 million tonnes (MT) of oil by 2030 under the National Edible Oil Mission.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Currently, around 0.35 million hectares (MH) are under palm plantation. Under the mission launched last year, an additional area of 0.65 MH will be brought into palm plantations by 2025-26.
- India imports 56% of its edible oil requirement annually. The country imports around 8 MT of palm oil while the domestic production is around 0.5 MT.
- In August 2021, the national oil palm mission was launched with an investment of Rs 11,040 crore. Out of which the Centre's share is Rs 8,844 crore, while the rest is contributed by the state government for providing viability gap funding and financial assistance for planting material.
- Under the palm oil mission, the Tripura government signed an agreement with Patanjali Foods Limited for palm oil plantations. Hyderabad-based 3F oil palm has planned to expand its palm plantation in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.
- Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, and Kerala are the major oil palm growing states, which account for 98% of the total production.

TO PRODUCE 2.8 MT OF OIL BY 2030
Govt plans to reduce import dependence on palm oil

SANDIP DAS
New Delhi, August 11

THE GOVERNMENT IS aiming at reducing import dependence on palm oil by 25 to 30% through the production of 2.8 million tonne (MT) of oil by 2030 under the National Edible Oil Mission.

Currently, around 0.35 million hectare (MH) is under palm plantation. Under the mission launched last year, an additional area of 0.65 MH will be brought into palm plantations by 2025-26. India imports 56% of its edible oil requirement annually. The country imports around 8 MT of palm oil while the domestic production is around 0.5 MT. "Through bringing in more area under palm plantation in the next three years, especially in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Tripura and Mizoram, we plan to reduce our palm oil import dependence by 2030," an official who is involved in the national oil palm mission, told FE.

In the seventh meeting of the governing council of Niti Aayog, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other crops.

In August 2021, the national oil palm mission was launched with an investment of ₹11,040 crore. Out of which the Centre's share is ₹8,844 crore, while the rest is contributed by the state government for providing viability gap funding and financial assistance for planting material.

Godrej Agrovet, Patanjali food and 3F oil palm agrotech industries account for a major chunk of the country's oil palm plantations.

Edible oil supply



In the seventh meeting of the governing council of Niti Aayog, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed achieving self-sufficiency in oilseeds, pulses and other crops

"For the last three years, we are adding around 11,000 hectare annually for palm plantation and by 2026, we will have around 0.1 MH under oil palm mostly in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Assam, Tripura, Tamil Nadu and Odisha," said Sougata Niyogi, CEO (oil palm) of Godrej Agrovet.

Godrej Agrovet currently produces around 0.11 MT of crude palm oil, which will be doubling its production by 2030 as it takes about five to seven years for the plantation to provide fruit for the extraction of oil.

Under the palm oil mission, the Tripura government signed an agreement with Patanjali Foods Limited for palm oil plantations. Hyderabad-based 3F oil palm has planned to expand its palm plantation in Assam and

Arunachal Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Kerala are the major oil palm growing states, which account for 98% of the total production.

Currently, India produces about 44% of its domestic edible oil consumption requirement. Mustard (40%), soybean (24%) and groundnut (7%) are other oils that have a share in domestic production.

India's annual imports are around 13-14 MT. Around 8 MT of palm oil is imported from Indonesia and Malaysia, while other oils, such as soya and sunflower, come from Argentina, Brazil, Ukraine and Russia.

Meanwhile, the government has been working on a plan to increase the area under sunflower production which used to be grown on 2.66 MH in 1993-94.

According to an agriculture ministry official, the average area under sunflower ranged from 2.1 MH in 1990-95 to 1.94 MH in 2005-2010. The area declined to 0.28 MH during 2017-18 and currently stagnated around 0.26 MH.

122. In August _____ announced the launch of a national platform that will help Indian smallholder farmers leverage climate/carbon finance for sustainable agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture.

- Intellecap
- Transform Rural India Foundation
- Lawrencedale Agro Processing
- Both A and B
- None of the above.

- Intellecap and Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF) on Monday announced the launch of a national platform that will help Indian smallholder farmers leverage climate/carbon finance for sustainable agro-forestry, climate-smart agriculture, and other activities that can result in carbon sequestration and mitigation.
- According to a statement, the platform brings together more than one million smallholder farmers who will be

+ Intellecap, TRIF launch carbon finance platform to support small farmers

OUR BUREAU
Bengaluru, August 11

Intellecap, part of the Avishkaar Group and the Transform Rural India Foundation (TRIF), announced the launch of a national carbon finance platform that will help Indian smallholder farmers leverage climate/carbon finance for sustainable agro-forestry, climate smart agriculture and other activities that can result in carbon sequestration and mitigation.

The platform will bring together more than one million smallholder farmers, who will be provided support and training for climate smart agriculture and agro-forestry, Intellecap said in a statement.

Poor awareness

Globally, there is a growing demand for carbon credits from projects that provide co-benefits such as community economic development, improved health outcomes, biodiversity enhancement and gender equality. However, Indian car-



bon producers are unable to reap the benefits due to poor awareness about climate/carbon financing mechanisms, limited technical capacity to design and implement high-quality carbon projects, lack of clarity on fair price sharing and legal arrangements, among other aspects, Intellecap said.

The platform will register different types of carbon offset projects in which smallholder farmers would be able to participate and benefit from the monetisation of carbon credits generated under an independent carbon crediting mechanism in the voluntary carbon market.

Small holder farmers

The platform is in discussion

with Indian and global corporates who are keen to participate and support smallholder farmers by purchasing carbon credits from these projects. Anish Kumar, Co-Lead, TRIF said: "While climate finance and carbon finance are becoming a major source of financing climate action for enterprises and big corporates, smallholder farmers struggle to get access to climate finance for projects that not only produce climate outcomes, but also create jobs and build the resilience of local communities. This platform aims to be the guide and champion of smallholder farmers for climate/carbon finance."

Santosh K Singh, Managing Director-Agri and Climate, Intellecap, said, "The platform also helps corporates and other stakeholders who are committed to net zero goals and looking to offset their residual carbon footprint from projects, which not only give them carbon emission reduction but also empower and benefit local communities."

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

provided support and training for climate-smart agriculture and agroforestry.

- *The statement added that the newly launched platform will play a key role in empowering smallholder farmers by:*
- *Generating awareness on different types of carbon projects (e.g., agroforestry, clean cooking, waste management, etc.) and their benefits*
- *Enhancing technical capacity to design and implement high-quality carbon projects at scale.*

123. Recently in August in partnership with the _____, the *International Solar Alliance (ISA)*, has launched a tender to establish an 1150 MW solar plant.

- A. *Canada*
- B. *Cuba*
- C. *Mauritius*
- D. *Maldives*
- E. *None of the above.*

- *In partnership with the Cuban government, the International Solar Alliance (ISA), has launched a tender to establish an 1150 MW solar plant. An ISA statement stated that the project management consultant for ISA is a state-owned NTPC.*
- *Cuba plans to build 2100 MW solar projects. This will reduce the dependence on diesel generators that are polluting and increase its green energy portfolio. To ensure grid reliability, it also includes the construction of 150 MWh/150 MWh storage.*
- *Ajay Mathur, Director General, ISA said the Association has a strong pipeline of solar park projects in Latin America, Africa, and Asia and this project in Cuba is the first tender of many.*
- *The ISA and NTPC have been working with Cuban officials and engineers to ensure the success of the tender, the statement said.*
- *This is the first project in ISA's broader program for solar parks.*

124. In August *National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation* and the _____ signed an agreement to facilitate *collaboration in skill development initiatives.*

- A. *National Cooperative Development Corporation*
- B. *National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency*
- C. *National Skill Development Corporation*

ISA floats tender for solar project

The International Solar Alliance (ISA) in partnership with the Cuban government has floated a tender for setting up a 1,150 MW solar project in Cuba. State-owned NTPC is the project management consultant for ISA for setting up the project, an ISA statement said.

The project is part of Cuba's plan to implement 2,100 MW of solar projects, reducing the reliance on expensive and polluting diesel generators and increasing its green energy portfolio. It also includes building of 150 MW/150 MWh of storage to support grid reliability.

Ajay Mathur, director general, ISA said the association has a strong pipeline of solar park projects in Latin America, Africa and Asia and this project in Cuba is the first tender of many.

The ISA and NTPC have been working with Cuban officials and engineers to ensure the success of the tender, the statement said. **PTI**

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. National Youth Development Fund
- E. None of the above.

- The National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation and the National Skill Development Corporation have signed an agreement to facilitate collaboration in skill development initiatives.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides a formal basis of interaction between NHIDCL and NSDC, and will play a significant role in realizing the aims and objectives of the Prime Minister's skill development program, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said.
- The purpose of this MoU is to establish the basis of collaboration between NHIDCL and NSDC and to take up multiple initiatives contributing towards making India the Skill Capital of the World.
- The National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited is a fully owned company of the Government of India, set up in 2014, and is responsible for the management of a network of National Highways.
- National Skill Development Corporation is a not-for-profit public limited company incorporated on July 31, 2008, under section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. NSDC was set up by the Ministry of Finance as a Public Private Partnership model.

NHIDCL, NSDC to collaborate on skill development initiatives



New Delhi: The National Highways Infrastructure Development Corporation and the National Skill Development Corporation have signed an agreement to facilitate collaboration in skill development initiatives.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) provides a formal basis of interaction between NHIDCL and NSDC, and will play a significant role in realising the aims and objectives of the Prime Minister's skill development programme, the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said.

"The purpose of this MoU is to establish the basis of collaboration between NHIDCL and NSDC, to take up multiple initiatives contributing towards making India the Skill Capital of the World," it said in a statement on Thursday. **PTI**

125. In August _____ organization unfurled Indian Flag 30 kilometers above the Earth on Independence Day 2022.
- A. ISRO
 - B. Space Kidz India**
 - C. Agnikul
 - D. New Space India
 - E. None of the above.

- Space Kidz India unfurled the Indian Flag about 30 kilometers above the Earth on Independence Day 2022. The flag was sent to an altitude of 1 lakh 6 thousand feet above the planet on a balloon that unfurled it.
- The event was part of the Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav slogan and under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign which was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence.
- Space Kidz India is an organization creating 'young scientists for the country and spreading awareness among children for a borderless world.' The organization recently launched a satellite into Low Earth Orbit. AzadisAT was developed by 750 girl students from across India to mark 75 years of Independence.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)



Tricolour flutter at edge of space 7/23

NEW DELHI: The Tricolour was unfurled at the edge of space from a weather balloon launched by an organisation promoting awareness about space sciences in the country. SpaceKidz, the Chennai-based organisation, shared a video on its social media platforms of the flag attached to a helium balloon.

"We released the BalloonSat on January 27 this year from Chennai. It unfurled the Indian Tricolour at an altitude of nearly 30 kilometres," Srimathy Kesan, founder and chief executive of Space Kidz India, said.

The video was released on Monday to mark the completion of 75 years of independence, she said.

Kesan said a GoPro camera attached to the BalloonSat captured the video of the Tricolour in space.

The payload was recovered after it splashed into the sea.

Space Kidz had encouraged 750 girls from government schools across the country to develop AzaadiSat, which was set for launch on August 7 onboard the maiden flight of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-D1.

"The SSLV-D1 failed to put the AzaadiSat and Earth Observation Satellite-02 in the desired orbit. The mission failed because the SSLV-D1 placed the satellites in an elliptical orbit rather than a circular one, leaving them unusable".

Kesan said the girls, who had gathered at Srirangapatna on August 7, were undeterred by the failure of the satellite to reach its desired orbit and were keen to launch AzaadiSat-2. "We spent 8000 lakhs in building AzaadiSat-1. We are now looking for investors for AzaadiSat-2," Kesan said.



As India celebrated its 76th Independence Day on Monday, Indians across the world unfurled the national flag as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga drive. Seen here (clockwise from top) are people with a 630-feet-long flag in Kolar; soldiers near the Siachen Glacier; INS Tabar at the Mombasa Port in Kenya; President Droupadi Murmu laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi; children waving the Tricolour in Srinagar; and a balloon satellite under the AZAADISAT mission unfurling the flag at the edge of space. PTI, ANI, INDIAN ARMY

126. In August _____ announced partnership with SellerApp, a seller-centric intelligence platform in order to encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC).

- A. Axis Bank
- B. Yes Bank
- C. IDBI Bank
- D. RBL Bank
- E. None of the above

- To encourage the seller segment of its client base to adopt Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) and help them expand their digital commerce footprint, Yes Bank announced on Saturday their partnership with SellerApp, a seller-centric intelligence platform.
- This is an excellent example of Yes Bank creating a diverse business model to embed itself in an Open Network. I am sure this model will evolve to be a great boon in enhancing market access for their corporate clients, especially small and medium enterprises who will be coming the online first time.
- ONDC is a strategic initiative the Indian government aimed to democratize the entire digital commerce space. The network is also being built as an alternative to e-tailers like Walmart-owned Flipkart and Amazon in the Indian e-commerce market. Both the platforms are also looking to integrate with ONDC.

127. According to the Nature Index 2022 ranking, the University of Hyderabad (UoH) has been ranked first among Indian Universities and _____ among all institutions in the academic sector.

- A. 12th
- B. 16th

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. 13th
- D. 20th
- E. None of the above.

- The University of Hyderabad (UoH) continues to be in the top position in the latest Nature Index 2022 ranking. The UoH has been ranked first among Indian Universities and 16th among all institutions in the academic sector.
- The Nature Index is an indicator of high-quality research in natural and physical sciences (includes chemistry, life sciences, earth & environmental sciences, and physical sciences).
- The rankings are based on the Nature Index data from 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022. The UoH received a count of 72 and a share of 19.46 under the academic sector, which includes subjects chemistry, life sciences, earth & environment sciences, and physical sciences.
- University of Hyderabad (UoH) is one of the major higher education institutions in India. It was established as a central university by an act of parliament in the year 1974.

128. In August _____ Signed agreement to extend the operations for Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh for two more years.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. Ministry of Home Affairs
- D. Ministry Of Defence
- E. None of the above.

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will manage the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC) in Bangladesh for two more years.
- The agreement to extend the operations for two more years was signed between the officials of the SBI and the High Commission of India in Dhaka on Wednesday.
- SBI Bangladesh country head of operations Amit Kumar represented the SBI while the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Bangladesh Dr. Binoy George represented the High Commission of India. Speaking on the occasion, High Commissioner Vikram Doraiswami expressed satisfaction with the functioning of the IVAC centers in Bangladesh.
- The IVAC will also be starting a few additional services soon which include facilitation for online form filling and submission of forms, slot booking, and launching of a mobile app. A priority lounge was also inaugurated at the IVAC center in Dhaka.
- Currently, SBI runs a total of 15 IVACs across Bangladesh. The IVAC center at the Jamuna Future Park in Dhaka was opened in 2018. It is the largest Indian visa application center. The first IVAC was started by SBI in 2005 in Dhaka.

129. In August _____ emerged as the top performer among the public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during the first quarter of 2022-23.

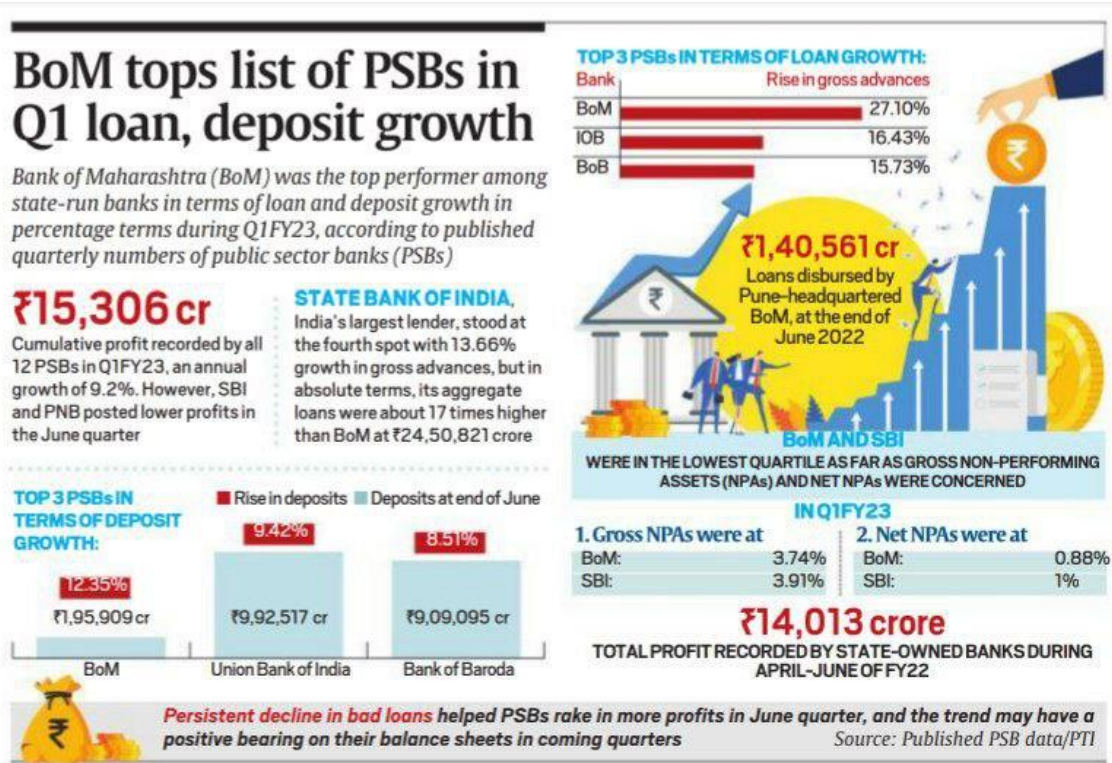
- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Bank Of Maharashtra

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. Union Bank Of India
- D. Punjab National Bank
- E. None of the above.

- Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) has emerged as the top performer among the public sector lenders in terms of loan and deposit growth in percentage terms during the first quarter of 2022-23.
- The Pune-headquartered lender recorded a 27.10 percent increase in gross advances to Rs 1,40,561 crore at the end of June 2022, according to published quarterly numbers of the public sector banks (PSBs).
- It was followed by the Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of Baroda with 16.43 percent and 15.73 percent rise in advances growth, respectively.
- The country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) stood at the fourth spot with 13.66 percent growth. However, in absolute terms, aggregate loans of SBI were about 17 times higher at Rs 24,50,821 crore, while that of Bank of Baroda was nearly five times at Rs 6,95,493 crore compared to BoM at the end of the first quarter.
- Regarding deposit growth, BoM witnessed a 12.35 percent growth and mobilized Rs 1,95,909 crore at the end of June 2022.
- Union Bank of India was at the second spot with a 9.42 percent growth in deposits (Rs 9,92,517 crore), followed by Bank of Baroda -- 8.51 percent rise at Rs 9,09,095 crore, according to the data.
- Cumulatively, all the 12 public sector banks reported a profit of about Rs 15,306 crore in the three months ended June, registering an annual growth of 9.2 percent.
- However, leading public sector lenders -- SBI and PNB -- posted lower profits in the June quarter.



130. In August **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC)** inked an MoU with the _____ to onboard small and medium-sized businesses on the ONDC network and thus, increasing their participation in the eCommerce sector.

- A. SIDBI
- B. SEBI
- C. RBI

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. NABARD
 E. None of the above.

- **Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) has inked an MoU with the Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) to onboard small and medium-sized businesses on the ONDC network and thus, increasing their participation in the eCommerce sector.**
- **The MoU was signed between Sivasubramanian Ramann, CMD of SIDBI, and T Koshy, managing director and CEO of ONDC. With this, SIDBI and ONDC will collaboratively put efforts to help MSMEs access the open network eCommerce platform proposed by ONDC.**
- **Through this MoU, we will connect SIDBI's network with ONDC, which will revolutionize the ecosystem of small industries. This initiative will be a driving force to initiate the participation of small industries in e-commerce on a larger scale and enable their growth.**
- **Both ONDC and SIDBI will hold sessions with MSMEs to educate them about ONDC's network, protocol, and MVP definition. Thereafter, the two bodies will conduct accelerator programs to incentivize MSMEs and enable them to go live on the ONDC's network.**
- **Set up in December 2021, ONDC is a brainchild of the Department of Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT). With this initiative, the Centre aims to democratize access to digital e-commerce for small retailers in the country.**

131. In August Adani Group will invest Rs 57,575 crore in _____ in the next few years for two projects - 4 MMTPA integrated alumina refinery and 30 MMTPA iron ore (value addition) facility.

- A. Tamil Nadu
 B. Odisha
 C. Uttar Pradesh
 D. West Bengal
 E. None of the above.

- **Adani Group will invest Rs 57,575 crore in Odisha in the next few years. The High-Level Clearance Authority (HLCA) headed by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has already approved two projects - 4 MMTPA integrated alumina refinery and 30 MMTPA iron ore (value addition) facility.**

Adani Group plans ₹41,000-crore alumina refinery in Odisha

CM's office tweets plan for 4 mt a year unit in Rayagada

BLOOMBERG
AUGUST 11

Adani Enterprises plans to invest \$5.2 billion in setting up an alumina refinery in Odisha, as Gautam Adani, Asia's richest man, adds one more business to his rapidly-expanding empire.

The flagship company of the Adani Group got the approval to build the refinery and a captive power plant in Rayagada for an investment of ₹41,653 crore (\$5.2 billion), according to a Twitter post on Wednesday by the office of the State's Chief



Gautam Adani

Minister, Naveen Patnaik. The refinery will have an annual capacity of 4 million tonnes, according to another statement by the State government.

A representative for Adani Enterprises declined to comment on the Odisha project or the company's plans for its

fledgling aluminium business.

Adani had set up a wholly-owned subsidiary – Mundra Aluminium Ltd – in December, signalling his aspirations in a sector that is dominated by heavyweights such as the Aditya Birla Group and the London-based Vedanta Resources Ltd.

The tycoon, with the world's biggest wealth gain this year to \$126 billion, built his empire on agri-trading and ports but has speedily diversified into airports, data centres and renewable energy, often moving in lockstep with the Centre's policy priorities.

Adani had scaled up his nascent cement business overnight by acquiring Holcim

Ltd's India units for \$10.5 billion in May, less than a year after setting up a cement subsidiary.

Expanding in metals

He is now steadily building up his group's metals portfolio after announcing plans for steel and copper plants earlier in the year.

In June, Adani Enterprises raised ₹6,070 crore in a syndicated club loan for a 500,000 tonne new copper refinery complex in Gujarat. The company also announced a tie up with South Korean steel major Posco in January to explore business opportunities in India, including the setting up of a green steel mill.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Odisha is one of our most strategic states in which we have continued to invest. Metals are critical commodities on which the nation must be self-reliant, and these projects aligned with our vision of Atmanirbharta.
- The iron ore beneficiation plant will be located at Deojarh in the Keonjhar district while the pellet plant will be set up at Dhamra in the Bhadrak district.
- The flagship company of the Adani Group got the approval to build the refinery and a captive power plant in Rayagada for an investment of ₹41,653 crores (\$5.2 billion).
- Billionaire Adani had set up a wholly owned subsidiary—Mundra Aluminium Ltd—in December, signaling his aspirations in a sector that is dominated by heavyweights such as the Aditya Birla Group and the London-based Vedanta Resources Ltd.
- In June, Adani Enterprises raised ₹6,070 crores in a syndicated club loan for a 5,00,000 tons new copper refinery complex in Gujarat. The company also announced a tie-up with South Korean steel major Posco in January to explore business opportunities in India, including the setting up of a green steel mill.

132. In August Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the license of **Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd** located in _____ with effect from six weeks from September 22, 2022.

- A. Pune
- B. Mumbai
- C. Kolkata
- D. Bhubneshwar
- E. None of the above.

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) canceled the license of Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd in Pune with effect from six weeks from 10th August.
- According to a press release, the commissioner for cooperation and registrar of Cooperative Societies, Maharashtra has also been requested to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator for the bank.
- Rupee Co-operative Bank Ltd, Pune” stands prohibited from conducting the business of ‘banking’ which includes, among other things, acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits as defined in Section 5(b) read with Section 56 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 with effect from September 22, 2022.
- The RBI has directed the bank to provide every entitled depositor a full amount of their deposits from DICGC. It said, “every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of ₹5,00,000/- (Rupees five lakh only) from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) on liquidation.’

RBI cancels licence of Rupee Co-op Bank

FE BUREAU
Mumbai, August, 10

THE RESERVE BANK of India (RBI) on Wednesday cancelled the licence of Rupee Co-operative Bank following an order from the Bombay High Court. “In compliance to the Hon’ble High Court of Bombay order... the order shall become effective after six weeks from today,” the central bank said in a press release.

The bank will have to cease to carry on banking business with effect from September 22. The RBI has also asked the commissioner for cooperation and registrar of cooperative societies to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator. The RBI cancelled the licence as the lender does not have ade-



quate capital and earning prospects, it failed to comply with banking regulations, the continuance of the bank is prejudicial to the interests of its depositors as it is not in a position to pay them and public interest will be adversely affected if the bank is allowed to carry on its business any further.

On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount of up to ₹5 lakh from the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

133. In August **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, _____ and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** have announced a new initiative 'Climate Promise' to accelerate climate action in _____ States and Union Territories across the country.

- A. Australia
- B. **Japan**
- C. Bangladesh
- D. France
- E. None of the above.

- **The India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 states and Union Territories across the country.**
- **An official release stated that the initiative will support Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development. It will be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).**
- **The launch comes within a week of the Cabinet approval of India's updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to be communicated to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.**
- **Under the initiative, UNDP will work with IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE to promote climate mitigation by deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture. This includes solarizing 150 healthcare facilities, and 20 micro-enterprises, and installing 85 Electric Vehicle (EV) charging stations and 30 solar cold storage systems across the 10 states.**
- **Japan has extended USD 5.16 million in climate grant to UNDP India for the project. This is part of Japan's global support to 23 countries through UNDP's 'Climate Promise - From Pledge to Impact' program for scaling up its support to turn NDCs into concrete action.**
- **The project will be rolled out in the states and Union Territories of Bihar, Delhi-NCR, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Odisha, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh between 2022-23.**
- **At the COP26 summit in Glasgow in November 2021, India pledged to cut the country's total projected carbon emission by 1 billion tonnes by 2030, install 500 GW of non-fossil energy capacity by 2030, reduce the carbon intensity of the nation's economy by less than 45 percent by the end of the decade and net-zero carbon emissions by 2070.**

IMD, Japan, UNDP to roll out initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States

PNS ■ NEW DELHI

India Meteorological Department (IMD), the Government of Japan, and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) announced a new initiative to accelerate climate action in 10 States and Union Territories across the country.

To be rolled out in partnership with the IMD at the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE), the initiative will support Nationally Determined Contribution (NDCs) to achieve net-zero emissions and ensure climate-resilient development.

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Under the initiative, UNDP will work with IMD to promote climate resilience and MNRE to promote climate mitigation by deploying clean energy infrastructure and low-emission technologies in key sectors including Transport, Health, Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), and Agriculture.

134. As per the National Statistical Office (NSO) Consumer Price Index (CPI) Retail inflation eases to _____ % in July.

- A. **6.71 %**
- B. 7.01 %
- C. 6.28 %

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. 7.29 %
- E. None of the above.

CPI inflation eases to 6.71 percent in July, IIP falls to 12.3 percent

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, 12 AUGUST

India's headline retail inflation rate, as measured by the Consumer Price Index (CPI), eased to 6.71 per cent in July, as compared to 7.01 per cent in June, according to the data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Easing inflation can be attributed to price cuts on edible oil and easing commodity prices globally.

Even though the CPI inflation has eased, it still remained above the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) upper tolerance band. The overall goods inflation came in at 6.75 per cent



as compared to 7.75 per cent in the previous month, while, inflation in vegetables was at 10.9 per cent in July. Fuel and light inflation came in at 11.76 per cent. Disruption in supply chain due to Russia-Ukraine war is pressurising

domestic inflation. Last week, the central bank has hike repo rate by 50 basis points to tame inflation, but kept the inflation forecast unchanged.

"With inflation expected to remain above the upper threshold in Q2 and Q3, the

MPC stressed that sustained high inflation could destabilise inflation expectations and harm growth in the medium term. The MPC, therefore, judged that further calibrated withdrawal of monetary accommodation is warranted to keep inflation expectations anchored and contain the second-round effects," RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said during the monetary policy review.

The RBI projected inflation is at 6.7 per cent in 2022-23, with Q2 at 7.1 per cent, Q3 at 6.4 per cent, and Q4 at 5.8 per cent, with risks evenly balanced. CPI inflation for Q1:2023-24 is projected at 5 per cent.

- **India's retail inflation eased in July to 6.71% due to moderation in food inflation but stayed well above the Reserve Bank of India's tolerance limit of 4-6% for the seventh consecutive month, data from the National Statistical Office showed.**
- **Meanwhile, India's factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP), came in at 12.3% for June, compared with 19.6% reported in May.**
- **The National Statistical Office (NSO), Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) releases CPI.**
- **CPI is released for all of India and States/UTs separately for rural, urban, and combined (national).**
- **Currently, CPI is calculated using 2012 as a base year. Currently, CPI is calculated by taking into consideration 299 items.**
- **Rural inflation eased from 7.09% in June to 6.8% in July, while urban consumers faced 6.49% inflation, from 6.86% in June.**

135. **WHO has named the variants of Monkeypox virus as _____.**

- A. Signe
- B. **Clade**
- C. Moris
- D. Pixa
- E. None of the above.

- **After several protests and opposition regarding the name 'Monkeypox', the World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced new names for variants of the virus.**
- **WHO has stated this regard and attributed the action to avoid causing any cultural or social offense.**
- **WHO has named the variants of the Monkeypox virus as-- Clades I, IIa, and IIb.**
- **A group of global experts convened by WHO has agreed on new names for monkeypox virus variants, as part of ongoing efforts to align the names of the monkeypox disease, virus, and variants--or clades--with current best practices. The experts agreed to name the clades using Roman numerals,**
- **According to WHO, "Consensus was reached to now refer to the former Congo Basin (Central African) clade as Clade one (I) and the former West African clade as Clade two (II). Additionally, it was agreed that the Clade II consists of two subclades."**
- **Last month, the World Health Organization declared a global health emergency over monkeypox.**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

136. In August *Life Insurance Corporation of India* registered a whopping rise in standalone net profit to _____ crore in the quarter ending June 30.

- A. ₹582.89 crore
- B. ₹682.89 crore**
- C. ₹652.89 crore
- D. ₹612.89 crore
- E. None of the above.

- *The Life Insurance Corporation of India has registered a whopping 23,127.21% rise in standalone net profit to ₹682.89 crores for the quarter ending June 30, 2022, as per the financial results released by the insurer on Friday.*
- *The insurer's net premium income also improved to Rs 98,805.23 crore in the quarter under review compared to Rs 82,375.61 crore in the last year's quarter.*
- *As per the results, LIC's total premium income climbed 20.35% to ₹98,351.76 crores in Q1FY23 compared to ₹81,721.41 crores during Q1 of last year.*
- *Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) made net purchases of shares worth more than ₹34,000 crores from the equities market in the fiscal first quarter, the country's largest insurer said on Friday, as it announced a sharply higher net profit of ₹602.78 crores for the June quarter.*

Amid market volatility, LIC invests ₹34,000 crore in equities

Insurance major posts ₹683 crore profit in first quarter

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 12

Life Insurance Corporation, among the largest domestic institutional investor, had invested ₹34,000 crore in equities in the first quarter of the financial year.

MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC, said, "We are contrarian in our investment philosophy, so we thought this is a good time to buy stocks."

It bought equities worth ₹46,444 crore but booked profit of ₹12,444 crore.

In the Q1 earnings conference, Kumar said that owing to the market volatility, the insurer chose to purchase more equities instead of booking profits.

Due to this, LIC's investment gains fell year-on-year, with the company booking



MR Kumar, Chairman, LIC

equity profit of ₹5,076 crore in June quarter, much lower than the ₹11,368 crore logged in the corresponding quarter in the previous year, he added.

Gain in market share

LIC posted a net profit of ₹683 crore for Q1 FY23, a multi-fold increase from ₹3 crore in the year ago period.

The surge was led by an increase of 20 per cent in the premium income of the insurer to ₹ 98,352 crore.

"While the growth was very robust for the first quarter, it

In the Q1 earnings conference, Kumar said that owing to the market volatility, the insurer chose to purchase more equities instead of booking profits

the number of policies sold and not just on the premium amount.

Q1 earnings

Annualised premium equivalent of LIC was ₹10,270 crore for Q1 FY23, of which individual business accounted for 63 per cent, and group business was 37 per cent. Within the individual business, participating products comprised 92 per cent and non-par products the balance 8 per cent.

The asset quality of the insurer saw a significant improvement in Q1FY23, with net bad loans falling to ₹9 crore from ₹194 crore in the year ago period, as the company made provisions ₹26,611 crore against gross NPA of ₹26,620 crore.

Going ahead, growth in new business is expected to be good as all the company's agents are back in "full force", Kumar said.

was on a low base as there was second Covid wave impact last year," Kumar said.

"However, the trajectory is upwards and we are looking at increased business volumes," he added.

Overall market share of the insurer, in terms of first year premium income, increased to 65 per cent against 63 per cent in FY22.

The number of individual policies sold in Q1 was 60 per cent higher year-on-year due to a low base in the previous year, he said.

The company has been telling its agents to focus on

137. Consider the following statement regarding *DigiYatra App*. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), run by GMR, announced the soft launch of the Centre's DigiYatra initiative.
- 2. The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative co-ordinated by the Ministry of Defence**
3. The 'DigiYatra' is a Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel experience (BEST) based on Facial Recognition Technology.
4. The project is being implemented by the DigiYatra Foundation.
5. None of the above

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **The Delhi and Bengaluru airports recently rolled out the beta version of the DigiYatra App on the 75th Independence Day.**
- **The 'DigiYatra' is an industry-led initiative coordinated by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in line with Digital India's vision to transform the nation into a digitally empowered society.**
- **The 'DigiYatra' is a Biometric Enabled Seamless Travel experience (BEST) based on Facial Recognition Technology.**
- **The project is being implemented by the DigiYatra Foundation — a joint-venture company registered under the Companies Act, 2013.**
- **DigiYatra Foundation will be the custodian of the passenger ID validation process.**
- **It will also define the criteria for compliance and guidelines for the local airport systems.**
- **The system has also become operational at Bengaluru International Airport.**

DIAL launches DigiYatra application

STAFF REPORTER ■ NEW DELHI

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL), the airport operator at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport on Monday announced the soft launch of the 'DigiYatra' application, which passengers can now use for faster e-boarding through the airport.

The application will store all valid documents for the passenger, including the boarding pass for each journey and a vaccine certificate, with passengers boarding domestic journeys only required to show their face in front of a facial recognition system (FRS) at all checkpoints at Terminal-3. Once the passenger downloads the app, he or she is required to register his or her phone number and Aadhar card details, then, take a selfie, add vaccination details and scan the boarding pass.

Under the Digi Yatra project, a passenger will pass through various checkpoints at the airport through paperless and contactless processing, using facial features to establish the identity which would be linked to the boarding pass.



"DIAL had installed the required facility at Terminal 3 of Delhi Airport and already conducted its DigiYatra trials. Nearly 20,000 passengers had the seamless and secured travel experience after using the facility during the trials," its statement noted.

These 20,000-odd passengers then submitted their biometric and other details through kiosks at Terminal 3 for their specific flights.

Now, passengers will submit their biometrics and other details through this app and it will remain stored for all the flights he or she will take at the Delhi airport's Terminal 3. A

passenger need not submit the biometric details at Terminal 3 before each flight.

The beta version of the DigiYatra app is available on the Android platform and will be available on the IOS platform in a few weeks, the DIAL said, adding the app will be used by the passengers to do their entire biometric registration.

After downloading the app, the passenger will have to register his or her phone number and Aadhar card details. Then, the passenger has to take a selfie, add vaccination details and scan the boarding pass, it said.

138. In August JSW Energy acquired a portfolio of 1,753 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation capacity from Mytrah Energy India for _____ crore.

- A. Rs 10530 Cr
- B. Rs 21250 cr
- C. Rs 1500 Cr
- D. Rs 16590 Cr
- E. None of the above.

- **JSW Energy said its wholly-owned subsidiary JSW Neo Energy will acquire a portfolio of 1,753 megawatts (MW) of renewable energy generation capacity from Mytrah Energy India for Rs 10,530 crore.**
- **The deal, comprising 17 special purpose vehicles (SPVs) and one ancillary SPV, is subject to the Competition Commission of India's (CCI) nod and other customary approvals.**
- **The Mytrah Portfolio consists of 10 wind SPVs with a generation capacity of 1,331 MW and 7 solar SPVs with a generation capacity of 422 MW (487 MWp DC), operating primarily in the southern, western, and central parts of India. The assets have a proven operational track record and long-term PPA with an average remaining life of 18 years,**

JSW Neo to buy 1,753 MW of green power capacity

Mytrah portfolio valued at ₹10,530 cr.

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
NEW DELHI

JSW Energy on Wednesday said its arm JSW Neo Energy will acquire 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity from Mytrah Energy for ₹10,530 crore.

JSW Neo Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of JSW Energy, has agreed to acquire a portfolio of 1,753 MW of renewable energy generation capacity – comprising 17 SPVs and one ancillary SPV – from Mytrah Energy (India) Private Limited, as per a statement.

Agreements signed

Necessary definitive agreements have been signed between the parties, it added. The transaction is subject to

This is the largest acquisition made by JSW Energy since inception

the approval of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) and other customary approvals.

The transaction pegs the Mytrah Energy portfolio at an enterprise valuation of approximately ₹10,530 crore after adjusting for net current assets, as per the statement.

This is the largest acquisition made by JSW Energy since its inception, and would leapfrog the current operational generation capacity by more than 35% – from 4,784 MW to 6,537 MW, as per the statement.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The company said it is the largest acquisition made by JSW Energy since its inception and will leapfrog the current operational generation capacity by over 35 percent, from 4,784 MW to 6,537 MW.

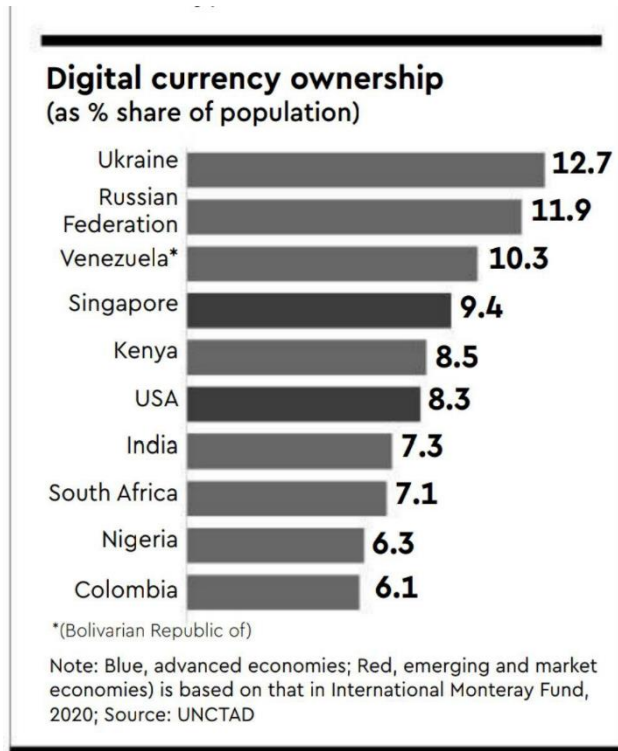
139. Consider the following statement regarding **digital currency ownership as per UNCTAD**.

- 7.3% of the Indian population owns digital currency according to 2021 data making India 7th highest in the world
- Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 percent, followed by Russia (11.9 percent), Venezuela (10.3 percent), Singapore (9.4 percent), Kenya (8.5 percent), and the US (8.3 percent).

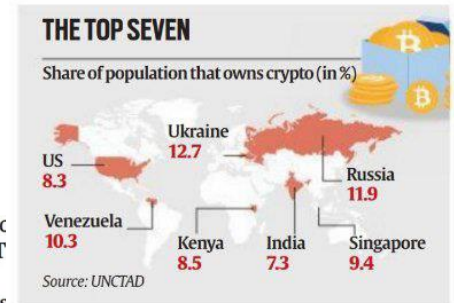
Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- UN said that the use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the COVID-19 pandemic with India becoming the 7th highest country in digital currency ownership. As of 2021, 7.3% of the Indian population owned assets in form of digital currency.
- Developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns cryptocurrencies as per 2021 data.
- The UN trade and development body UNCTAD (United Nations Conference on Trade and Development) stated the figures for other countries too. Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 percent, followed by Russia (11.9 percent), Venezuela (10.3 percent), Singapore (9.4 percent), Kenya (8.5 percent), and the US (8.3 percent).



UN: 7.3% of India population owned digital currency in 2021; 7th in world



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PRESSTRUST OF INDIA
 UNITED NATIONS, AUGUST 11

OVER 7 PER CENT of India's population owns digital currency, according to the UN, which said that the use of cryptocurrency rose globally at an unprecedented rate during the Covid pandemic.

The UN trade and development body UNCTAD said that in 2021, developing countries accounted for 15 of the top 20 economies when it comes to the share of the population that owns cryptocurrencies.

Ukraine topped the list with 12.7 per cent, followed by Russia (11.9 per cent), Venezuela (10.3 per cent), Singapore (9.4 per cent), Kenya (8.5 per cent) and the US (8.3 per cent). In India, 7.3 per cent of the population owned digital currency in 2021, ranking seventh in the list of top 20 global economies for digital currency ownership as share of population.

"Global use of cryptocurrencies has increased exponentially during the COVID-19 pandemic, including in developing countries," UNCTAD said.

In three policy briefs published on Wednesday, it said that while these private digital

currencies have rewarded some and facilitate remittances, they are an unstable financial asset that can also bring social risks and costs.

The policy brief titled "All that glitters is not gold: The high cost of leaving cryptocurrencies unregulated" examines the reasons for the rapid uptake of cryptocurrencies in developing countries, including facilitation of remittances and as a hedge against currency and inflation risks.

It said that recent digital currency shocks in the market suggest that there are private risks to holding crypto, but if the central bank steps in to protect financial stability, then the problem becomes a public one.

"If cryptocurrencies become a widespread means of payment and even replace domestic currencies unofficially (a process called cryptoisation), this could jeopardise the monetary sovereignty of countries," it said.

In developing countries with unmet demand for reserve currencies, stablecoins pose particular risks. For some of these reasons, the International Monetary Fund has expressed the view that cryptocurrencies pose risks as legal tender, it said.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

140. Consider the following statement regarding '*Forbes Asia Best Under A Billion*' mid-sized businesses. Which of the following statement is correct?

1. The number of Indian businesses that made the "Best Under A Billion" list this year was 24.
2. In terms of Asian nations, this put India in fourth place.
3. Japan has the most publicly traded companies.
4. Both 1 and 2.
5. All of the above.

- A list of the best 200 mid-sized businesses in the Asia-Pacific area was released by Forbes Asia last week in its 2022 edition. These are publicly traded businesses with yearly revenues under \$1 billion. The number of Indian businesses that made the "Best Under A Billion" list this year was 24, down from 26 in 2021.
- In terms of Asian nations, this put India in fourth place, one spot ahead of China, which had 22 enterprises on the list. With 30, Taiwan has the most publicly traded companies, followed by Japan with 29 and South Korea with 27.
- The unranked list was created from a lengthy list of more than 20,000 publicly traded businesses in the Asia-Pacific area with annual revenues of more than \$10 million but less than \$1 billion.

141. In August _____ partnered with Flipkart Health, a pharma business division of e-commerce platform Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. to deliver medicines by drone.

- A. IG Drone
- B. Garuda Aerospace
- C. Skye Air Mobility
- D. Go Air
- E. None of the above.

- Drone delivery firm Skye Air Mobility has partnered with Flipkart Health, a pharma business division of e-commerce platform Flipkart Internet Pvt. Ltd. to delivering medicines by drone.
- The tie-up took effect with the launch of 'beyond visual line of sight flights from a Flipkart Health warehouse in West Bengal to multiple locations within Kolkata and suburbs.
- This initiative will witness up to 20 flights every day, each carrying a payload of up to five kilograms of medicines to be delivered from the warehouse to 10 locations very widespread in the region, the statement said. The maximum aerial distance to be covered by the flight will be 16 kilometers (24 km by road). The trials will continue till 8 September 2022.
- Ankit Kumar, CEO of Skye Air Mobility.

142. _____ to create individual portal for mines ministry under Gati Shakti plan.

- A. Indian Bureau of Mines
- B. Meta

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. Coal India
- D. Mahanadi Coal Limited
- E. None of the above.

- In compliance with the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan, the Ministry of Mines entrusted the responsibility for the creation of an individual portal to the Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) through BISAG-N (Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics).
- So far, two data layers have been created. The first layer covers the spatial data of Mineral concessions which included the existing mining lease and existing composite license granted through auction. The second layer includes mineral auction blocks which have been auctioned successfully but the execution of the mining lease is pending.
- The process of validation is likely to be completed by the end of this month.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched PM Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for multi-modal connectivity, on 13th October 2021.
- PM Gati Shakti is based on six pillars: Comprehensiveness, Prioritization, Optimization, Synchronization, Analytics, and Dynamic. Instead of planning and designing the projects separately in silos, the projects will be designed and executed with a common vision. It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Central Ministries and State Governments. It will also extensively leverage technology including spatial planning tools with ISRO imagery developed by BISAG-N.

143. Consider the following statement regarding **India's first dedicated branch for start-ups**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. State Bank of India (SBI) announced the launch of its first "state-of-the-art" dedicated branch for start-ups.
2. It is located in Koramangala, Bengaluru.
3. Next branch we will be opening in Gurgaon and the third one will be in Hyderabad.
4. It signed Mou with Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) to boost the prevailing startup ecosystem for the state.
5. None of the above

- In an attempt to facilitate and support start-ups in the country, the State Bank of India (SBI) announced the launch of its first "state-of-the-art" dedicated branch for start-ups in the country in Bengaluru. The Branch designated for start-ups will cater to the entire gamut of the Startups' needs, at every stage of their evolution.
- Apart from providing funding and regular Banking Services, the Bank will also support the Start-ups with associated services viz., investment banking, treasury operations, advisory, and other ancillary financial services, through its diverse subsidiaries
- The branch launched by SBI Chairman Dinesh Khara is located in Koramangala and Indiranagar are the biggest start-up hubs in the city.
- After Bengaluru, the next branch we will be opening in Gurgaon and the third one will be in Hyderabad.

SBI launches first branch dedicated to start-ups

State Bank of India (SBI) has launched its first branch dedicated to start-ups in Koramangala, Bengaluru, the country's largest lender said on Tuesday. Apart from providing funding and regular banking service to start-ups, SBI will also support such players through associated services such as investment banking, treasury operations, advisory and other ancillary financial services through its subsidiaries. The branch will provide services ranging from the stage of formation of start-ups to Initial Public Offerings and Follow-on Public Offerings, SBI said.

BS REPORTER

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Apart from the banking services, the branch would also have specialist teams for capital markets assisting in equity raise and registration facilities, also housing specialist officers for the forex, treasury solutions, wealth management, and credit needs of the start-ups.
- SBI said it entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM) to boost the prevailing startup ecosystem for the state.

144. In August _____ has launched an app 'Lucky Bill App', that aims to curb Goods and Service Tax (GST) evasion.

- A. Kerala
- B. Andhra Pradesh
- C. Goa
- D. Odisha
- E. None of the above.

- In a first in India, the Kerala government launched an app that aims to curb Goods and Service Tax (GST) evasion. The app, 'Lucky Bill App', was launched by chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan.
- The app asks its users to upload original bills of their purchases to win prizes, including a cash prize of ₹25 lakh.
- The Chief Minister said ₹5 crores was earmarked in this year's budget for this project.
- Apart from cash prizes, the app will also offer rewards such as gift packs from Kudumbashree and Vanashree as well as KTDC tour packages. The Kerala Cm said that ₹5 crore worth of prizes would be given every year.
- The app, according to tot the official data has been developed in collaboration with the Digital University of Kerala. Under the project, there would be daily, weekly and monthly prizes as well as a bumper prize, through a draw of lots, for those who upload their bills via the app.

145. In August Asia's largest Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant has been inaugurated in _____.

- A. Purnea, Bihar
- B. Sangrur, Punjab
- C. Panipat, Haryana
- D. Pune, Maharashtra
- E. None of the above.

Asia's largest compressed Biogas plant in Sangrur starts commercial production

Asia's largest Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in Sangrur district of Punjab has now started commercial production, state's New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora said on Friday. The minister said the plant with a total capacity of 33.23 tonne CBG per day was commissioned at village Bhuttal Kalan (Sangrur) in April this year.

- Asia's largest Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant in the Sangrur district of Punjab has now started commercial production, state's New and Renewable Energy Minister Aman Arora said.
- The minister said the plant with a total capacity of 33.23-tonne CBG per day was commissioned at village Bhuttal Kalan (Sangrur) in April this year.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The plant has now started commercial production of CBG, which is being supplied to the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd (IOCL) outlet.
- Besides, PEDDA (Punjab Energy Development Agency) has also allocated 42 additional CBG projects with a total capacity of 492.58 Tonnes Per Day (TPD) based on paddy straw and other agro-residue to develop a lasting and sustainable solution to prevent stubble burning while also strengthening the rural economy.
- There is a huge potential for CBG projects based on agro-waste in Punjab, the minister said, adding that Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd (HPCL) is setting up a project of capacity 100 KL 2G ethanol per day based on paddy straw and other agro-residue in Bathinda district.
- It will be completed by February 2023. This project will consume about 2 lakh tonnes of paddy straw per annum.

146. In August _____ sold distressed KSK Mahanadi Power's ₹3,815-crore outstanding loans to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Co for ₹1,622 crore.

- A. State Bank Of India
- B. Bank Of Baroda
- C. Yes Bank
- D. ICICI Bank
- E. None of the above.

DISTRESSED LOAN SALE ON UPFRONT PAYMENT BASIS

State Bank Sells Distressed KSK Mahanadi Loans to Aditya Birla ARC for ₹1,622 crore

Sangita.Mehta@timesgroup.com

Mumbai: State Bank of India (SBI) on Friday sold distressed KSK Mahanadi Power's ₹3,815-crore outstanding loans to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Co for ₹1,622 crore, a move that would help the bank shore up its earnings in the second quarter, said two people aware of the development.

This would be the single-largest distressed loan sale on an upfront payment basis by any bank, equating to a recovery of 42% for the bank. Aditya Birla ARC's bid was supported by its joint venture partner, Varde Partners.

So far, most big-ticket distressed loan sales were structured deals in-

volving part payment in the form of security receipts that would be redeemed upon recovery from defaulting borrowers.

Aditya Birla ARC did not respond to the request for comment.

SBI's decision to sell KSK Mahanadi loans is an example of the extent to which banks are willing to avoid the uncertainty of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC)-driven resolution process. The company has been undergoing insolvency proceedings for over two and a half years.

Vedanta, Adani Power, Naveen Jindal's Jindal Power, Dharampal Jindal's Jindal Polymer, Power Finance Corporation and iLabs India Special Situation Fund were among the applicants

that submitted expressions of interest to acquire it.

However, a series of litigation delayed the resolution process. The

National Company Law Appellate Tribunal

(NCLAT) has stayed the resolution process following a plea by ASREC, an ARC and a lender, that optimal recovery in KSK Mahanadi is possible only if it undergoes group resolution. Two ancillary companies — KSK Mahanadi

Water, which operates a water pipeline to the power plant, and Raigarh Champa Rail, which carries raw material to the plant — are separately undergoing insolvency proceedings. NCLAT has listed the matter for hearing on August 22.

Aditya Birla ARC had offered ₹1,544 crore to SBI in an uncontested Swiss challenge auction held by the bank in June. "Despite no other counter bid, SBI faltered in declaring Aditya Birla ARC as winning bidder," said one of the people cited above. "Instead, the bank pursued the ARC to improve the offer," the same person said.

Following a series of negotiations between the bank and the ARC on pricing, the deal closed on Friday, the people said.



SBI's decision to sell loans is an example of the extent to which banks are willing to avoid the uncertainty of the IBC-driven resolution process

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- (SBI) Buying distressed KSK Mahanadi Energy's ₹3,815-crore excellent loans to Aditya Birla Asset Reconstruction Co for ₹1,622 crores, a transfer that may assist the financial institution shore up its earnings within the second quarter, stated two individuals conscious of the event.
- This can be the single-largest distressed mortgage sale on an upfront cost foundation by any financial institution, equating to a restoration of 42% for the financial institution. Aditya Birla ARC's bid was supported by its three-way partnership accomplice, Varde Companions.
- Aditya Birla ARC had supplied ₹1,544 crores to SBI in an uncontested Swiss problem public sale held by the financial institution in June. "Regardless of no different counter bid, SBI faltered in declaring Aditya Birla ARC as the successful bidder," stated one of many individuals cited above. "As an alternative, the financial institution pursued the ARC to enhance the supply," the identical individual stated.

147. In August Department of Expenditure released an additional _____ Crore as a one-time settlement for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) to pay for all the works that were sanctioned before March 31.

- A. Rs 820 Cr
- B. Rs 807 Cr**
- C. Rs 550 Cr
- D. Rs 665 Cr
- E. None of the above.

- The Department of Expenditure has released an additional ₹807 crore as a one-time settlement for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) to pay for all the works that were sanctioned before March 31.
- The department has refused to release any additional amount for work initiated after March 31, as the scheme had been phased out as part of a rationalization of centrally sponsored schemes.
- The rural development ministry had sought Rs 1,200 crore under the scheme, citing increased costs and for projects where work sanction was done.

Finmin Clears ₹807 cr as One-time Settlement for Rurban Mission

Anuradha.Shukla@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The Department of Expenditure has released an additional ₹807 crore as one-time settlement for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission (SPMRM) to pay for all the works that were sanctioned before March 31.

The department has refused to release any additional amount for work initiated after March 31, as the scheme had been phased out as part of a rationalisation of centrally sponsored schemes, officials in the finance ministry said.

"There is no fresh allocation for the scheme. This is a one-time settlement after the Ministry of Rural Development asked for additional funds," an official told ET.

The rural development ministry had sought Rs 1,200 crore under the scheme, citing increased costs and for projects where work sanction was done, the official added.

The payment has been made only for pro-



jects where the groundwork had already been initiated before March 31.

Projects where no groundwork has begun will be merged with other schemes, even if it had been sanctioned.

Initially, the DoE had allowed the rural

development ministry to release Rs 288.89 crore till the end of FY22, but the figure was revised subsequently.

The finance ministry has previously said in a reply to Parliament that there will be no extension to the scheme, "in the absence of specific approval of competent authority for extension of the scheme beyond 31.03.2022". Another official said this was part of the general rationalisation exercise as the government was trying to reduce the number of schemes by merging similar ones. "This is part of the rationalisation done every year and has been done after a detailed study of the programme and after much deliberation," the official added.

The Centre has halved the number of centrally sponsored schemes to 65, with effect from April 1, 2022.

According to the budget, 130 centrally sponsored scheme spanning all ministries have been "rationalised / revamped" into 65 schemes. This had excluded those schemes declared after April 1, 2020.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The payment has been made only for projects where the groundwork had already been initiated before March 31.
- The Centre has halved the number of centrally sponsored schemes to 65, with effect from April 1, 2022.
- According to the budget, 130 centrally sponsored schemes spanning all ministries have been "rationalized/revamped" into 65 schemes. This excluded those schemes declared after April 1, 2020.
- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD) in 2016.
- The objective of the National Rurban Mission (NRuM) is to stimulate local economic development, enhance basic services, and create well-planned Rurban clusters.
- Rurban clusters are identified across the country's rural areas showing increasing signs of urbanization.

148. Consider the following statement regarding recent **changes made by Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. PFRDA has decided to discontinue the facility of payment of contributions via credit card in the Tier-II account of NPS.
2. In the case of the Tier-I NPS account, the amount cannot be withdrawn until retirement.
3. In the case of the Tier-II account, money can be withdrawn at any time.
4. PFRDA has now increased the maximum age of membership under the NPS-Private sector from the current 65 years to 70 years.
5. **The exit age has been increased to 70 years.**

- PFRDA has decided to discontinue the facility of payment of contributions via credit card in the Tier-II account of NPS.
- The PFRDA issued the circular exercising its powers conferred under Section 14 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013.
- A Tier-II account is a voluntary savings account. Only a Tier-I NPS account holder can open a Tier-II NPS account.
- Tier-II NPS account has flexible exit and withdrawal rules against Tier-I NPS account, which is a long-term one.
- In the case of the Tier-I NPS account, the amount cannot be withdrawn until retirement.
- In the case of the Tier-II account, money can be withdrawn at any time. No minimum balance is needed in an NPS Tier-II account.
- As per PFRDA, pension assets under management (AUM) are expected to increase by 62% to ₹2 lakh crore in FY23.
- Active subscribers in the non-government sector may increase by 35% to 50 lakh subscribers by the end of FY23.
- PFRDA has now increased the maximum age of membership under the NPS-Private sector from the current 65 years to 70 years. The exit age has been increased to 75 years.
- Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) was established in October 2003. Its Chairman is Supratim Bandyopadhyay. Its head office is in New Delhi.

149. Consider the following changes made by **RBI for the Authorised dealer (AD) category-I license**. Which of the following is incorrect?

1. **Minimum net worth of ₹300 crore**
2. All scheduled SFBs will be eligible for AD Category-I after completion of at least two years of operations as AD Category-II.
3. Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio should not be less than 15 percent

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- 4. Net non-performing assets should not exceed 6 percent during the previous four quarters
- 5. Should have made a profit in the preceding two years

- RBI has said that all scheduled SFBs will be eligible for an AD Category-I license after completion of at least two years of operations as AD Category-II.
- This step aims to provide small finance banks (SFBs) flexibility to meet their customers' foreign exchange business requirements.
- An authorized dealer (AD) category-I license is subject to certain eligibility norms. Some of them are given below.
- The minimum net worth of ₹500 crore
- Capital to risk-weighted assets ratio should not be less than 15 percent
- Net non-performing assets should not exceed 6 percent during the previous four quarters
- Should have made a profit in the preceding two years
- Other eligibility criteria include SFB should not have defaulted in the maintenance of cash reserve ratio/ statutory liquidity ratio during the previous two years.

All SFBs eligible for authorised dealer category-I licence: RBI

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 8

The RBI on Monday said all scheduled small finance banks will be eligible for authorised dealer (AD) category-I licence after completion of at least two years of operations as AD Category-II.

This move is aimed at giving more flexibility to SFBs to meet their customers' foreign exchange business requirement, the central bank said.

The AD Category-I licence is subject to eligibility norms, including minimum net worth of

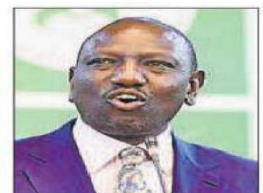
₹500 crore, capital to risk-weighted assets ratio should not be less than 15 per cent, net non-performing assets should not exceed 6 per cent during previous four quarters, should have made profit in the preceding two years, among others. Other eligibility criteria include, the SFB should not have defaulted in maintenance of cash reserve ratio/ statutory liquidity ratio during previous two years; should have sound internal control systems; and should not have any major regulatory and supervisory concerns.

Appointment News

150. In August William Ruto has been declared the winner of _____ presidential election.

- A. Zambia
- B. **Kenya**
- C. Jordan
- D. Botswana
- E. None of the above.

- Deputy President William Ruto has been declared the winner of Kenya's presidential election amid dramatic scenes.
- He narrowly beat his rival, Raila Odinga, taking 50.5% of the vote, according to the official results.
- The announcement was delayed amid scuffles and allegations of vote-rigging by Mr. Odinga's campaign.



William Ruto AFP

Ruto announced president-elect in Kenya poll chaos
NAIROBI: Deputy president William Ruto was on Monday declared winner of Kenya's hard-fought presidential poll but the announcement was mired in controversy after several members of the election commission rejected the results. AFP

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- This was the first time Mr. Ruto, 55, had run for president. He has served as deputy president for 10 years but fell out with President Uhuru Kenyatta, who backed Mr. Odinga to succeed him.
- The 77-year-old former prime minister, who got 48.8% of the vote, was running for president for the fifth time.
- Capital: Nairobi and shilling is the currency of Kenya.

151. In August the shareholders of **Bharti Airtel** approved the re-appointment of _____ as **managing director** of the company.

- A. **Gopal Vittal**
- B. Meenakshi Mintra
- C. Anshu Jain
- D. Anand Burman
- E. None of the above.

- The shareholders of **Bharti Airtel** have approved the re-appointment of **Gopal Vittal** as managing director of the company.
- Vittal will remain the MD of Airtel for five years with effect from February 1, 2023.
- Vittal was re-appointed as the managing director and CEO with effect from February 1, 2018, for 5 years, (up to January 31, 2023). His re-appointment was due for another term of five years (that is from February 1, 2023, to January 31, 2028).
- **Bharti Airtel Limited**, also known as **Airtel**, is an Indian multinational telecommunications services company based in New Delhi. **Sunil Bharti Mittal** is the Founder and Chairman of **Bharti Enterprises**.

Airtel gets shareholders' nod for re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as MD

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
New Delhi, August 13

BHARTI AIRTEL'S SHAREHOLDERS have approved the re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as managing director of the company for a period of five years with effect from February 1, 2023. Over 97% of total votes polled were in favour of the resolution, and the same "has been passed with requisite majority", the telco said in a regulatory filing on the outcome of its Annual General Meeting (AGM). The shareholders also approved a special resolution related to payment of remuneration to Vittal as managing director and CEO of the company, with 89.57% votes in favour and 10.42% against the proposal. "Therefore the above resolution has been passed with requisite majority," the filing said. The AGM of the company was held on August 12, 2022 (Friday). As per the notice of AGM dated July 21, 2022, shareholders' nod was sought for "re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as MD (designated as managing director and CEO) for a further period of five (5) years with effect from February 1, 2023, liable to retire by rotation..."

eration to Vittal as managing director and CEO of the company, with 89.57% votes in favour and 10.42% against the proposal. "Therefore the above resolution has been passed with requisite majority," the filing said. The AGM of the company was held on August 12, 2022 (Friday). As per the notice of AGM dated July 21, 2022, shareholders' nod was sought for "re-appointment of Gopal Vittal as MD (designated as managing director and CEO) for a further period of five (5) years with effect from February 1, 2023, liable to retire by rotation..."

152. In August Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was appointed Chief Justice Of India he will become the **second CJI to be directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar**, _____ was the **first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964**.

- A. Justice NV Ramanna
- B. **Justice SM Sikri**
- C. Justice BR Bhargava
- D. Justice BR Nagarathna
- E. None of the above.

Justice Lalit appointed as 49th CJI

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

Justice Uday Umesh Lalit was on Wednesday appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment. He will assume charge on August 27 after incumbent NV Ramana demits office the day before. Justice Lalit will have a brief tenure of less than three months. He will turn 65 on November 8 when he demits office. "In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August, 2022,"



a Law Ministry notification said. Justice Lalit, born on November 9, 1957, was enrolled as an advocate in June 1983

and practised in the Bombay High Court till December 1985.

He later shifted base to Delhi. Lalit was designated senior lawyer by the Supreme Court in April, 2004. Before being recommended to be appointed as a Supreme Court judge from the Bar, Lalit conducted the trial in 2G scam related cases as special public prosecutor for the CBI. He was appointed a Supreme Court judge on August 13, 2014. CJI Ramana conveyed his best wishes to Justice Lalit for a glorious tenure as the Chief Justice of India. "Shri Justice Ramana expressed confidence that with his long and rich experience in the Bar as well as on the Bench, Shri Justice Lalit will take the institution of the judiciary to greater heights through his able leadership," said the statement.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has been appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India after President Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday signed his warrant of appointment.
- As per the schedule, Lalit will be assuming charge on 27 August after incumbent N V Ramana demits office on 26th.
- In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution of India, the President is pleased to appoint Shri Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, judge of the Supreme Court, to be the Chief Justice of India with effect from 27 August 2022.
- On 13 August 2014, he was appointed a judge of the Supreme Court.
- Justice Lalit will be the second CJI who was directly elevated to the apex court bench from the Bar. Justice S M Sikri, who became the 13th CJI in January 1971, was the first lawyer to be elevated directly to the top court bench in March 1964.

UU LALIT 2ND CJI FROM BAR TO BENCH DIRECTLY
New Delhi: Justice Uday Umesh Lalit, who was on Wednesday appointed as the 49th Chief Justice of India (CJI) after President Droupadi Murmu signed his warrant of appointment, will become the second head of the Indian judiciary to be directly elevated to the Supreme Court bench from the Bar.

153. Papua New Guinea's Parliament has elected James Marape as Prime Minister after the elections. What is the currency of Papua New Guinea?

- A. Kina
- B. Libra
- C. Krone
- D. Peso
- E. None of the above.

- Papua New Guinea's Parliament has elected James Marape as Prime Minister after the elections.
- He became the Prime Minister for the second time. The election in Papua New Guinea was held between 4 July to 22 July.
- The election in Papua New Guinea is very challenging due to difficult terrain, extreme weather, poor transport infrastructure, and linguistic and cultural diversity.
- James Marape is the leader of the Pangu Party, which has won 36 seats and clinched 97 votes in Parliament.
- He became Prime Minister for the first time in 2019. Its capital is Port Moresby, and its currency is Kina.

154. Recently _____ University professor Ramadhar Singh becomes the first Indian psychologist on the US Heritage Wall of Fame.

- A. Amity University
- B. Delhi University
- C. Ahmedabad University
- D. Central University of Punjab
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- First, the extraordinary contributions to social psychology and management by an Indian professor have been recognized by the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in the United States.
- Amrut Mody School of Management of Ahmedabad University professor Ramadhar Singh has reportedly been marked on the 'Heritage Wall of Fame' of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP) in the United States, making him the only social psychologist from India to receive the honor.
- It is worth noting that SPSP, established in 1974, is the world's largest organization of personality and social psychologists, and professor Singh has been a member of the Society (1990) and then fellow (1992).

155. In August Amit Burman stepped down as the Dabur India Ltd and _____ has taken over as the non-executive chairman.

- A. Pramod Mittal
- B. Mohit Burman**
- C. Ajay Jindal
- D. Rakesh Jhunjhnwala
- E. None of the above.

- Dabur India Ltd on Friday said Amit Burman has stepped down as the company's chairman and Mohit Burman has taken over as the non-executive chairman.
- Amit Burman will continue to be the non-executive director of the company, according to a regulatory filing.
- Mohit Burman has been appointed as the non-executive chairman for five years with effect from August 11. He is currently the non-executive vice chairman of the company.
- The company has also appointed Saket Burman as the non-executive vice chairman for five years.
- Amit Burman took as the chairman of Dabur India in 2019. He took charge as CEO of Dabur Foods in 1999 and stepped down from the post after the company was merged into Dabur India Ltd in 2007.

Dabur India Chairman Amit Burman steps down

Mohit Burman takes over as new Cha 9/22

AGENCIES / New Delhi



Dabur India on Friday said Amit Burman has stepped down as the company's Chairman and Mohit Burman has taken over as the Non-Executive Chairman.

Amit Burman would continue to be the Non-Executive Director of the company, according to a regulatory filing.

Mohit Burman has been appointed as the Non-Executive Chairman for five years with effect from August 11. He is currently the Non-Executive Vice Chairman of the company. Besides, the company has appointed Saket Burman as the Non-Executive Vice Chairman for five years.

Amit Burman had taken over as the Chairman of Dabur India in 2019.

He took charge as CEO of Dabur Foods in 1999 and

stepped down from the post after the company was merged into Dabur India Ltd in July 2007. Then, he served as the Vice Chairman before becoming Chairman in 2019.

In the financial year ended March 2022, Dabur India's revenue was at Rs 8,179.50 crore.

Presently, Dabur India has four brands in its kitty having an annual turnover of Rs 1,000 crore and above – Dabur Amla, Dabur Vatika, Dabur Red Paste and juice brand Real.

156. In August Guillermo Pablo Ríos of _____ has been appointed as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).

- A. Uruguay
- B. Argentina**
- C. Brazil
- D. Germany
- E. None of the above.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed a veteran Argentinean naval officer as Head of Mission and Chief Military Observer for the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- Rear Admiral Guillermo Pablo Ríos of Argentina succeeds Major General José Eladio Alcáin of Uruguay, who will shortly complete his assignment.
- The statement added that Rear Admiral Ríos has had a distinguished career in the Argentinean Navy since 1988 when he graduated from the Navy Academy as Middleshipman.
- Most recently, he served as the General Director of Education, Training, and Doctrine of the Joint Staff (2022).
- UNMOGIP was established in January 1949. Following the India-Pakistan war in 1971 and a subsequent ceasefire agreement of 17 December of that year, the tasks of UNMOGIP have been to observe, to the extent possible, developments about the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and to report thereon to the Secretary-General.

157. In August Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment of Simon Stiell from _____ as the new U.N. climate chief.

- A. Kenya
- B. **Grenada**
- C. Columbia
- D. Ecuador
- E. None of the above.

- Secretary-General Antonio Guterres announced the appointment Monday of Simon Stiell from the Caribbean island nation of Grenada as the new U.N. climate chief.
- In recent years Stiell has been among a handful of prominent figures from vulnerable nations demanding that rich countries step up their efforts to combat climate change and help those around the world who are most vulnerable.
- He said the appointment was made after consulting with the 197 parties to the convention, which is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris agreement aimed at tackling climate change.
- The Paris agreement called for global temperatures to rise a maximum of 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) by the end of the century, compared to pre-industrial times, and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).
- U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric announced Guterres' appointment of Stiell as executive secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, succeeding Patricia Espinosa of Mexico.

UN selects former Grenada minister as climate chief

WASHINGTON: Grenada's former climate resilience minister Simon Stiell will become the new UN climate chief, UN secretary-general António Guterres announced on Monday. Stiell will take over as executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change before the next round of negotiations (COP27) in Egypt. **REUTERS**

158. In August _____ was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami.

- A. **Rishabh Pant**
- B. Akshay Kumar
- C. Surya Kumar Yadav
- D. Suresh Raina

Rishabh Pant
Uttarakhand's
ambassador

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
Dehradun, 11 August

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on Thursday named cricketer Rish-

abh Pant the brand ambassador of the state. The wicket-keeper-batter was born in Roorkee in Haridwar district. Naming Pant the state's brand ambassador in Delhi's

Uttarakhand Sadan, Dhami said his achievements in cricket due to his will power despite coming from a humble background can be a source of inspiration for everyone.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

E. None of the above.

- Star Indian wicketkeeper-batter Rishabh Pant was appointed as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in a program organized at Uttarakhand Sadan in New Delhi.
- while congratulating Rishabh, the Chief Minister said that the way Rishabh Pant accomplished the goal with his determination and strong willpower in very normal circumstances would inspire everyone. Cricketer Rishabh Pant expressed his gratitude to the Chief Minister for being honored as the Uttarakhand brand ambassador.

158. In August which among the following is not on the *list of directors appointed by the central government for non-official Directors on the Central Board of RBI for a further period of four years*

- A. Satish Kashinath Marathe
- B. Swaminathan Gurumurthy
- C. Revathy Iyer
- D. Sachin Chaturvedi
- E. Nandan Nilkenni

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on August 11 said the Central Government has re-nominated Satish Kashinath Marathe and Swaminathan Gurumurthy as part-time, non-official Directors on the Central Board of RBI for a further period of four years with effect from August 11, 2022.
- Additionally, the central Government has re-nominated Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi as part-time, non-official Directors on the Central Board of RBI for a further period of four years after completion of their present tenure on September 18, 2022.
- Further, in a separate release, the RBI said the central Government has re-appointed Revathy Iyer as a Member of the Northern Local Board and Sachin Chaturvedi as a Member of the Eastern Local Board of the RBI for a further period of four years after the completion of their present tenure on September 18, 2022.
- Iyer was a former Deputy Comptroller & Auditor General of government accounts from December 2013 to May 2014.
- Sachin Chaturvedi is Director General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based autonomous think-tank.

Gurumurthy, three others re-nominated to RBI Board

OUR BUREAU

Mumbai, August 11

The Centre has re-nominated Satish Kashinath Marathe, Swaminathan Gurumurthy, Revathy Iyer and Sachin Chaturvedi as part-time, non-official Directors on the Central Board of Reserve Bank of India for a further period of four years.

The re-appointment of Marathe and Gurumurthy is with effect from August 11, or until further orders, whichever is earlier. The re-appointment of Iyer and Chaturvedi takes effect after completion of their present tenure on September 18, or until further orders, whichever is earlier.

5/1

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

PIO confirmed as 1st South Asian judge for top US appeals court

Washington: The US Senate has confirmed Indian American litigator Roopali H Desai to the US court of appeals for the ninth circuit, making her the first South Asian judge to serve on this powerful court.

Desai was confirmed by the Senate by a bipartisan vote of 67-29 on Thursday. The ninth circuit is by far the largest of the thirteen courts of appeals, covering a total of 9 states and 2 territories and with 29 active judgeships. "It comes as no surprise that Ms Desai's nomination has received high praise across the political and ideological spectrum, as well as from state judges, law enforcement officials, and three different firefighters' organisations. With 16 years of experience as a litigator, she is an outstanding addition to the ninth circuit," said Senate majority whip Dick Durbin, chair of the Senate judiciary committee. ¶11

{ QUIT SERVICE IN 2019 }

Faesal appointed as dy secy in tourism ministry

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

SRINAGAR: Indian Administrative Services (IAS) officer Shah Faesal, who had resigned from his job in 2019 and was reinstated in April this year, has been posted as a deputy secretary in the Union ministry of tourism, according to senior officials in the know of developments.

Faesal did not respond to calls for comment.

The Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), in its order issued two days ago, appointed Faesal in the Union tourism ministry, a senior DoPT official was quoted by ANI as saying.

Faesal, who had submitted his resignation in January 2019 and floated the Jammu and Kashmir People's Movement (JKPM) party, was detained under the stringent Public Safety Act immediately after the abrogation of the special status of the erstwhile state of J&K.

The home ministry, which is the cadre controlling authority for the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre, had asked for



Shah Faesal

an opinion of the J&K administration about his plea for withdrawing his resignation.

However, after his release, Faesal gave up on politics and gave indications he was willing to rejoin government service. His resignation had not been accepted.

In 2020, Faesal quit his party. He was reinstated into service in April 2022.

"8 months of my life (Jan 2019-Aug 2019) created so much baggage that I was almost finished. While chasing a chimera, I lost almost everything that I had built over the years. Job. Friends. Reputation. Public goodwill. But I never lost hope. My idealism had let me down," he said in a series of tweets soon after he again joined the government.

Days and Obituary News

159. Consider the following statement regarding **Ace Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. He was fondly known as the 'Big Bull of Dalal Street' and even as 'India's Warren Buffet.
2. Recently, he also launched **Go Air - India's newest airline**.
3. He also ran a privately-owned trading firm or asset management firm called 'RARE' enterprises.
4. Both A and B

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

5. All of the above

- **Ace Investor Rakesh Jhunjhunwala Passes Away. The ‘Big Bull of Dalal Street’ and Ace Investor breathed his last in Mumbai.**
- **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was born on 5th July 1960 and grew up in a Rajasthani Family based in Bombay/Mumbai.**
- **Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was a Chartered Accountant (CA) by qualification.**
- **He began investing in Stocks in 1985 with a base capital of Rs 5000/-when BSE used to trade at 150. Over the next 3 decades, he dominated the Indian Stock Markets and went on to become one of the most profitable, well-known, and influential stock trades in the country.**
- **The unique investing style and the high-risk-taking profile of Rakesh Jhunjhunwala earned him several nicknames during his career.**
- **He was fondly known as the 'Big Bull of Dalal Street' and even as the 'India's Warren Buffet' in trading circles across the country.**
- **As per Forbes' Real-time Billionaires Index, Jhunjhunwala is ranked among the top 500 richest billionaires, having a net worth of \$5.8 billion (about Rs 46,000 crore) as of July 2022. This also made him the 36th richest man in the country.**
- **As on 2018, the stock portfolio held by Mr. Rajesh Jhunjhunwala grew to Rs 11000/- crores. It included some of the most profitable companies in India such as Star Health, Titan, Rallis India, Escorts, Canara Bank, and Tata Motors among others.**
- **He also ran a privately-owned trading firm or asset management firm called ‘RARE’ enterprises which were named after his and his wife’s initials.**
- **Recently, he also launched Akasa Air - India’s newest airline which took its first flight just days before on 7th August 2022.**

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, the Big Bull of Dalal Street, is no more

The market maverick was also known for his liberal support to various social causes



PALAK SHAH
Mumbai, August 14

Rakesh Jhunjhunwala (62), India's self-styled big bull of the stock markets, passed away early on Sunday morning. Jhunjhunwala had an estimated net worth of \$5.5 billion (approximately ₹45,000 crore), making him the 36th richest man in India, according to *Forbes*.

Born on July 5, 1960, Jhunjhunwala was the son of an income-tax officer and hailed from the district of Jhunjhunu in Rajasthan. A B.Com graduate from Sydenham College (University of Mumbai), he was also a qualified CA.

Jhunjhunwala had begun investing with \$100 in 1985 when the BSE benchmark index Sensex was trading just at 150. He ran a privately-owned stock trading firm called RARE Enterprises.

Biggest investments

Some of his biggest investments were Titan, Crisil, Aurobindo Pharma, Praj Industries, NCC, Aptech Limited, Ion Exchange, Fortis Healthcare, Lupin, VIP Industries, Geojit Financial Services, Rallis India, Jubilant Life Sciences, etc. Besides, he loved to dabble in derivatives, currency and gold. Recently, he had invest-

ted ₹260 crore in the new budget airline company Akasa Airlines.

Jhunjhunwala had also shown interest in film production and his philanthropic portfolio included nutrition and education. He had pledged to give away 25 per cent of his wealth to charity. His most valuable listed holding was watch and jewellery maker Titan, part of the Tata conglomerate.

He contributed to shelters for cancer-affected children, Agastya International Foundation and Arpan, an entity that helps create awareness among children about sexual exploitation.

Jhunjhunwala also supported Ashoka University, Friends of Tribals Society and Olympic Gold Quest. He

was building an eye hospital in Navi Mumbai, which could perform 15,000 eye surgeries free of cost.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, in his homage to Jhunjhunwala via a tweet, said, "Rakesh Jhunjhunwala was indomitable. Full of life, witty and insightful, he leaves behind an indelible contribution to the financial world."

Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of the Tata Group, said: "Rakesh Jhunjhunwala, who sadly passed away this morning, will always be remembered for his acute understanding of the stock exchanges of India. He will also be remembered for his jovial personality, his kindness, and his foresightedness."

[More reports p2](#)

160. In August David McCullough, best-selling author and renowned historian who won Pulitzer Prizes for his biographies of presidents John Adams and Harry Truman, died at the age of 89, belongs to which of the following country?

- A. US
- B. Germany
- C. France
- D. England
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **David McCullough, best-selling author and renowned historian who won Pulitzer Prizes for his biographies of presidents John Adams and Harry Truman, has died at the age of 89.**
- **McCullough was known for writing several deeply researched and popular works about important American figures and points in history such as the building of the Brooklyn Bridge and the first flight by the Wright Brothers.**
- **McCullough won a Pulitzer Prize in 1993 for Truman, a biography about the 33rd president of the United States, and another Prize in 2002 for John Adams, a biography about the second US president.**
- **In 2016, McCullough was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian award.**

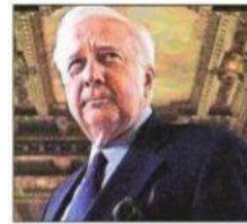
WON AWARDS FOR 2 PRESIDENTIAL BIOGRAPHIES, 'TRUMAN', 'JOHN ADAMS'

Pulitzer winner David McCullough, best-selling explorer of US's past, dies

DANIEL LEWIS
AUGUST 8

DAVID MCCULLOUGH, who was known to millions as an award-winning, best-selling author and an appealing television host and narrator with a rare gift for recreating the great events and characters of America's past, died on Sunday at his home in Hingham Mass. He was 89.

The death was confirmed by his daughter Dorie Lawson. McCullough won Pulitzer Prizes for two presidential biographies, "Truman" (1992) and "John Adams" (2001). He received National Book Awards for "The



The author David McCullough in 2001. NYT

Path Between the Seas: The Creation of the Panama Canal" (1977) and "Mornings on Horseback", about Theodore Roosevelt and his family.

Deep research and lively readability were hallmarks of his books, and so was their tendency to leap off the shelves. "Truman" topped *The New York Times's* best-seller list for 43 weeks; "John Adams" was No. 1 in its first week and has since gone through dozens more printings.

His readers got a lot of work for their money: The Adams project took McCullough seven years, "Truman" took him 10. "The Great Bridge" (1972), his exhaustive account of the technology, personalities and politics involved in building the Brooklyn Bridge, was hailed as a monument in its own right. Yet there was hardly anything in his writ-

ing to suggest that he had ever staggered under the weight of his homework.

Critics saluted him as a literary master, adept at imbuing the familiar with narrative drama and bringing momentous events to life through small details and the accounts of individual witnesses.

"People often ask me if I'm working on a book," he said in an interview with NYT in 1992. "That's not how I feel. I feel like I work in a book. It's like putting myself under a spell. And this spell, if you will, is so real to me that if I have to leave my work for a few days, I have to work myself back into the spell when I come back. It's almost like hypnosis." NYT

161. **International Left-Handers Day** is an international day observed annually on _____ to celebrate the uniqueness and differences of left-handed individuals.

- A. 12th August
- B. 13th August**
- C. 14th August
- D. 15th August
- E. None of the above.

- **International Lefthanders Day 2021 will be observed on the 13th of August to celebrate the differences and distinctiveness of left-handed individuals.**
- **This day was first celebrated by Dean R. Campbell, founder of Lefthanders International, Inc in 1976.**
- **Continuing the tradition created by Campbell, the Left-Handers Club launched International Lefthanders Day as a part of their organization on August 13, 1992. The aim was to create awareness of the advantages and disadvantages of left-handedness.**

162. **World Organ Donation Day** is celebrated on _____ each year to encourage people to pledge to donate their organs.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A. 13th August
- B. 12th August
- C. 13th August
- D. 14th August
- E. None of the above.

- World Organ Donation Day is celebrated on 13 August each year to encourage people to pledge to donate their organs.
- The objective behind celebrating World Organ Donation Day is to address the myths related to donating organs.
- Ronald Lee Herrick was the first organ donor and donated a kidney to his twin brother. In 1990, Doctor Joseph Murray got the Nobel Prize for physiology and medicine for his achievements in organ transplantation.
- One can sign up to be a donor once they are 18 years of age. In case a donor is below the age of 18 years, they should have the consent of parents or adult guardians to register themselves as an organ donor.

163. World Lion Day is celebrated every year on _____ to increase public awareness of the significance of lion conservation.

- A. 8th August
- B. 9th August
- C. 10th August
- D. 11th August
- E. None of the above.

- World Lion Day is celebrated every year on 10 August to increase public awareness of the significance of lion conservation.
- First World Lion Day was celebrated in 2013.
- World Lion Day was co-founded by Dereck and Beverly Joubert of the Big Cat Initiative and National Geographic in a partnership.
- They aimed to safeguard lions in their natural environment.
- Lions are listed as vulnerable on IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. They are ecologically significant.
- Gir Forest, Gujarat is home to the only wild population of lions outside of Africa.
- As per the latest census (till June 2020), the population of Asiatic Lions in India increased from 523 in 2015 to 674 in 2020.
- This is a growth of about 29% in the population of Asiatic lions, living in Gujarat's Gir forests, in the past five years.

164. Anshu Jain, who passed away recently was the former CEO Of which of the following bank?

- A. RBL Bank
- B. Yes Bank
- C. Deutsche Bank
- D. CBS Bank
- E. None of the above.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Anshu Jain, the former co-chief executive of Deutsche Bank AG, died on Saturday following a five-year battle with duodenal cancer, his family said in a statement. Anshu Jain was 59 years old. In the statement, his family said that Anshu Jain was diagnosed with duodenal cancer in January 2017.*
- *Anshu Jain was president of Cantor Fitzgerald in 2017. Before joining Cantor Fitzgerald, Anshu Jain was co-chief executive of Deutsche Bank AG.*
- *Deutsche Bank AG is a German multinational investment bank and financial services company headquartered in Frankfurt, Germany.*

Deutsche Bank ex-co-CEO Anshu Jain passes away

REUTERS
Frankfurt, August 13

ANSHU JAIN, THE former Deutsche Bank AG co-chief executive officer, died early on Saturday at the age of 59 after a long, illness, the bank said.

"Anshu Jain played a key role in expanding Deutsche Bank's position in our global business with companies and institutional investors," said Alexander Wynaendts, chairman of the bank's supervisory board. "Today, this is of strategic importance not just for Deutsche Bank, but for Europe as a financial centre," he added. Jain was instrumental in building the company's global capital markets business, the bank said. The



Indian-born banker was appointed to Deutsche's management board in 2009 and was responsible for the corporate and investment bank division. From 2012 to 2015, he was co-CEO.

"Anyone who worked with Anshu experienced a passionate leader of intellectual brilliance," said CEO Christian Sewing. *Bloomberg News* reported that Jain had been suffering from cancer for five years.

165. *Nagasaki Day* is observed on _____ to commemorate the *77th anniversary* of the bombing.

- A. 8th August
- B. 9th August
- C. 10th August
- D. 11th August
- E. None of the above.

- *On August 9, Japan is commemorating Nagasaki Day. On this day in 1945, the United States dropped the "Fat Man- atomic bomb" on the Japanese city, Nagasaki.*
- *The atomic bomb was named so, due to the wide, round shape of the bomb. The fat man was dropped from US B-29 bomber. It took the lives of over 20,000 people.*
- *This year, Japan is commemorating the 77th anniversary of the bombing.*
- *Nagasaki was attacked three days after the attack on Hiroshima city of Japan. US bomber dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.*

166. *World Biofuel Day* is observed every year on _____ - to create awareness about the non-conventional sources of energy that can be easily used as an alternative to fossil fuels.

- A. 8th August
- B. 9th August
- C. 10th August
- D. 11th August
- E. None of the above.

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

Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **World Biofuel Day is observed on August 10 every year to create awareness about the non-conventional sources of energy that could be used as an alternative to fossil fuels.**
- **World Biofuel Day has been celebrated this year under the theme "Biofuels Towards a Carbon Neutral World".**
- **World Biofuel Day also commemorates the research experiments done by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893, thereby giving the world hope that biofuels can replace traditional fossil fuels in the future.**
- **To commemorate this achievement, the date was chosen to observe World Biofuel Day and has been celebrated by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 2015.**
- **On August 10, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will dedicate the 2nd generation (2G) Ethanol Plant in Panipat, Haryana, over a video call, to the country in honor of World Biofuel Day.**

167. Recently Rudi Koertzen an international cricket umpire who passed away was from which of the following country?

- A. South Africa**
- B. Australia**
- C. New Zealand**
- D. West Indies**
- E. None of the above.**

- **The former South African umpire Rudi Koertzen passed away at the age of 73. He was part of ICC's elite panel.**
- **Koertzen passed away in a car accident while driving from Cape Town to Despatch in Eastern Cape in South Africa, where he lived with his family.**
- **Rudi Koertzen was part of the ICC's elite panel of umpires for eight years from 2002 and officiated in 331 international matches, a record at the time of his retirement in 2010. It was later broken by Pakistan's Aleem Dar**



Former SA umpire Rudi Koertzen killed in car crash

PTI ■ CAPE TOWN

Former South African international umpire Rudi Koertzen was killed in a car crash on Tuesday morning near a town called Riversdale, a local website reported. He was 73. Koertzen is survived by his wife and four children. One of the most respected umpires in world cricket from the late 1990s till 2010, Koertzen had officiated in nearly 400 international games. "The world-famous cricket umpire, Rudi Koertzen, and three other people were killed in a head-on collision near Riversdale on Tuesday morning. The 73-year-old Koertzen from Despatch in Nelson Mandela Bay was on his way back home from Cape Town after a golf weekend," Algoa FM News reported. The former umpire's son, Rudi Koertzen Jr, con-

firmed the tragic news. "He went on a golf tournament with some of his friends, and they were expected to come back on Monday, but it seems they decided to play another round of golf," Koertzen Jr told the website. Koertzen was inducted into the ICC's Elite Panel in 2002 and was a part of it for eight years. During his tenure, he officiated as on-field and TV umpire in as many as 397 games, including 128 Test matches, a record 250 ODIs, and 19 T20 Internationals. He had his share of controversies too, including continuing with the 2007 ODI World Cup final between Sri Lanka and Australia in near darkness due to a wrong interpretation of rain, which forced the ICC to not give him any assignment during the inaugural World T20, which was held in his own country, in 2007.

168. What is the name of the former BCCI acting secretary and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) who passed away in August?

- A. Amitabh Choudhary**
- B. Anil Choudhary**
- C. Ramesh Choudhary**
- D. Praful Patel**
- E. None of the above.**

- **Amitabh Chaudhary, the former BCCI acting secretary, and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association (JSCA) died of a heart attack on Tuesday morning. He was 58.**

Amitabh Chaudhary passes away



Amitabh Chaudhary, 58
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
KANPUR
Amitabh Chaudhary, the former BCCI acting secretary and president of Jharkhand State Cricket Association, died of a heart attack on Tuesday morning. He was 58. A retired senior IPS officer, Chaudhary was instrumental in getting the first-class status for Jharkhand after BCCI disbanded the Bihar Cricket Association. He also served as a BCCI joint-secretary and was an official referee, alongside with the Indian team on a few occasions. Chaudhary's acting secretaryship of Jharkhand Cricket Association was in charge. BCCI president Shri Jayaraman said that Chaudhary was a cricket fan for the first time, recalled those associates of those than a decade and half. "I am shocked and saddened to learn of the sad demise of Mr. Amitabh Chaudhary, with his association with BCCI and Jharkhand Cricket Association." "I got to know his first on the coast of Chandernagore when I was leading India and he was the team manager," Chaudhary said in a release.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- A retired senior IPS officer, who rose to the rank of IGP with the Jharkhand Police, the former top cop was also the chairman of the Jharkhand Public Service Commission (JPSC).
- An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Chaudhary was instrumental in getting the first-class status for Jharkhand after BCCI disbanded the Bihar Cricket Association during the late Jagmohan Dalmiya's tenure in the early part of the new millennium.
- Chaudhary also played a major role in building one of the finest cricket stadiums in Ranchi and should be considered instrumental in bringing international cricket and IPL to the industrial town.
- He had also served as a BCCI joint secretary and was an administrative manager with the Indian team on a few occasions.

169. Which of the following statements is incorrect regarding **World Sanskrit Day**?

- A. In the year 2022, the day was celebrated on 12 August.
- B. It was first celebrated in the year 1991.**
- C. It is celebrated every year on Sawan Purnima.
- D. 'Sudharma' is the only Sanskrit newspaper in the world.
- E. None of the above.

- World Sanskrit Day is celebrated every year on Sawan Purnima, according to the Hindu calendar.
- In the year 2022, the day was celebrated on 12 August.
- It is celebrated to raise awareness and revive the ancient Sanskrit language.
- It was first celebrated in the year 1969.
- Sanskrit is an ancient Indian language and belongs to the group of Indo-European languages. It is also called Dev Vani, i.e. the language of God.
- Sanskrit is the mother of all Indian languages and it is one of the first languages spoken in India.
- 'Sudharma' is the only Sanskrit newspaper in the world.

170. **International Youth Day** is celebrated every year on _____ to highlight the myriad issues faced by young people across the world.

- A. 11th August
- B. 12th August**
- C. 13th August
- D. 14th August
- E. None of the above.

- International Youth Day to highlight the myriad issues faced by young people across the world.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *The day also highlights the role of youth in matters like education, sustainable development, global peace, social justice, and inclusiveness.*
- *The theme for 2022's edition of International Youth Day is "Intergenerational solidarity: creating a world for all ages." Cooperation and harmony between the youth and older generations are necessary to achieve sustainable development goals, as per Agenda 2030 of the United Nations (UN).*
- *The focus of International Youth Day for 2022 is on ageism, an age-based discriminatory behavior.*
- *At the first session of the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth, held in Lisbon in August 1998, August 12 was declared International Youth Day.*

171. **World Elephant Day** is observed every year on _____ to recognize their importance in our ecosystem.

- A. 11th August
- B. 12th August**
- C. 13th August
- D. 14th August
- E. None of the above.

- *World Elephant Day is observed every year on August 12 to recognize their importance in our ecosystem.*
- *This day emphasizes raising awareness of the dangers that elephants encounter in their lives.*
- *According to National Geographic, the elephant population has declined by an estimated 50 percent over the past 75 years. As per the reports, there are an estimated 20,000 to 40,000 Asian elephants left.*
- *World Elephant Day was first observed in the year 2012 by two Canadian filmmakers Patricia Sims and Michael Clark along with the Thailand-based Elephant Reintroduction Foundation. And ever since 2012, Patricia Sims has taken the lead on World Elephant Day.*
- *Theme - Bringing the world together to help elephants.*

172. The **International Day of Indigenous Peoples/World Tribal Day** is observed annually on _____ to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.

- A. 7th August
- B. 8th August
- C. 9th August**
- D. 10th August
- E. None of the above.

- *The International Day of Indigenous Peoples/World Tribal Day is observed annually on August 9.*
- *It is observed to raise awareness and protect the rights of the world's indigenous population.*
- *The theme for the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples 2022 is 'The Role of Indigenous Women in the Preservation and Transmission of Traditional Knowledge'.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- It is celebrated to mark the date of the inaugural session of the Working Group on Indigenous Populations.
- The first Working Group on Indigenous Populations was formed by the United Nations after the UN meeting in Geneva on 9 August 1982.
- On 23 December 1994, the United Nations General Assembly adopted 9 August as International Day of Indigenous Peoples.
- Tribal Day was first celebrated in the United States in 1994. People of the tribal community live in more than 90 countries of the world.

Sports Award Books News

173. Consider the following statement regarding the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Which of the following is incorrect?

1. FIFA has suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect.
2. After the suspension, the scheduled Under-17 women's World Cup will now not be held in India.
3. All India Football Federation (AIFF) is the main governing body of football in India.
4. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
5. Supreme Court of India disbanded the AIFF and appointed a three-member committee to govern the Federation headed by former top court judge Praful Patel.

- Due to third-party influence, FIFA suspends the All India Football Federation.
- FIFA has suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect.
- FIFA said that the step of suspending AIFF has been taken due to the "undue influence from third parties".
- After the suspension, the scheduled Under-17 women's World Cup will now not be held in India.
- In May, the Supreme Court verdict forces AIFF chief Praful Patel and his executive committee to step down. SC also appoints a three-member Committee of

FIFA bans AIFF for third party influence

India loses right to host Women's U17 World Cup scheduled from October 11

FOOTBALL

NEW DELHI

In a massive setback for the country, world football governing body FIFA on Tuesday suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for "undue influence from third parties" and said the U-17 Women's World Cup "cannot currently be held in India as planned." The country was scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30.

This is the first time the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history, with the apex body saying there have been "flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes".

"The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes," the FIFA said in a statement.

"The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of

What is this third party interference?



■ FIFA sees the court-appointed CoA having a say in the running of Indian football as third party interference

■ The world body says it's "not a prudent idea" to have equal number of eminent players alongside the State association representatives in the electoral college

■ The draft constitution submitted by the CoA to the Supreme Court states the electoral college will have representatives from 36 State associations and 36 eminent football players – 24 male and 12 female

■ The world body is okay with the executive committee having 25 per cent former players as co-opted members

What does FIFA ban mean for Indian football?

■ During the course of the suspension, any domestic tournaments being conducted will not be recognised by either the AFC or FIFA

■ The National teams will not be allowed to participate in any international tournaments

■ Gokulam Kerala FC cannot participate in the AFC Women's Club Championship next week

■ Senior National team cannot participate in the SAFF Women's Championship next month

■ ATK Mohun Bagan's AFC Cup fixture on September 7 is also doubtful

The Supreme Court relieved Praful Patel and his executive committee from their responsibilities and appointed a CoA to oversee AIFF's functioning on May 18, 2022. Patel had completed his three terms and 12 years as AIFF president in December 2020, but the polls could not take place because of pending cases in the SC regarding its constitution.

"The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau of the Council if and when necessary."

In the wake of the latest development, the Centre sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on the AIFF matter.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that "important development" has taken place and FIFA has sent a letter suspending India which is in public domain and needs to be brought on record.

This was after a four-member FIFA delegation held a meeting with senior sports ministry officials and the CoA on Friday and Monday, respectively.

"Till last evening it seemed consensus has been reached between all the parties but last night FIFA just informed us that they will have to ban AIFF as per its internal committee decision," an official in the Sports Ministry said. A ban on India has been on the cards since the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as AIFF president on May 18.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

*Administrators (CoA)
headed by former top
court judge AR Dave,
former CEC SY Quraishi,
and ex-Indian football
team captain Bhaskar
Ganguly*

- *The committee has been formed for amending the constitution of AIFF and to conduct elections within 18 months.*
- *The suspension will be lifted only after the AIFF administration regains full control of daily affairs.*
- *As per the FIFA rules, member federations must be free from any legal and political interference.*
- *All India Football Federation (AIFF): It is the main governing body of football in India.*
- *It was founded on 23 June 1937.*
- *Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.*

174. Consider the following match the **column regarding the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) awards this year. Which is matched incorrectly?**

1. Ranveer Singh (83)- Best Actor
2. Shefali Shah (Jalsa) - Best Actress
3. Shoojit Sircar ("Sardar Udham") and Aparna Sen ("The Rapist") - Best Director
4. Only 1 and 2
5. None of the above

- *Ranveer Singh and Shefali Shah bagged Best Actor and Best Actress awards in the prestigious Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM) awards this year.*
- *Ranveer Singh won the Best Actor of the Year award for his role in Kabir Khan's directorial '83', which celebrates India's first Cricket World Cup win in 1983. Meanwhile, Shefali Shah won the award for her tremendous performance in Jalsa,*
- *Jalsa has also been honored with the 'Equality in Cinema' prize*
- *Shoojit Sircar ("Sardar Udham") and Aparna Sen ("The Rapist") were adjudged joint winners in the best director category*
- *Abhishek Bachchan won the Leadership in Cinema Award*
- *Actor Vaani Kapoor won the 'Disruptor in Cinema' award for "Chandigarh Kare Aashiqui", in which she played the role of a trans woman.*
- *Anmol Sidhu's feature debut "Jaggi", a film set in Punjab's farmlands delving into sexual abuse, won the prize for best indie film.*
- *Pakistani film "Joyland" won the best film from the subcontinent award at the IFFM*
- *Payal Kapadia's acclaimed title "A Night of Knowing Nothing" emerged as the winner in the best documentary segment*
- *Nikkhil Advani's "Mumbai Diaries 26/11" was named the best series along with lead star Mohit Raina winning the title of best actor in a series*
- *Sakshi Tanwar won the award for the best actress in a series for Netflix's "Mai".*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

175. In August _____ *men's cricket team donated their prize money from their recent tour of Sri Lanka for purpose of supporting children and families which have been affected by the nation's worst economic crisis in decades.*

- A. **Australia**
- B. Pakistan
- C. India
- D. New Zealand
- E. None of the above.

- *Australia's men's cricket team has donated their prize money from their recent tour of Sri Lanka for purpose of supporting children and families who have been affected by the nation's worst economic crisis in decades.*
- *Led by Pat Cummins, a United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Australia ambassador, the team will donate USD 45,000 to the organization's Sri Lanka appeal.*
- *Australian cricketers had witnessed the crisis first-hand during their all-format tour to the Island nation in June-July this year. Long lines at petrol stations and cries of thousands of peaceful protestors around Galle International Cricket Ground were common sites throughout the tour.*
- *The funds revealed by Australian players will go towards programs by UNICEF that support nutrition, healthcare, safe drinking water, education, and mental health services for 1.7 million vulnerable in-need children in the country.*
- *Previously, Cummins and Cricket Australia had helped India during the COVID-19 crisis in 2021, donating USD 50,000 for oxygen supplies. Indian Premier League 2021 was postponed due to this crisis.*

176. Which of the following are the winners of the **UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022** for its 'Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Programme'?

- A. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research
- B. **Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences**
- C. Indian Institute of Foreign Trade
- D. Indian Institute of Management Bodh Gaya
- E. None of the above.

- *Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences, Bhubaneswar is one of the winners of the UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize 2022.*
- *Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences will be awarded for its 'Mother Tongue Based Multilingual Education Programme'.*
- *Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences is the largest residential institute for Tribals in the world.*
- *It began as a residential tribal school in 1993 and became a deemed-to-be-university in 2017.*
- *UNESCO King Sejong Literacy Prize: It was first given in 1989.*
- *It is funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea.*
- *The winner receives a medal, a diploma, and US\$20,000.*
- *It is given in honor of Sejong the Great who created the Korean alphabet Hangul.*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

177. In August _____ became the 21st recipient of the Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Samman, and the first author ever to win the award.

- A. Geetanjali Shree
- B. Alka Saraogi
- C. Nithya Menon
- D. Rajasjri Gupta
- E. None of the above.

- At 61, Alka Saraogi — who recently became the 21st recipient of the Dayawati Modi Stree Shakti Samman, and the first author ever to win the award — is a force to reckon with. Notably, the previous recipients of the award, given to “extraordinary women”, have been artists, journalists, and social workers.
- Winner of the prestigious Sahitya Akademi Award (2001) for her first novel ‘Kalikatha via Bypass’, the Hindi writer was born and raised in Kolkata. Her first work was published by Editions Gallimard in French, Insel Verlag in German, Neri Pozza in Italian, and Siruela in Spanish. To date, she has six novels to her credit.
- Saraogi’s recent work Terah Halfaname is a collection of short stories of prominent women writers of independent India (published by Vani Publication and launched by Dr. Karan Singh).

178. In August _____ released a report titled ‘Threatened animals of Kerala’.

- A. Botanical Survey of India
- B. Forest Survey of India
- C. Greenpeace India
- D. Zoological Survey of India
- E. None of the above.

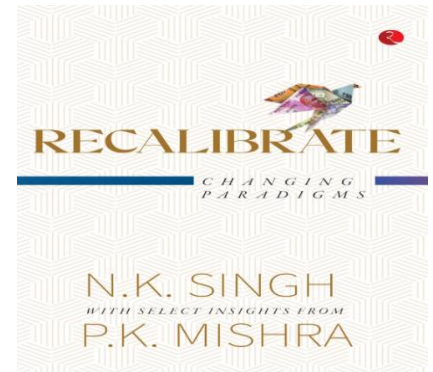
- Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) released a report titled ‘Threatened animals of Kerala’ on August 8.
- The report ‘Threatened animals of Kerala’ has been released as part to promote sustainable management and conservation of various animal species.
- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) has released a book titled “Fauna of Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary”.
- Thattekkad Bird Sanctuary is the first bird sanctuary in Kerala. It is spread over an area of 25 km².
- On this occasion, the Zoological Survey of India has also signed an MoU with the University of Calicut and the Dr. Gafoor Memorial MES Mampad College.
- The MoU has been signed to promote zoological research through advanced pedagogical techniques and to exchange academic knowledge.

179. Who is the author of the book titled " Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms"?

- A. Urjit Patel
- B. NK Singh

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- C. *Kris Gopalkrishnan*
- D. *PK Mishra*
- E. *None of the above.*



- *Recalibrate: Changing Paradigms, by N.K. Singh with select insights from P.K. Mishra, principal secretary to the prime minister - presents the progress and the unfinished tasks of proximate developmental goals that are essential in the life of India.*
 - *N.K. Singh is a prominent Indian economist, academician, and policymaker. He chaired the Fifteenth Finance Commission and is currently the president of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG).*
 - *He was conferred the Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).*
180. *Serena Williams has announced her retirement recently. Which of the following statements is incorrect about her?*
1. *She is from the USA.*
 2. *She is a Professional Badminton player.*
 3. *She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles*
 4. *Both 2 & 3*
 5. *None of the above*
- *American legendary player Serena Williams has announced her retirement from professional tennis.*
 - *The 40-year-old tennis star announced her retirement in an article for Vogue magazine.*
 - *She will take retirement after the US Open tournament.*
 - *She was ranked by the Women's Tennis Association (WTA) singles world number one for 319 weeks, including a joint record of 186 consecutive weeks.*
 - *She has won 73 singles titles, and 23 doubles titles in her career.*
 - *She has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, which is behind only Margaret Court's 24 titles.*
181. *In August _____ became the first cricketer to achieve the milestone of 600 wickets in T20 cricket.*
- A. *Kieron Pollard*
 - B. *Rashid Khan*
 - C. *Dwyne Bravo*
 - D. *James Anderson*
 - E. *None of the above.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Dwayne Bravo achieved the milestone of 600 wickets in T20 cricket. In the ongoing, The Hundred competition, the former all-around player for the West Indies achieved this milestone while playing for his team, the Northern Superchargers, against the Oval Invincibles.**
- **Bravo achieved the accomplishment of 600 wickets in 545 games.**
- **Following the conclusion of his team's ICC World T20 2021 campaign in November of last year, he announced his retirement from international cricket.**
- **In terms of wickets, Bravo is followed by Afghanistan spin sensation Rashid Khan (466 wickets), West Indies spinner Sunil Narine (457 wickets), and South African spinner Imran Tahir (451 wickets) and Bangladesh all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan (418 wickets).**

Dwayne Bravo scales a new high

The West Indian is the first bowler to take 600 T20 wickets



Dwayne Bravo. • FILE PHOTO

ANI KENNINGTON [UK]
 Former West Indies all-rounder Dwayne Bravo on Thursday became the first-ever bowler to clinch 600 wickets in T20 cricket. The legendary all-rounder reached this landmark during his side Northern Superchargers' match against the Oval Invincibles at the ongoing The Hundred competition. Bravo bowled a superb delivery, rattling the all-rounder Sam Curran's middle stump. Curran made 60

off 39 balls. Bravo reached 600 wickets in 545 matches at an average of 24.12 and an economy rate of 8.21. His best figures in the format are 5/23. Bravo retired from international cricket in November last year after end of his side's campaign in ICC World T20 2021. In terms of wickets, the West Indian is followed by Afghanistan spin sensation Rashid Khan (466 wickets) and West Indies spinner Sunil Narine (457 wickets).

182. Who is the author of the book titled "Bravo Yadav' — Biography of Honorary Captain Yogendra Yadav ji PVC?

- A. Sandeep Sahu
- B. Deepak Singh**
- C. Sudhir Mehta
- D. Alka Mehta
- E. None of the above.

- **Deepak Singh, an established content creator with more than 15 years of experience in content creation recently penned a book 'Bravo Yadav'.**
- **The newly launched book is a biography of Kargil's hero and Param Vir Chakra recipient Subedar Yogendra Singh Yadav.**
- **The biography of Kargil Hero Yogendra Singh Yadav honors the brave and indomitable spirit of the soldiers who refused to surrender before adversities in the Kargil War, in 1999. The book rightly narrates Yogendra Singh Yadav's courage as a patriot and warrior, surviving the battle of Tiger Hill and being a key stroke towards India's victory against Pakistan.**

183. Rajnath Singh released a Book titled "Shabdansh", a collection of Amit Shah's speeches authored by _____.

- A. Praveen Davar
- B. Shivanand Dwivedi**
- C. Sandeep Sahu
- D. Swati Verma
- E. None of the above.

- **Speaking at the release of the book "Shabdansh", a collection of Shah's speeches, authored by Shivanand Dwivedi, the Union defense minister said that Shah combines politics and spirituality and has a deep understanding of both.**

Shah a backstage hero, has no desire for credit: Rajnath at book launch

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10

UNION HOME Minister and senior BJP leader Amit Shah is a "backstage hero who has no desire for credit", Defence Minister Rajnath Singh Wednesday.

"It will not be an exaggeration to say Shah is a backstage hero (nepathya ke nayak). He has no desire for credit. He remains in the background and does so much work for the government as well as for the party, and still gets time to read so much," Singh said while releasing the book Shabdansh, a collection of Shah's speeches on a number of issues, in New Delhi. "He talks less, but when he



Rajnath Singh at the event on Wednesday. Amit Mehra

talks he does so meaningfully," Singh said. Lauding the Home Minister

for his knowledge of politics, spirituality and other subjects, the defence minister said Shah's life has had its share of bitter-sweet memories. He was referring to the Gujarat leader spending months in jail over the Sohrabuddin Sheikh case in which he was acquitted later.

"The investigating agencies harassed him. Not only him, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi also went through it. (Shah) went wherever the probe agencies summoned him. He had trust and faith in the justice system," Singh said, taking a swipe at the Congress which had held protests when Rahul Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were summoned by the ED in the National Herald case.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- He said Shah's life has been a laboratory of sorts, given the various ups and downs he faced in public life. The Union minister said that both Shah and Prime Minister Narendra Modi had to face trouble from investing agencies but they did not make a fuss and Shah also had to spend jail time.
- The book is a compilation of 26 lectures by Shah.

184. Consider the following statement regarding the 44th Chess Olympiad. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. In the Open section, Uzbekistan won the gold medal while Armenia and India-B teams won the silver and bronze medals respectively.
2. In the women's section, Ukraine won the gold, Georgia the silver, and India won the bronze medal.
3. D. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin won individual gold medals.
4. Hungry will host the Chess Olympiad 2026.

Gold for Gukesh and Nihal; silver for Arjun

India 1 claims Gaprindashvili Cup for the first time



Nihal.



Gukesh. •VELANKANNI RAJ



Arjun. •VELANKANNI RAJ



Praggnanandhaa.
•VELANKANNI RAJ



Tania.
•VELANKANNI RAJ



Vaishali.
•B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

RAKESH RAO MAMALLAPURAM
It rained medals for India following its best ever Chess Olympiad campaign here.

Though a bronze in each section – Open and women – was a first, India 1 claimed the Gaprindashvili Cup – a symbol of combined supremacy of a team in both sections.

Named after former Soviet and Georgian World champion Nona Gaprindashvili – the first woman to become a Grandmaster – the honour highlights India's growing chess strength. India 1 finished ahead of close contenders USA, India 2, Armenia and Azerbaijan.

India 1 women started the day as a leader, missed the gold and finished with a bronze. India 2 men let slip a gold-winning opportunity following Tuesday's heart-breaking draw with eventual

champion Uzbekistan and took a bronze.

But soon this muted joy turned into a more expressed celebration when the Board prizes were announced.

The host's share was a never-before haul of two gold, a silver and four bronze medals on the back of some sterling individual performances. India's combined tally of individual medals was 10 before this unprecedented scoop.

Fittingly, D. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin won gold medals for their displays on Board 1 and Board 2. Gukesh, winner of the first eight rounds, became the first Indian to earn the honour. Nihal emulated Dibyendu Barua's effort in the 1990 Novi Sad Olympiad.

Arjun Erigaisi, who like Gukesh crossed 2700 in live ratings in the competition,

took the silver on Board 3 where the bronze went to R. Praggnanandhaa.

With this teen quartet getting duly rewarded for their phenomenal performances, that too, on debut, this served as a cushion in dealing with the disappointment of their teams not finishing higher on the podium.

R. Vaishali and Tania Sachdev, key players on Board 3 and Board 4 for India 1 on way to a long-awaited team medal, along with Divya Deshmukh, a reserve for India 2, collected bronze for their consistent showing.

For the record, Gukesh scored 9 points from 11 rounds while performing at a whopping 2867 rating. Nihal (7.5/10, 2774), Praggnanandhaa (6.5/9, 2767), Arjun (8.5/11, 2767), Vaishali (7.5/11, 2452), Tania (8/11, 2441) and Divya (7/9 2298) also played way above their rating.

Kings and Queens

On a thrilling final day at the 44th Chess Olympiad, Uzbekistan pipped Armenia and a youthful India 2 team to clinch gold in the Open section

OPEN - FINAL POSITIONS

1	Uzbekistan
2	Armenia
3	India 2

Nodirbek Abdusattorov (UZB)

WOMEN - FINAL POSITIONS

1	Ukraine
2	Georgia
3	India 1

Anna Muzychuk (UKR)

INDIA 2 MEN'S TEAM - BRONZE

Name	Rating*	Points
D. Gukesh	2,867	9/11
Nihal Sarin	2,774	7.5/10
R. Praggnanandhaa	2,767	6.5/9
B. Adhiban	2,594	4/6
Raunak Sadhwani	2,642	5.5/8

* Tournament ELO rating

BEST INDIAN MEN PERFORMERS

Board	Position	Name
1		D. Gukesh
2		Nihal Sarin
3		Arjun Erigaisi*
3		R. Praggnanandhaa

^ India 1

INDIA 1 WOMEN'S TEAM - BRONZE

Name	Rating*	Points
Koneru Humpy	2,440	6/10
D. Harika	2,411	3.5/7
R. Vaishali	2,452	7.5/11
Tania Sachdev	2,441	8/11
Bhakti Kulkarni	2,379	4/5

BEST INDIAN WOMEN PERFORMERS

Board	Position	Name
3		R. Vaishali
4		Tania Sachdev
5		Divya Deshmukh#

India 2

REPORTS ON PAGE 15

- Uzbekistan and Ukraine emerged as the champions in the open and women's sections respectively at the 44th Chess Olympiad.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- In the Open section, Uzbekistan won the gold medal while Armenia and India-B teams won the silver and bronze medals respectively.
- Uzbekistan defeated the Netherlands while Armenia defeated Spain.
- In the women's section, Ukraine won the gold, Georgia the silver, and India won the bronze medal.
- In the open section, India thrashed Germany by 3-1. D. Gukesh and Nihal Sarin won individual gold medals.
- The India-A team secured the fourth position and USA in the fifth position.
- It is the first time that the Chess Olympiad was organized in India at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu.
- The first women's Olympiad was held in 1957.
- Uzbekistan will host the Chess Olympiad 2026, the International Chess Federation (FIDE), announced in a tweet. Their young team is currently the leader of the ongoing Chess Olympiad in Chennai.
- India A team, comprising Koneru Humpy, R Vaishali, Tania Sachdev, and Bhakti Kulkarni, secured a bronze medal in the women's section after a 1-3 loss to the USA in the final round match.
- R Praggnanandhaa (third board), R Vaishali (third board), Tania Sachdev (third board), and Divya Deshmukh (reserve board) claimed individual bronze medals.
- India also won the prestigious Gaprindashvili Cup. It is given to the nation for its collective performance in both open and women's sections. It was also the first time India hosted the world's biggest chess tournament.

185. Consider the following statement regarding the 22nd Edition of the Commonwealth Games. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. India finished 4th on the Medals Tally with 61 Medals including 22 Gold, 16 Silver, and 23 Bronze.
2. Australia topped the games with 178 medals including 67 gold medals, 57 silver medals, and 54 bronze medals.
3. Indian Wrestlers finished with a total of 12 medals, including 6 gold.
4. Indian women's cricket team won gold securing the first-ever Commonwealth Games medal for India.
5. Achanta Sharath Kamal also became the third most successful Indian athlete at the Commonwealth Games as he took his overall tally to 13 medals.

- India received a total of 61 medals in the XXII Commonwealth Games.
- They include 22 gold medals, 16 silver medals, and 23 bronze medals.



Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- India finished in the fourth position in terms of total medals won at the Commonwealth Games.
- Australia topped the games with 178 medals including 67 gold medals, 57 silver medals, and 54 bronze medals.
- England achieved second place with a total of 176 medals. Canada came third with 92 medals.
- PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen won gold medals by winning the women's and men's singles titles in badminton.
- Sindhu defeated Canada's Michelle Li in the women's singles final. Lakshya Sen defeated Malaysia's Tze Yong NG in men's singles.
- In table tennis, Achanta Sharath Kamal won his second gold medal.
- G Sathyan won the 7th at closing ceremony
- Table Tennis men's singles bronze medal.
- The India men's hockey team lost to Australia in the final match. It won the silver medal.
- Indian Wrestlers finished with a total of 12 medals, including 6 gold. Each wrestler won at least one medal. CWG 2022 became the best game in the history of CWG, for the Indian Wrestlers. They broke the previous record of 5 gold medals at Gold Coast 2018.
- Achanta Sharath Kamal also became the most successful active Indian athlete at the Commonwealth Games as he took his overall tally at the quadrennial event to 13 medals. He is also the third most successful Indian at CWG overall, only behind shooters Jaspal Rana and Samarsh Jung.



India's flagbearers Achanta Sharath Kamal and Nikhat Zareen (right) during the closing ceremony. – PTI

MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Australia	67	57	54	178
2.	England	57	66	53	176
3.	Canada	26	32	34	92
4.	India	22	16	23	61
5.	New Zealand	20	12	17	49
6.	Scotland	13	11	27	51
7.	Nigeria	12	9	14	35
8.	Wales	8	6	14	28
9.	S Africa	7	9	11	27
10.	Malaysia	7	8	8	23

VISUALLY | PARVATHI BENU & RAM NARAYAN MURTHY

INDIA at the Commonwealth Games 2022

At the 21st Commonwealth Games at Birmingham, India finished fourth overall with a total of 61 medals. During the last games, India finished third, bagging 66 medals. Here's a glimpse of everything that happened from July 28 to August 8 in Birmingham

61

The number of medals that India won in the Commonwealth games 2022

22

GOLD

16

SILVER

23

BRONZE

The sports in which the medals were won

Cricket 1	Hockey 2	Weightlifting 10
Squash 2	Table Tennis 7	Wrestling 12
Athletics 8	Judo 3	Badminton 6
Boxing 7	Para Powerlifting 1	Lawn Bowls 2

The ones who shined at the games

Sharath Kamal Achanta
Table Tennis

3 Gold, 1 Silver

Sathian Gnanasekaran
Table Tennis

1 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze

PV Sindhu
Badminton

1 Gold, 1 Silver

Lakshya Sen
Badminton

1 Gold, 1 Silver

120
The total number of sports persons who won a medal for India this year
They're from these States

Number of medal-winning sports persons:
■ 1-5 people
■ 6-10
■ More than 15

How India performed in CWG since 1960

India's first CWG medal was won in the 1934 London games. At that time, Rashid Anwar won a bronze in wrestling.

India won the most number of medals at the 2010 Delhi games. The medal tally at that time was 101.

Source: <https://www.birmingham2022.com/>, BL Research, Hindu Archives

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

186. Consider the following statement regarding the *dPal rNgam Duston* award. Which of the following statement is correct?

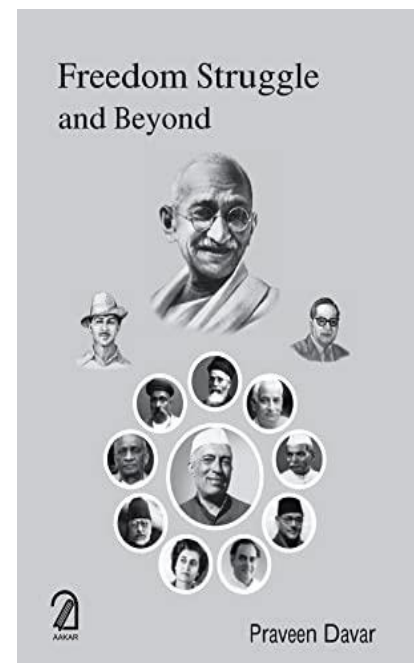
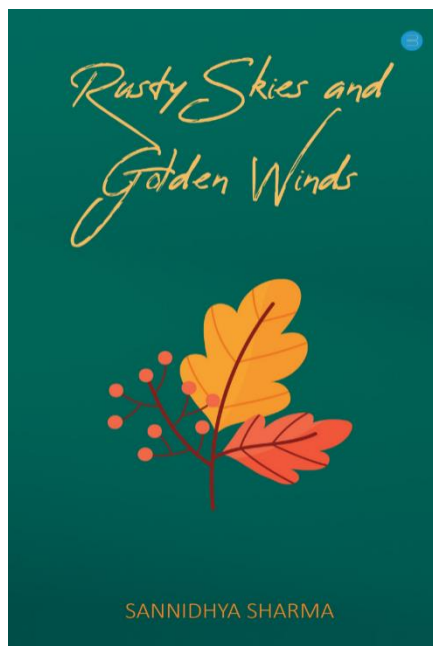
1. Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has received the 8th *dPal rNgam Duston* award.
2. The award has been given by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC).
3. 'Leh' celebrated the '*dPal rNgam Duston*' on the occasion of its foundation day.
4. Only 2 and 3
5. All of the above

- Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has received the 6th *dPal rNgam Duston* award.
- The award has been given by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC).
- He was awarded for his immense contribution to humanity, especially to the Ladakh region.
- 'Leh' celebrated the '*dPal rNgam Duston*' on the occasion of its foundation day.
- The '*dPal rNgam Duston*' marks the celebration of the remarkable contribution and achievement of the heroes of Ladakh.
- '*dPal rNgam Duston*' award is the highest civilian honor of Ladakh.
- Dalai Lama: The 14th and current Dalai Lama is Tenzin Gyatso.
- It is the title given by the Tibetan people to the spiritual leader of the Gelug or "Yellow Hat" school of Tibetan Buddhism.
- 'Pema Dorje' was the first Dalai Lama, who was born in 1391 in Tsang.

187. Recently Congress leader *Shashi Tharoor* and CPI(M) leader *Sitaram Yechury* released a book '*Freedom Struggle and Beyond*' authored by _____.

- A. Sandeep Sahu
- B. Reeta Maria
- C. Praveer Davar
- D. Rahul Singh
- E. None of the above.

- Congress leader *Shashi Tharoor* and CPI(M) leader *Sitaram Yechury* with others release a book '*Freedom Struggle and Beyond*' written by *Praveen Davar*, in New Delhi on Monday, Aug 08, 2022.
- Authored by Congress leader *Praveen Davar*, the book published by *Aakar Books* is a collection of newspaper articles that *Davar* has written over some time.



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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

188. In August _____ a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States broke the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of 737.5 kg across three compound lifts - the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift.

- A. Tamara Walcott
- B. Paul Anderson
- C. Hossein Rezazadeh
- D. Pyrros Dimas
- E. None of the above.

- Tamara Walcott broke the Guinness Powerlifting World Record by lifting 737.5 kg.
- Tamara Walcott, a female powerlifter from Maryland, lifted a total of 737.5 kg combining the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift.
- In July 2022, she was honored at the World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia.
- Then this athlete had lifted 680 kg, but after a month Tamara gave a record-breaking performance.

Aug 11, 2022, 6:38PM

Tamara Walcott lifts 737.5 kg to break powerlifting Guinness World Record

Tamara Walcott, a female powerlifter from Maryland in the United States broke according to sources in the investigating agency for the heaviest cumulative lift for bench/squat and press in competition (female) after lifting a total of 737.5 kg across three compound lifts - the squat, the bench press, and the deadlift. Guinness World Records official site said in a release on Wednesday.

She was honoured at the 2022 World Raw Powerlifting Federation American Pro in Manassas, Virginia last month. GWR compared the weight she lifted with a female adult giraffe that weighs about 680.3 kg.

The record-keeping agency said that Ms Walcott, mother of two, weighed 188.2 kg.

She understood that scheduling difficulties would prevent her from playing baseball or basketball, so she took command of her life in 2018 and chose to look for a sport she could practise independently, GWR added.

Guinness posted a video of her performance in the Powerlifting Federation show, when she set a world record, on her YouTube page. The video has been watched over 28,000 times and has received thousand likes in just one day.



189. Consider the following statement regarding the All India Football Federation (AIFF). Which of the following is incorrect?

1. FIFA has suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect.
2. After the suspension, the scheduled Under-17 women's World Cup will now not be held in India.
3. All India Football Federation (AIFF) is the main governing body of football in India.
4. Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.
5. Supreme Court of India disbanded the AIFF and appointed a three-member committee to govern the Federation headed by former top court judge Praful Patel.

- Due to third-party influence, FIFA suspends the All India Football Federation.
- FIFA has suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **FIFA said that the step of suspending AIFF has been taken due to the “undue influence from third parties”.**
- **After the suspension, the scheduled Under-17 women’s World Cup will now not be held in India.**
- **In May, the Supreme Court verdict forces AIFF chief Praful Patel and his executive committee to step down. SC also appoints a three-member Committee of Administrators (CoA) headed by former top court judge AR Dave, former CEC SY Quraishi, and ex-Indian football team captain Bhaskar Ganguly**
- **The committee has been formed for amending the constitution of AIFF and to conduct elections within 18 months.**
- **The suspension will be lifted only after the AIFF administration regains full control of daily affairs.**
- **As per the FIFA rules, member federations must be free from any legal and political interference.**
- **All India Football Federation (AIFF): It is the main governing body of football in India.**
- **It was founded on 23 June 1937.**
- **Its headquarters is located in New Delhi.**

FIFA bans AIFF for third party influence

India loses right to host Women’s U17 World Cup scheduled from October 11

FOOTBALL

NEW DELHI

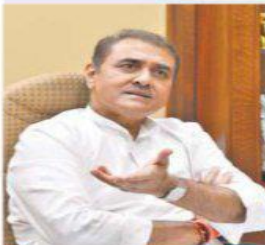
In a massive setback for the country, world football governing body FIFA on Tuesday suspended the All India Football Federation (AIFF) for “undue influence from third parties” and said the U-17 Women’s World Cup “cannot currently be held in India as planned.” The country was scheduled to host the FIFA tournament from October 11-30.

This is the first time the AIFF has been banned by FIFA in its 85-year history, with the apex body saying there have been “flagrant violations of the FIFA Statutes”.

“The Bureau of the FIFA Council has unanimously decided to suspend the All India Football Federation (AIFF) with immediate effect due to undue influence from third parties, which constitutes a serious violation of the FIFA Statutes,” the FIFA said in a statement.

“The suspension will be lifted once an order to set up a committee of administrators to assume the powers of

What is this third party interference?



The Supreme Court relieved Praful Patel and his executive committee from their responsibilities and appointed a CoA to oversee AIFF’s functioning on May 18, 2022. Patel had completed his three terms and 12 years as AIFF president in December 2020, but the polls could not take place because of pending cases in the SC regarding its constitution.

the AIFF Executive Committee has been repealed and the AIFF administration regains full control of the AIFF’s daily affairs.”

- FIFA sees the court-appointed CoA having a say in the running of Indian football as third party interference
- The world body says it’s “not a prudent idea” to have equal number of eminent players alongside the State association representatives in the electoral college
- The draft constitution submitted by the CoA to the Supreme Court states the electoral college will have representatives from 36 State associations and 36 eminent football players — 24 male and 12 female
- The world body is okay with the executive committee having 25 per cent former players as co-opted members

What does FIFA ban mean for Indian football?

- During the course of the suspension, any domestic tournaments being conducted will not be recognised by either the AFC or FIFA
- The National teams will not be allowed to participate in any international tournaments
- Gokulam Kerala FC cannot participate in the AFC Women’s Club Championship next week
- Senior National team cannot participate in the SAFF Women’s Championship next month
- ATK Mohun Bagan’s AFC Cup fixture on September 7 is also doubtful

“The suspension means that the FIFA U-17 Women’s World Cup 2022, scheduled to take place in India on 11-30 October 2022, cannot currently be held in India as planned. FIFA is assessing the next steps with regard to the tournament and will refer the matter to the Bureau

of the Council if and when necessary.”

In the wake of the latest development, the Centre sought an urgent hearing in the Supreme Court on the AIFF matter.

A bench of Justices D.Y. Chandrachud and A.S. Bopanna was told by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Centre, that “important development” has taken place and FIFA has sent a letter suspending India which is in public domain and needs to be brought on record.

This was after a four-member FIFA delegation held a meeting with senior sports ministry officials and the CoA on Friday and Monday, respectively.

“Till last evening it seemed consensus has been reached between all the parties but last night FIFA just informed us that they will have to ban AIFF as per its internal committee decision,” an official in the Sports Ministry said. A ban on India has been on the cards since the Supreme Court removed Praful Patel as AIFF president on May 18.

189. _____ state to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from October the 30th to November the 6th.
- Meghalaya
 - Manipur
 - Mizoram
 - Nagaland
 - None of the above.

- **Meghalaya is all set to host the upcoming 2nd edition of the North East Olympics from October the 30th to November the 6th in Shillong.**
- **A joint meeting of the North East Organising Committee, Meghalaya Department of Sports and Youth Affairs, and the North East Olympic Association was held last evening to finalize the list of sports disciplines.**
- **The first edition of the Games was held in Manipur in 2018, with 12 disciplines.**
- **The edition of the Games will be special as Meghalaya is celebrating the 50th year of its Statehood.**
- **In this edition, about 4,000 participants from eight North Eastern States will be competing in 18 disciplines at 13 venues spread across Shillong. Participants will be competing in disciplines, such as archery, athletics, badminton, basketball,**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

boxing, football, judo, karate, shooting, swimming, table tennis, taekwondo, tennis, wushu, cycling (Mountain Bike), golf, weightlifting, and wrestling.

191. On August 1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League under-16 will be held in _____.

- A. New Delhi
- B. Karnataka
- C. Odisha
- D. Andhra Pradesh
- E. None of the above.

- 1st Khelo India Women's Hockey League under-16 will be held at the Major Dhyanchand Stadium in New Delhi between 16th to 23rd of this month.
- According to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, a total of 16 teams from across the country are participating. A total of 56 matches will be played and over 300 players will compete in Phase 1 of the league.
- The Sports Authority of India has allocated a total of 53.72 lakhs rupees for 3 phases of the competition, which includes Prize money of 15.5 lakh rupees.
- Phase 1 and 2 of the Khelo India Women's Hockey League U-16 will be in a round-robin format. The final ranking of teams will be determined after the completion of the first 2 phases. Phase 3 will consist of classification matches where each team will play a minimum of 3 matches.

192. In August _____ became the first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches.

- A. Kieron Pollard
- B. Dwayne Bravo
- C. Chris Gayle
- D. Virat Kohli
- E. None of the above.

- Former West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard became the first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches.
- The hard-hitting batter achieved this landmark during his side's London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals during the ongoing The Hundred tournament at Lord's. Pollard made sure to make the occasion memorable. He smashed an unbeaten 34 runs off just 11 balls consisting of one four and four big sixes.
- Pollard has some brilliant T20I stats. He has scored 11,723 runs across 600 games at an average of 31.34. He has the best individual performance of 104. Pollard has scored one

Pollard first cricketer to play 600 T20s

AGENCIES ■ LONDON

Former West Indies all-rounder Kieron Pollard became the first cricketer to play 600 T20 matches on Monday.

The hard-hitting batter achieved this landmark during his side's London Spirit's match against Manchester Originals during ongoing The Hundred tournament at Lord's. Pollard made sure to make the occasion memorable. He smashed an unbeaten 34 runs off just 11 balls consisting of one four and four big sixes.

Pollard has some brilliant T20I stats. He has scored 11,723 runs across 600 games at an average of 31.34. He has the best individual performance of 104. Pollard has scored one century and 56 half-centuries in the format. He has also captured 309 wickets with best bowling figures of 4/15. Behind him are players Dwayne Bravo (543 matches), Shoaib Malik (472), Chris Gayle (463) and Ravi Bopara (426).

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

century and 56 half-centuries in the format. He has also captured 309 wickets with the best bowling figures of 4/15. Behind him are players Dwayne Bravo (543 matches), Shoaib Malik (472), Chris Gayle (463), and Ravi Bopara (426).

193. In August _____ south London home has been honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque.

- A. Vijay Malya
- B. Mahatma Gandhi
- C. Jawahar Lal Nehru
- D. **Dadabhai Naoroji**
- E. None of the above.

- The south London home where Dadabhai Naoroji, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain's first Indian parliamentarian, lived for around eight years at the end of the 19th century has been honored with a commemorative Blue Plaque.
- The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honors the historic significance of particular buildings across London. Naoroji's plaque was unveiled to coincide with the 75th-anniversary celebrations of Indian Independence.

London home of Dadabhai Naoroji gets Blue Plaque honour

PTI ■ LONDON

The south London home where Dadabhai Naoroji, a prominent member of the Indian freedom struggle and Britain's first Indian parliamentarian, lived for around eight years at the end of the 19th century has been honoured with a commemorative Blue Plaque.

The Blue Plaque scheme, run by the English Heritage charity, honours the historic significance of particular build-



ings across London. Naoroji's plaque was unveiled on Wednesday to coincide with the 75th anniversary celebrations of Indian Independence.

Naoroji, often referred to as the "grand old man of India",

is reported to have moved to Washington House, 72 Anerley Park, Penge, Bromley, at a time when his thoughts were turning increasingly towards full independence for India in 1897. That red-brick home now has a plaque which reads: "Dadabhai Naoroji 1825-1917 Indian Nationalist and MP lived here".

"Naoroji made seven trips to England and spent over three decades of his long life in London," English Heritage said in a statement.

- Naoroji was often referred to as the "grand old man of India". Born in Mumbai, the prominent Parsi nationalist was an influential political and intellectual force in both India and Britain.

194. Marina Tabassum recently became the first South Asian to win Lisbon Triennale Millennium bcp Lifetime Achievement Award. She is a _____ architect.

- A. **Bangladeshi**
- B. Sri Lankan
- C. Nepali
- D. Indian
- E. None of the above.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Marina Tabassum became the first South Asian to win Lisbon Triennale Millennium bcp Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The jury praised her for presenting an inspiring example of work with local communities that can have a positive impact across the globe.
- Her works address urgent contemporary issues. Her work shows how architects can challenge the climate crisis.
- Her work also shows how architects can bring about social change in an experimental, respectful and inspiring manner.
- She is a renowned Bangladeshi architect. She is known for architectural designs that deeply embed environmental concerns.
- One of her many celebrated works is the Bait Ur Rouf mosque in Dhaka.
- She has also designed bamboo houses at the Rohingya refugee camps, at Ukhiya near Cox's Bazar. They are low-impact, mobile houses that can be delivered at the lowest cost possible.
- She will get original artwork by the Portuguese artist and sculptor Carlos Nogueira as an award during the Lisbon Triennale, which starts on 29 September in Lisbon, Portugal.

195. In August *Sangeetha Abhayan* won the *World Women Entrepreneurs' Award* instituted by the *Junior Chamber International Hong Kong*. She Belongs to which of the following state?

- A. Andhra Pradesh
- B. Kerala**
- C. Madhya Pradesh
- D. Odisha
- E. None of the above.

- Kerala's *Sangeetha Abhayan* won the *World Women Entrepreneurs' Award* instituted by the *Junior Chamber International Hong Kong (JCIHK)* for her handloom and handicrafts startup's performance in tune with the United Nation's sustainable development goals (SDGs).
- JCIHK, which provides development opportunities for youngsters, chose *Sangeetha*, who is CEO of *eveworld.com* from upstate *Kasaragod* district, from more than 225 female entrepreneurs from across the world, organizers said in a press release.
- Based out of *Nileshwar*, 40 km south of *Kasaragod* city, *eveworld.com* won international recognition for creating social changes and financial stability among women entrepreneurs.
- The online platform, whose name *eWe* is an abbreviation of *Empowering Women Entrepreneurs*, received the *JCIHK* award at a virtual event held in *Hong Kong*.

196. In August _____ is set to be conferred with *France's highest civilian award Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*.

- A. Narendra Modi
- B. Shashi Tharoor**
- C. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhary
- D. Amit Shah

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

E. None of the above.

- With senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor set to be conferred with France's highest civilian award *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*, a host of party leaders congratulated him on the prestigious honor.
- The French government is honoring him for his writings and speeches and the French Ambassador here Emmanuel Lenain has written to Mr. Tharoor informing him about the award.
- The French order of merit was established in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte is awarded for excellent civil or military conduct.
- In 2010, Shashi Tharoor received an honor from the Spanish Government, the 'Royal and Distinguished Spanish Order of Charles III', established by the King of Spain Charles III to reward people for their actions benefiting the country and the Crown.

Tharoor to be honoured with France's highest civilian award

With senior Congress leader Shashi Tharoor set to be conferred with France's highest civilian award *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*, a host of party leaders congratulated him on the prestigious honour. The French government is honouring him for his writings and speeches and French Ambassador here Emmanuel Lenain has written to Tharoor informing him about the award. PTI

197. The book titled "Black & White " is the autobiography of which of the following cricketer?

- A. Brendon McCullam
- B. **Ross Taylor**
- C. Shane Bond
- D. Daniel Vettori
- E. None of the above.

- The 38-year-old, who is of New Zealand-Samoan descent, retired from international cricket in April after a glorious career spanning 16 years.
- Taylor's comments are the latest accusation of racism in cricket.
- In his autobiography "Black and White" released on Thursday, the legendary batsman says he endured racially barbed comments from teammates but does not specify at what level of the game in New Zealand.
- He represented New Zealand in 112 Tests, scoring 7,683 runs between 2006 and 2022.
- He was captain of the Black Caps for two years until 2012.



198. In August _____ have been named as the 2021-22 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year while Sunil Chetri of _____ was named Men's Footballer of the Year.

- A. Bala Devi, Manipur
- B. **Manisha Kalyan, Andhra Pradesh**
- C. Muskan Vohra, Assam
- D. Deepti Sharma. Mizoram
- E. None of the above.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **Manisha Kalyan and Sunil Chhetri have been named the 2021-22 AIFF Women's Footballer of the Year and the 2021-22 Men's Footballer of the Year, respectively.**
- **Chhetri, the third highest goal scorer among active international players, was first named for the award in 2007. He then went on to win it in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, and 2018–19 seasons.**
- **The two stalwarts were nominated as winners by their respective national team coaches Thomas Dennerby, and Igor Stimac.**
- **While Manisha had won the Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year last season, this is the 7th time that Sunil won the award, having last won it in 2018-19.**
- **Manisha recently signed a multi-year contract for Cypriot champions Apollon Ladies. The club, who were the winners of the 2020-21 Cypriot top division, have earned a place in the qualifying rounds of the 2022-23 UEFA Women's Champions League.**
- **In addition, Martina Thokchom was named the 2021-22 Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year, and Vikram Partap Singh was named the 2021-22 Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year by the two National team coaches.**

Chhetri, Manisha named AIFF Footballers of Year

PTI ■ NEW DELHI

National captain Sunil Chhetri was on Tuesday named the AIFF Men's Footballer of the Year for the seventh time while Manisha Kalyan was picked for her maiden honour in the women's category for the 2021-22 season.

Chhetri and Kalyan were nominated as the winners by their respective national team coaches Igor Stimac and Thomas Dennerby.

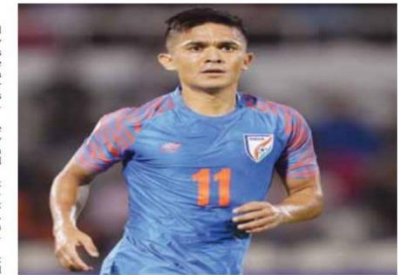
Chhetri, the third highest goal scorer among active international players, was first named for the award in 2007. He then went on to win it in 2011, 2013, 2014, 2017, 2018-19 seasons.

Sunil was our highest goal-scorer, scoring 5 goals, and also the Player of the Tournament in the SAFF Cup," Stimac said.

Furthermore, he led from the front scoring 4 goals in 3 games in the 3rd round of AFC Asian Cup qualifiers in Kolkata. His commitment, leadership, discipline and hard work were impressive throughout bad, and good times."

For Kalyan, it was her first Women's Footballer of the Year award. She won the Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year in the 2020-21 season.

"Manisha has come up with some outstanding performances for the National Team, and also her club. She has scored goals, and also assisted on a regular basis," Dennerby said.



"Blessed with excellent speed and being a good dribbler, she has the potential to play in bigger leagues in the future. She's young, and still developing but has been our best player."

Kalyan recently signed a multi-year contract with Cypriot top division winners Apollon Ladies, which has earned a place in the qualifying rounds of the 2022-23 UEFA Women's Champions League.

In other awards, Martina Thokchom was named the 2021-22 Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year, and Vikram Partap Singh was picked as the 2021-22 Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year by the two national team coaches.

AIFF AWARDS (2021-22)

Women's Footballer of the Year:	Manisha Kalyan
Men's Footballer of the Year:	Sunil Chhetri
Women's Emerging Footballer of the Year:	Martina Thokchom
Men's Emerging Footballer of the Year:	Vikram Partap Singh
Best Referee of the Year:	Crystal John
Best Assistant Referee of the Year:	Ujjal Halder

199. In August India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Fencing Championship by defeating Veronika Vasileva of _____.

- A. Australia
- B. England
- C. China
- D. Japan
- E. None of the above.

- **India's Bhavani Devi won the gold medal in the ongoing Commonwealth Fencing Championship here, defending the title she won last time.**
- **The 42nd-ranked Indian fencer defeated second-seeded Australian Veronika Vasileva 15-10 in the senior women's sabre individual category final.**
- **The Fencing Association of India is the governing body for the sport of fencing in the country headquartered in Delhi.**

Fencer Bhavani Devi defends title

LONDON, AUGUST 10

India's Bhavani Devi won gold at the ongoing Commonwealth Fencing Championship here today.

The 42nd-ranked fencer defeated the second-seeded Australian Veronika Vasileva 15-10 in the senior women's sabre individual category final to successfully defend her title. Since becoming the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, the Chennai-born Bhavani has enjoyed a steady rise in the sport. Speaking after her win, Bhavani said: "It was a tough final and I am glad I could



Bhavani Devi beat Veronika Vasileva at the Commonwealth Fencing Championship.

add another gold medal for India this year. It has been a great journey for me this year and I would like to continue this momentum." — PTI

paper.tribuneindia.com

Jayasuriya, Lamb win ICC Player of Month honour

PTI ■ DUBAI

Sri Lanka spin sensation Prabath Jayasuriya and England women's cricket team's emerging all-rounder Emma Lamb were on Monday voted ICC 'Player of the Month' for July.

The 30-year-old Jayasuriya faced off competition from England's in-form batter and June's Player of the Month winner Jonny Bairstow and French youngster Gustav McKeon to claim the honour.

Jayasuriya, who made his Test debut in Sri Lanka's final Test match against Australia in Galle earlier in July, picked up 12 wickets and guided the Lankans to a series-levelling victory.

He also scalped another 17 wickets in the recently concluded two-match Test against Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Lamb was rewarded after an extraordinary three-match ODI series against South Africa.

The 24-year-old youngster beat compatriot Nat Sciver and India pacer Renuka Singh to win the award.

Lamb amassed 234 runs in three matches, including a match-winning century (102 off 97 balls) followed by two half-centuries (67 off 65 balls and 65 off 66 balls) in the next two games.

Science

and more

Indian American teen crowned Miss India USA 2022

AGENCIES / Washington

Indian American teenager Aarya Walvekar from Virginia has been crowned Miss India USA 2022 at the annual pageant held in New Jersey.

An aspiring actress Aarya (18), said, "It has been my childhood dream to see myself on the silver screen and work in films and TV." Her hobbies include exploring new places, cooking and debating, she said.

Saumya Sharma, a second-year premedical student at the University of Virginia, was declared first runner up and Sanjana Chekuri of New Jersey was



the second runner up.

As many as 74 contestants representing 30 states participated in three different pageants - Miss India USA, Mrs India USA and Miss Teen India USA.

Winners of all three categories receive complimen-

tary tickets to Mumbai early next year to take part in Worldwide Pageants organised by the same group.

The event attended by singer Shibani Kashyap, Khushi Patel, Miss India Worldwide 2022 and Swathy Vimal, Mrs India Worldwide.

{ HONOURING A HERO }

In a first, NBA retires Russell's No 6 jersey

Agencies

sportsdesk@hindustantimes.com

NEW YORK: Bill Russell's No 6 jersey is being retired across the NBA, a first for the league. The NBA and the players association announced that the number worn by the 11-time champion, civil rights activist and Basketball Hall of Famer both as player and coach was being permanently retired by all 30 teams.

"Bill Russell's unparalleled success on the court and pioneering civil rights activism deserve to be honored in a unique and historic way," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said. "Permanently retiring his No. 6 across every NBA team ensures that Bill's transcendent career will always be recognized."

Players who currently wear No. 6 — including the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James — may continue doing so. But the number cannot be issued again, the league said.

All NBA players will wear a patch on the right shoulder of their jerseys this season, the league said, and every NBA court will display a clover-shaped logo with the No 6 on the sideline near the scorer's table.



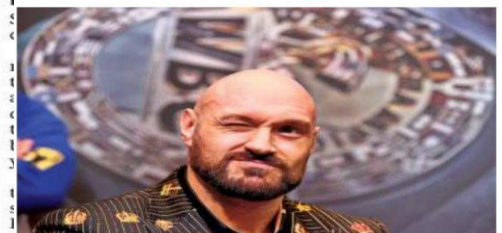
The 1969 shirt of Bill Russell. AP

The Boston Celtics have "separate and unique recognition for him on their uniforms" planned, the NBA said.

Russell died on July 31 at the age of 88. He was the most prolific winner in NBA history, an 11-time champion during a 13-year career — winning the last two of those titles as a player-coach — and the first Black coach in any of the major U.S. pro sports to win a championship.

He marched with Martin Luther King Jr., stood with Muhammad Ali and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Barack Obama.

Fury decides to hang up his gloves



Quitting, again! Fury has announced his retirement one more time! •AFP

Comment

Anthony Joshua has announced his retirement from boxing, two days after insisting he would make a comeback to the sport to complete a trilogy against fellow-Briton Derek Chisora.

Fury said in April, after beating Dillian Whyte at Wembley Stadium, that he had promised his wife he would retire, before then declaring his interest in fighting Anthony Joshua in England provided the bout was free to watch and attend.

The promise of completing two trilogies, one with Deontay Wilder and a second with Chisora, appeared to confirm Fury's re-

irement plans had been shelved, only for the 34-year-old to make another U-turn.

"Massive thanks to everyone who had an input in my career over the years and, after long hard conversations, I've finally decided to walk away and on my 34th birthday I say 'bon voyage'," he posted on Instagram.

The outcome of a rematch between Joshua and Ukraine's WBA, WBO, IBF and IBO champion Oleksandr Usyk in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia next week, may persuade Fury to think again.

Fury and Joshua appeared to be on a collision course last year until an arbitrator ruled Fury had to fight Wilder for a third time.

- The United States and South Korea will begin their biggest combined military training in years next week in the face of an increasingly aggressive North Korea, which has been ramping up weapons tests and threats of nuclear conflict against Seoul and Washington.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The allies' summertime drills, which will take place from Aug. 22 to Sept. 1 in South Korea under the name of Ulchi Freedom Shield, will include field exercises involving aircraft, warships, tanks, and potentially tens of thousands of troops.
- The drills underscore Washington and Seoul's commitment to restore large-scale training after they canceled some of their regular drills and downsized others to computer simulations in recent years to create space for diplomacy with Pyongyang and because of COVID-19 concerns.
- Freedom Shield includes the following meanings: Will to defend freedom, which is the ROK-U.S. allies' core value; deterrence against North Korea; and the training's defensive nature.

201. In August _____ country has declared Padang, a site of countless events from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave his 'Delhi Chalo' slogan in 1943, as its 75th national monument.

- A. Japan
- B. India
- C. Singapore
- D. Bangladesh
- E. None of the above.

- Singapore declared its 200-year-old iconic green open space Padang, a site of countless events in the country's history and from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave his 'Delhi Chalo' slogan in 1943, as its 75th national monument as the city-state celebrates its 57th National Day.
- Located in the heart of Singapore's civic district, the 4.3-hectare Padang is the first green, open space on Singapore's list of national monuments – the highest form of recognition for a structure or site's significance.
- The large field – popular for sporting events such as cricket, football, hockey, tennis, and lawn bowling – is one of the oldest open spaces continuously used since the 1800s.
- The 200-year-old Padang joins 74 other National Monuments in Singapore, seven of which are related to the Indian community in the multinational city-state.

Singapore's Padang from where Netaji made 'Delhi Chalo!' call to be declared nt'l monument



PTI ■ SINGAPORE

Singapore's iconic green site Padang from where Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose gave the slogan of 'Delhi Chalo' in July 1943, will be declared a National Monument of Singapore on the city state's National Day on Tuesday.

The iconic site will be the first green, open space to join a list of 74 other national monuments of Singapore.

The monument will be preserved and accorded the high-

est level of protection in Singapore under the Preservation of Monuments Act in view of its "strong national, historical and social significance", said the National Heritage Board (NHB) on Monday.

"The Padang stands as a testament to Singapore's historical journey, anchoring our Singaporean identity and reflecting our place in the world," said Edwin Tong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, who attended a preview of some of the commemorative initiatives

on Monday.

The historic site is associated with key milestones in Singapore's history, including the victory parade celebrating the formal surrender of the Japanese in Singapore on September 12, 1945; the victory rally of the first fully elected Legislative Assembly on June 3, 1959; the installation of Yusof Ishak as the first Malayan-born Yang di-Pertuan Negara (head of state) and the unveiling of National Symbols on December 3, 1959 as well as the inaugural National Day Parade on August 9, 1966.

The Padang is also one of Singapore's oldest spaces for public recreation and celebrations, and has been hosting sporting events from the early colonial period. Professor Rajesh Rai, Head, South Asian Studies at the National University of Singapore, elaborated on the Padang's link to Indian National Army (INA).

202. In August The **Falcon Strike exercise** was held between which of the following countries?

- A. China & Pakistan
- B. China & Thailand
- C. Sri Lanka & China

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- D. Sri Lanka & Pakistan
- E. None of the above.

- **The Chinese air force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military.**
- **The Falcon Strike exercise will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.**
- **The training comes as the US holds combat drills in Indonesia with Indonesia, Australia, Japan, and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.**
- **China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing strategic and economic competition that has inflamed tensions between the world's two largest economies.**

Joint exercises: China sending fighter jets to Thailand

ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bangkok, August 13

THE CHINESE AIR force is sending fighter jets and bombers to Thailand for a joint exercise with the Thai military.

The training would include air support, strikes on ground targets and small- and large-scale troop deployment, the Chinese defence ministry said in a statement posted on its website.

China's expanding military activities in the Asia-Pacific region have alarmed the United States and its allies and form part of a growing



Air force and naval aviation corps of the Chinese People's Liberation Army flying planes at an unspecified location in China

FILE PHOTO: AP

strategic and economic competition that has inflamed

tensions between the world's two largest economies.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin visited Thailand

in June as part of an effort to strengthen what he called America's "unparalleled network of alliances and partnerships" in the region.

The Falcon Strike exercise will be held at the Udorn Royal Thai Air Force Base in northern Thailand near the border with Laos. Thai fighter jets and airborne early warning aircraft from both countries will also take part.

The training comes as the US holds combat drills in Indonesia with Indonesia, Australia, Japan and Singapore in the largest iteration of the Super Garuda Shield exercises since they began in 2009.

203. Consider the following statement regarding **SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) exercise**.
1. **SCO's Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure (RATS) will be hosted by India.**
 2. **These exercises are scheduled to be held in India in Mahesar in October.**

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- **Pakistan will attend the counter-terrorism drills hosted by India under the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in October, despite a chill in bilateral ties.**

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- While Pakistani and Indian military contingents have taken part in counter-terrorism exercises together, this will be the first time that Pakistan will be attending such drills in India.
- The exercise scheduled to be held in Manesar in Haryana will see participation from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, besides India.
- India and Pakistan, under the banner of the SCO, are part of the nine-member Beijing-based regional body.

Pak to take part in counterterror drills in India under SCO ambit

Press Trust of India

letters@hindustantimes.com

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan will attend the counter-terrorism drills hosted by India under the ambit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in October, despite a chill in bilateral ties, a media report said on Saturday.

While Pakistani and Indian military contingents have taken part in counter-terrorism exercises together, this will be the first time that Pakistan will be attending such drills in India, The Express Tribune reported.

Pakistan will attend the international counter-terrorism exercise scheduled in October this year under SCO's Regional Anti-

THE MOVE IS TERMED TO BE SIGNIFICANT GIVEN THE TENSIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Terrorism Structure (RATS), the newspaper quoted Pakistan Foreign Office Spokesman Asim Iftikhar as saying on Friday at the weekly briefing.

"Yes, there will be exercises under the ambit of SCO RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorism Structure)," the spokesperson said, adding that India was chairing the SCO RATS this year.

"These exercises are scheduled to be held in India in Manesar in October, and as Pakistan is a member, we will participate," he said. "At what level, I think when we approach that, we will let you know," the FO spokesperson added.

The exercise scheduled to be held in Manesar in Haryana will see participation from Russia, China, Pakistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan, besides India.

The move is termed to be significant given the tensions between India and Pakistan after New Delhi abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir on August 5, 2019.

204. In August **Dornier 228 surveillance aircraft** of the Indian Navy is to be **inducted into which country Air Force on August 15th?**

- A. Bangladesh
- B. Sri Lanka**
- C. Nepal
- D. Mauritius
- E. None of the above.

- A Dornier 228 surveillance aircraft of the Indian Navy is expected to be inducted into the Sri Lankan Air Force on August 15th, a day before China's research vessel 'Yuan Wang 5' docks in Hambantota.
- This is a gift from India and the Indians will supervise the operation of the aircraft. The second aircraft that will be handed over will have to be brought by Sri Lanka and the cost is yet to be negotiated.
- These aircraft are at present being used for reconnaissance missions by the Navy and this would be a part of the Line of Credit (LoC) that India has extended to Sri Lanka.
- India has provided \$3.8 billion to Sri Lanka in financial aid so far.
- The Dornier, a twin-engine aircraft is being used by the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, and Indian Air Force. Manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, it is licensed by Swiss company RUAG.
- Meanwhile, a day later on August 16th Chinese vessel Yuan Wang 5 will dock at the Hambantota Port until August 22nd.

205. Consider the following statement regarding **Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol Aircraft**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

- 1. India delivered a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft to the Bangladesh navy during a ceremony attended by President Ranil Wickremesinghe.**
2. During the Defence Dialogue held in January 2018, Sri Lanka was expected to acquire two Dornier aircraft from India.
3. It is a multi-role light transport aircraft with a short take-off and landing (STOL) capability.
4. It is a 19-seater developed by HAL.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

5. None of the above.

- On August 16, India delivered a Dornier maritime surveillance aircraft to the Sri Lankan navy during a ceremony attended by President Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay and Vice Chief of Indian Navy Vice Admiral SN Ghormade handed over the aircraft on a two-day visit to the island nation.
- During the Defence Dialogue held in January 2018, Sri Lanka was expected to acquire two Dornier aircraft from India to enhance its maritime surveillance capabilities.
- The Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol Aircraft is a multi-role light transport aircraft with a short take-off and landing (STOL) capability.
- It has been in production since 1981 and is used by the Indian Navy for electronic warfare missions, maritime surveillance, and disaster relief systems.
- The handover of the Dornier Aircraft occurred one day before the Chinese ship Yuan Wang 5 docks for a week at Sri Lankan ports.
- The 19-seater HAL - DO - 228 aircraft is a highly versatile multi-purpose light transport aircraft. It has been developed specifically to meet the manifold requirements of utility and commuter transport, third-level services and air-taxi operations, coast guard duties, and maritime surveillance.

India gifts Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka

Colombo had requested two of them in 2018; another to arrive within two years

MEERA SRINIVASAN
COLOMBO

India on Monday handed over a Dornier aircraft to Sri Lanka in the presence of President Ranil Wickremesinghe, reaffirming its security ties with the island nation.

Vice-Admiral S.N. Ghormade and High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka, Gopal Baglay, were in attendance at the handover event held on Monday, along with dignitaries of the Government and armed forces of Sri Lanka, including the Defence Secretary, CDS and the Commanders of Sri Lanka Army, Navy and Air Force.

"Security of India and Sri Lanka are enhanced by mutual understanding, mutual trust and cooperation. Gifting of Dornier 228 is India's latest contribution to this cause," High Commissioner Baglay said on Monday, a day before the arrival of a Chinese space and satellite tracking vessel that India has



Security boost: Water jets welcoming the Dornier aircraft at the Sri Lankan Air Force base in Katunayake on Monday. •AFP

voiced concern over. Despite New Delhi conveying its apprehensions at high levels, including to Mr. Wickremesinghe, Colombo has cleared the visit of the Chinese vessel, after requesting its arrival be deferred by five days.

The gifting of the Dornier aircraft to the Sri Lanka Air Force "is of relevance to and a step to meet its requirements for maritime safety and security," the Indian High Commission said in a tweet, adding: "It is an example of India's strength, ad-

ding to the strength of its friends and neighbours, including those in Indian Ocean Region and the Bay of Bengal, such as Sri Lanka".

'Benefit to people'

The capability of the aircraft to undertake search and rescue operations "exemplifies its direct benefit to the people", the Ministry of External Affairs said in a statement. "The gift to the people of Sri Lanka will equip the country to contribute more towards the security of the Indian

Ocean Region at large," the Ministry said.

In a solemn wreath laying ceremony at the IPKF Memorial, Vice-Admiral Ghormade paid homage to the brave Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives to bring lasting peace in Sri Lanka.

Last week, Sri Lanka Air Force announced that the Indian Air force was gifting it a Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol Aircraft, while noting another aircraft would be donated within two years. The Indian gift was in response to a request from the Sri Lankan government in 2018 for two Dornier Reconnaissance Aircraft to enhance the maritime surveillance capabilities of the island nation, the Sri Lanka Air Force said.

Sri Lanka is a member of the 'Colombo Security Conclave', that began as a trilateral initiative involving India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives, and later included Mauritius, for maritime cooperation in the region.

205. In August _____ will launch **Furious Wolf** military exercise in Estonian airspace from August 15 to 19 with the participation of specialized soldiers of the JTACs (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) from Estonia, Slovenia, and Lithuania, as well as aircraft from the United States and the United Kingdom

- A. NASA
- B. ISRO
- C. ESA
- D. **NATO**
- E. None of the above.

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Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- **NATO will launch Furious Wolf military exercise in Estonian airspace from August 15 to 19 with the participation of specialized soldiers of the JTACs (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) from Estonia, Slovenia, and Lithuania, as well as aircraft from the United States and the United Kingdom, the Estonian military said.**

NATO to launch exercise in Estonian airspace

Brussels, August 11 (UNI) NATO will launch Furious Wolf military exercise in Estonian airspace from August 15 to 19 with participation of specialized soldiers of the JTACs (Joint Terminal Attack Controllers) from Estonia, Slovenia and Lithuania, as well as aircraft from the United States and the United Kingdom, the Estonian military said on Thursday.

"NATO exercise Furious Wolf will take place in the Estonian airspace from August 15 to 19. JTACs from Estonia, Slovenia and Lithuania will practice Air-to-Ground operations. Air assets, such as the US AV-8B Harrier II attack aircraft, UK Eurofighter Typhoon and Voyager tanker aircraft will participate," the military said in a tweet.

Furious Wolf exercise is aimed at practicing the coordinated work of air and land forces. JTACs on the ground are expected to direct the allies' air strikes by determining the locations of the enemy, friendly forces and civilians on the battlefield.

Even before the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, NATO flagged plans to enhance presence in Europe, and its Eastern flank in particular. On March 24, NATO leaders agreed to deploy four new battle groups in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary and Slovakia following an extraordinary NATO summit in Brussels on Ukraine

- **NATO exercise Furious Wolf will take place in Estonian airspace from August 15 to 19. JTACs from Estonia, Slovenia, and Lithuania will practice Air-to-Ground operations. Air assets, such as the US AV-8B Harrier II attack aircraft, UK Eurofighter Typhoon, and Voyager tanker aircraft will participate.**
- **The Furious Wolf exercise is aimed at practicing the coordinated work of air and land forces. JTACs on the ground is expected to direct the allies' air strikes by determining the locations of the enemy, friendly forces, and civilians on the battlefield.**
- **Even before the start of Russia's special military operation in Ukraine, NATO flagged plans to enhance its presence in Europe, and its Eastern flank in particular. On March 24, NATO leaders agreed to deploy four new battle groups in Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Slovakia following an extraordinary NATO summit in Brussels on Ukraine.**

207. What is the name of the Railway's longest freight train which was tested by South East Central Railway (SECR) on 15 August as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration?

- A. **Vasuki**
- B. **Ratna**
- C. **Amrit**
- D. **Shakti**
- E. **None of the above.**

Super Vasuki's maiden trial a hit

The 3.5-km-long train can carry over 27,000 tonnes of coal

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
NEW DELHI

The Railways conducted a test run of its longest freight train, Super Vasuki, with 295 loaded wagons carrying over 27,000 tonnes of coal, on August 15, as part of *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations.

The 3.5-km-long freight train covered the distance of about 267 km between Korba in Chhattisgarh and Raj-

nandgaon in Nagpur, and was run by the South East Central Railway (SECR).

This is the longest and heaviest freight train ever run by the Railways, the national transporter said, adding that the train takes about four minutes to cross a station.

The amount of coal carried by Super Vasuki is enough to fire 3,000 MW of power plant for one full day,

officials said. This is three times the capacity of existing railway rakes (90 cars with 100 tonnes in each) that carry about 9,000 tonnes of coal in one journey.

The Railways plans to use this arrangement (longer freight trains) more frequently, especially to transport coal in peak demand season to prevent fuel shortages of power stations, the officials said.

- **Railways tests longest freight train Super Vasuki; moves record coal**
- **South East Central Railway (SECR) has a test run of its longest freight train Super Vasuki on 15 August as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebration. The 3.5 km long train with 295 loaded wagons and powered by five locos carried a total trailing load of about 27,000 tonnes of coal, the highest fuel transportation ever carried by the Indian Railway in a single train arrangement.**
- **The amount of coal carried by Super Vasuki is enough to fire 3000 MW of power plant for one full day. This is more than thrice the capacity of existing railway rakes (90 cars with 100 tonnes in each) that carries about 9,000 tonnes of coal in one journey.**
- **The Super Vasuki train ran from Bhilai to Korba in Chhattisgarh.**
- **The Railways has run long freight trains last year too, under the names Vasuki and Trishul. But those arrangements were smaller than Super Vasuki as the length of earlier trains extended up to 2.8 km nothing like 3.5 km in the latest version.**
- **The train was formed by amalgamating five rakes of goods trains as one unit.**

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

208. On the eve of Independence Day in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, *the Indian Army inaugurated _____ feet High National Flag mast at Hyderbaigh in the Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district.*

- A. 75 Ft
- B. 188 Ft
- C. 108 Ft**
- D. 104 Ft
- E. None of the above.

- *In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Indian Army inaugurated 108 feet High National Flag mast at Hyderbaigh in the Pattan area of North Kashmir's Baramulla district. Major General SS Slaria, General Officer Commanding, CIF (Kilo) dedicated it to the citizens today. The installation of the high mast was completed in a record time of 30 days.*
- *The flag mast was constructed in collaboration with the Flag Foundation of India. It will not only instill a sense of pride and honor amongst the citizens but also honor all the Bravehearts who have laid down their lives to eliminate terrorism. The project is part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav initiative of the Government of India.*
- *The GOC appreciated the efforts of all those involved in the completion of the project. Citizens of Hyderbaigh Pattan also appreciated the District Administration and the Army for this unique initiative, which will remain etched forever in the history of Pattan.*



Army officers unfurl the national flag in Baramulla on Sunday. ANI

108-foot-high Tricolour installed in Baramulla

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14

The Army inaugurated a 108-foot high National Flag in Baramulla district on Sunday. The Tricolour was installed at Hyderbaigh in Pattan in the north Kashmir district, Defence PRO Col Emron Musavi said.

He said General Officer Commanding, Counter-Insurgency Force (CIF) (Kilo), Major General SS Slaria, dedicated it to the people of Kashmir. The installation of the high mast was completed in a record time of 30 days. — PTI

206. Recently _____ University *in collaboration with the NID foundation created a new Guinness Book of World Records for the largest human image of a waving national flag.*

- A. Ahmedabad University
- B. Chandigarh University**
- C. Delhi University
- D. Punjab University
- E. None of the above.

- *The Union Territory of Chandigarh created a new Guinness Book of World Records for the largest human image of a waving national*

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World largest 'human' national flag



Students form a human chain to resemble a hoisted Indian national flag as they celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate 75 years of Indian Independence, in Chandigarh on Saturday. They created a Guinness World Record for their formation of 'World's Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag' PTI

flag. The Chandigarh University and NID foundation, both achieved the landmark together.

- Meenakshi Lekhi, the Union Minister of Culture was also present at the event to mark the occasion.
- The title for this record is 'Largest Human Image of a Waving National Flag.' One such record was set in the UAE, years ago. Today, that record has been broken, thanks to the participation of 5,885 people.

207. In August Indian Airforce will conduct Exercise Udarashakti with _____ for the very first time.

- A. UAE
- B. Egypt
- C. Malaysia
- D. Australia
- E. None of the above.

- A First bilateral Air Force exercise is being conducted between India and Malaysia.
- An Indian Air Force contingent is participating in a bilateral exercise called Udarshakti in Malaysia.
- The Indian Air Force and the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) are conducting their first-ever bilateral exercise.
- The Indian Air Force is taking part in the air exercise with Su-30 MKI and C-17 aircraft, while the Royal Malaysian Air Force will fly with Su-30 MKM aircraft.
- Members of the IAF contingent will have the opportunity to share and learn best practices from some of the best professionals from the RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities.
- Various aerial combat exercises will be conducted between the two air forces in the four-day exercise.

IAF team flies to Malaysia to take part in bilateral air exercise

Drill will enhance defence cooperation, security in the region

OUR BUREAU

New Delhi, August 12

In a sign of maturing military relationship, an Indian Air Force contingent flew to Malaysia on Friday to participate in a bilateral air exercise.

The Indian Air Force (IAF) is participating in the four-day air exercise, named 'Udarashakti', with Su-30 MKI and C-17 aircraft while the Royal Malaysian Air Force (RMAF) will be flying Su 30 MKM aircraft. The IAF contingent is expected to exploit the opportunity to share and learn good practices with some of the best professionals from RMAF, while also discussing mutual combat capabilities. The Indian contingent departed from one of its air bases directly for



A contingent of the Indian Air Force left for Malaysia to participate in the bilateral exercise titled Udarashakti

their destination, the RMAF base of Kuantan, said the IAF.

Military exercises

The exercise, which will witness various aerial combat drills between the two Air Forces, will fortify the long standing bond of friendship and enhance the avenues of defence cooperation which

subsequently augment security in the region.

From 2018, the two countries started joint military exercises. First, both the armies did a battle exercise followed by a joint naval military exercise to test inter-operability of their navies in South East Asia and Western Pacific regions.

207. In August French Air and Space Force contingent, including three Rafale jets, was hosted for a technical stopover at Air Force Station Sulur, India, under mission _____ operation code.

- A. Pégase 22

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- B. Fierce 50
- C. Ragnorak 20
- D. Tedex 50
- E. None of the above.

- *The French Air and Space Force which is on an “unprecedented 16,600-km” long-range mission in the Indo-Pacific made a technical stopover in India, at Air Force Station Sular in Tamil Nadu. The contingent operation code-named Pégase 22 will take place from 10th August to 18th September.*

- *As per France, the landing at Air Force Station Sular was on the 10th of August evening, contingent flew out in the early hours of the 11th of August after refueling, en route to New Caledonia.*

- *The French Embassy in New Delhi in its statement said, “A French Air and Space Force contingent, including three Rafale jets, was hosted for a technical stopover at Air Force Station Sular, India, on 10-11th August 2022 during a long-distance deployment from metropolitan France to the Pacific Ocean.”*

- *The Rafale jets are accompanied by support aircraft. Calling Mission Pégase 22 a powerful demonstration of France’s capacity for quick deployment in the Indo-Pacific.*

- *The operation demonstrated a high level of mutual trust and interoperability between the French and Indian Air Forces, which has been further boosted by the fact that both Air Forces now fly Rafale jets.*

- *In the following stages of Mission Pégase 22, the French Air Force contingent will take part in the “Pitch Black” air exercise taking place in Australia from 17th August to 10th September.*

- *The Indian Air Force will also participate in this multilateral drill, along with Australia, Japan, the United States, Germany, Indonesia, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and South Korea.*

French jets' stopover

A French Air and Space Force contingent, including three Rafale jets, made a strategically crucial stopover at the IAF's Sular base in Tamil Nadu as part of a mega military operation it carried out in the Pacific Ocean. The support provided by the Indian Air Force to the French force reflected the



implementation of the reciprocal logistics support agreement signed by France and India in 2018 to boost military cooperation/

208. Which of the following is **building International Ship Repair Facility on Willingdon Island worth the amount of Rs 970 crore which is to be commissioned by 2023?**

- A. **Cochin Shipyard Limited**
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C. Hindustan Shipyard
- D. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- E. None of the above.

- *Kochi as a global ship repair hub, Cochin Shipyard Ltd began the work on its Rs 970-crore international ship repair facility (ISRF).*

- *ISRF is a Rs. 970 crore project approved by the Centre in May 2016. The facility can repair up to 85 vessels, and CSL will thereby be almost doubling the number of ships that can be repaired per year.*

- *Cochin Shipyard investing nearly Rs 2,800 crore in Kochi projects*

- *Rs 970-crore International Ship Repair Facility expected to be commissioned by 2023*

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- 70% of the project's work was completed. International Ship Repair Facility being built on Willingdon Island.
- Recently Cochin Shipyard delivered the country's first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier, INS Vikrant, to the Indian Navy.

209. *India's first indigenous Hydrogen-fueled electric vessel is being built by which of the following?*

- A. **Cochin Shipyard Limited**
- B. Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- C. Hindustan Shipyard
- D. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders
- E. None of the above.

- *Chairman and Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) Madhu S Nair on Thursday said that India's first indigenous Hydrogen-fuelled electric vessel is likely to be delivered by March-April next year.*
- *The construction of India's first indigenous hydrogen-fuelled electric vessel is a pilot project. We have completed the engineering and the construction will also start very soon as we are going to order the equipment required.*
- *The hydrogen fuel cell vessel based on Low-Temperature Proton Exchange Membrane Technology (LT-PEM) called Fuel Cell Electric Vessel (FCEV) is expected to cost around ₹17.50 crore of which 75 percent would be funded by the Government.*
- *The groundwork has already begun, wherein CSL has partnered with KPIT Technologies Limited and Indian developers in the areas of Hydrogen Fuel cells, power trains, and the Indian Register of Shipping for developing rules and regulations for such vessels.*
- *The project is expected to augment the efforts of the nation in achieving the Prime Minister's ambitious target of becoming carbon neutral by 2070 and also in complying with the standards set by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that envisages a reduction in the carbon intensity of international shipping by at least 40 percent by 2030 and progressively to 70 percent by 2050.*

210. In August _____ has been selected for an astronaut training programme of the International Institute for Astronautical Sciences (IIAS) in the US.

- A. **Aathira Preetharani**
- B. Srisha Bandagi
- C. Mihira Kartikeya
- D. Sharmishta Kulkarni
- E. None of the above.

- *Canada-based space entrepreneur Aathira Preetharani, who hails from Thiruvananthapuram, has been selected for an astronaut training program of the International Institute for Astronautical Sciences (IIAS) in the US.*
- *After completing the program, Aathira hopes to join the league of Indian-origin women astronauts like Kalpana Chawla and Sunita Williams.*
- *Aathira was selected under Project PoSSUM, an aeronomy research program, offered by IIAS.*
- *PoSSUM trains people to become citizen astronauts so that they do not remain a mere passengers when you go out to space but can also carry out valuable research activities.*

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

211. In August _____ and BHEL sign MoU for cooperation in Research & Development in the Defence & Aerospace Sectors.

- A. IIT Madras
- B. IIT Kanpur**
- C. IIT Delhi
- D. IIT Ropar
- E. None of the above.

- The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur and Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly work on the emerging opportunities in the Indian Defence and Aerospace sectors.
- Both parties agreed in principle to cooperate, pursue research & development, and collaborate in manufacturing and supplying components, sub-assemblies, and systems or equipment in mutually agreed areas of interest to address opportunities in the Indian Defence and Aerospace sectors.
- A working group of members from both organizations will be formed to realize the major goals envisioned under the MoU.
- The MoU is envisioned in the line of 'Make in India' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiatives.

IIT Kanpur joins BHEL to boost R&D, local mfg in defence and aerospace

New Delhi: Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) to collaborate on research and development (R&D), and manufacturing and supplying components, sub-assemblies, and systems for India's defence and aerospace sector.

TECHCIRCLE

212. Recently Indian Army in association with one of the following launched the 'Him Drone-a-thon' program on 8 August 2022.

- A. Drone Federation of India**
- B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
- C. Defense Research and Development Organisation
- D. Council for Strategic and Defense Research
- E. None of the above.

- Indian Army in association with DFI launched the Him Drone-a-thon program on 8 August 2022.
- The Drone Federation of India (DFI) and the Army Design Bureau (ADB) have launched the 'Him Drone-a-thon' program.
- It will be conducted in multiple phases with quantitative parameters (like altitude, weight, range, endurance, etc).
- Under this program, high-impact drone solutions for high-altitude operational areas will be developed.
- This initiative is in line with Atmanirbharta in defense manufacturing and is focused on providing more opportunities to the Indian drone ecosystem.
- The Indian Army's support for an indigenous drone ecosystem is based on the principle that the 'good available indigenously' is better than the 'best available globally'.

Army bets big on drone use in the field

DALIP SINGH
New Delhi, August 8

With unmanned vehicles being widely leveraged in warfare, the Indian Army has signed an MoU with the Drone Federation of India to jointly work on R&D, testing and manufacturing of drones, counter-drone and associated technologies.

Together with the DFI, the Army launched the 'Him Drone-a-thon' programme on Monday to basically explore drone applications in logistics/ load carrying at high altitude of 13,200 ft above mean sea level (AMSL) and for autonomous surveillance, search and rescue (between 9,000 to 13,000 ft AMSL) – which is along the northern and Western borders with China and Pakistan, respectively. The army is also looking for micro nano drone for room intervention and fighting in built up areas, said Army sources.

The MoU between the Indian Army's Design Bureau and the DFI will promote efforts to handhold the industry and academia to develop niche technology and products for procurement by Indian Army, said a Ministry of Defence statement.

The Army Design Bureau is facilitating and assisting numerous initiatives like regular capability demonstrations and internal trials by development agencies. Some have resulted in successful procurement such as logistics drones, surveillance drones and swarm drones Swarms.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- The 'Him Drone-a-thon' program will bring all stakeholders, including industry, academia, software developers, and drone product manufacturers into one place.

213. Consider the following statement regarding "Purva Vajra Prahar 2022".

1. It was the 12th edition of the Indo-US joint special forces exercise "Purva Vajra Prahar 2022"
2. It was commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.

Which of the following statement is correct?

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

- India began joint special forces exercise with the US in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh on 8 August.
- The 13th edition of the Indo-US joint special forces exercises "Purva Vajra Prahar 2022" commenced at the Special Forces Training School in Bakloh, Himachal Pradesh.
- The exercise aims to enhance interoperability between the two countries special forces and to share best practices and experiences in areas like operational strategy and joint mission planning.
- This annual exercise is conducted alternatively between India and the United States.
- The 12th edition was held in October 2021 at Joint Base Lewis Mcchord, Washington (USA).
- In this 21-day-long exercise, the armies of both countries will jointly take part in air-based operations in mountainous terrain in conventional and unconventional scenarios.

214. In August Union Minister **Dr. Jitendra Singh unveils India's first Saline Water Lantern named _____** which uses seawater as the electrolyte between specially designed electrodes to power the LED lamps.

- A. Roshni**
- B. Prakash
- C. Ujala
- D. Surya
- E. None of the above.

- Dr. Jitendra Singh has launched India's first Saline Water Lantern which uses seawater as the electrolyte between specially designed electrodes to power the LED lamps.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh unveiled the first-of-its-kind lantern named "Roshni" during a visit to SAGAR ANVESHKA, a Coastal Research Vessel, operated and used by the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT), Chennai for coastal research. The Minister said, Saline Water Lantern will bring "Ease of Living" to the poor and needy, particularly the fishing community living along the 7500 Kilometres long coastal line of India.
- Dr. Jitendra Singh said that Saline Water Lantern will also boost and supplement Prime Minister Narendra Modi's UJALA scheme launched in 2015 for the distribution of LED bulbs across the country.
- Roshini Lamps along with Power Ministry's schemes like Solar Study Lamps will be driving a vibrant renewable energy program aimed at achieving energy security, energy access, and reducing the carbon footprints of the national economy.

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Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- *Dr. Jitendra Singh also reviewed the progress of NIOT-developed Low-Temperature Thermal Desalination (LTTD) technology for conversion of seawater to potable water, which has been successfully demonstrated in Lakshadweep islands.*
- *He informed that three desalination plants based on the LTTD technology have been developed and demonstrated at Kavaratti, Agati, and Minicoy Islands of the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.*
- *The capacity of each of these LTTD plants is 1 Lakh liter of potable water per day.*
- *The cost of a desalination plant depends on several factors inter alia which include the technology used and the location of the plant. The total cost of the six LTTD plants in Lakshadweep islands is Rs. 187.75 cr.*

215. Consider the following statement regarding the **world's highest single-arch railway bridge**. Which of the following statement is incorrect?

1. It Is Built on the Sutlej river
 2. The length of the bridge is 1.315 km and is being built at a height of 359 meters.
 3. The bridge has been constructed by Afcons
 4. The highest railway bridge at the time is located on the Bepanjiang River in Guizhou Province, China, with a height of 275 meters above the water level.
 5. None of the above.
- *For the first time since independence, Srinagar will be linked to the rest of India after the overarch deck on the world's highest single-arch railway bridge over the Chenab River will be launched on August 13.*
 - *The 1.315 km long bridge which is being built at a dizzying height of 359 meters is even taller than Eiffel Tower.*
 - *It will connect the Salal-A and Dugga railway stations on either side of the bridge with the mighty River Chenab in the Reasi district.*
 - *The bridge is the tallest railway bridge in the world and is being constructed by the Northern Railway at an estimated cost of INR 28,000 crore as part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link Project.*
 - *The highest railway bridge at the time is located on the Bepanjiang River in Guizhou Province, China, with a height of 275 meters above the water level.*
 - *The bridge has been constructed by Afcons, a Mumbai-based company together with Northern Railway and Konkon Railway Corporation.*

WORLD'S HIGHEST SINGLE-ARCH RAILWAY BRIDGE

Chenab Bridge to get 'golden joint' on Aug 13

STAFF REPORTER
Mumbai

The final piece of the overarch deck at the world's highest single-arch railway bridge, being constructed in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi district on the Baramulla railway line, will be launched on August 13. The moment will be marked with a 'golden joint'. The bridge superstructure on the arch was being incrementally pushed forward from both ends of the Chenab valley and will meet in the middle of the arch, where the golden joint will be installed. "To push it forward

coordinates perfect, and meets and joins at the centre, is in itself a great achievement. Once the golden joint is completed we can say the bridge is about 98 per cent ready," said Giridhar Rajagopalan, deputy managing director of Afcons Infrastructure, the construction firm.

An iconic bridge that faced multiple obstacles. Starting from the geology, the terrain and the hostile climate, the engineers and railway officials have faced it all to achieve this feat.

"When we finished the arch closure last year, it gave us a huge relief in terms of our competency to finish the project with such accuracy



that there was no mismatch. It boosted our confidence to tackle the remaining part of the project comfortably. Together with NR and KRCL, we are eagerly looking forward to the forthcoming

milestone to install the golden joint," Giridhar added. There are many firsts in the construction of the world's highest railway bridge, and once completed, it will stand 35 metres higher than the Eiffel

Tower. Apart from the Chenab bridge, Afcons is constructing 16 railway bridges for Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL) in J&K — all part of the Udhampur Srinagar Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project.

Afcons completed recently the main deck slab concreting of a bridge in the 16 KRCL bridges project, which is even higher than the Qutub Minar.

Around 1,550 cubic metres of concreting was done across four stages within 70 days. The entire activity took place at a height over 90 metres from ground level, in the hilly terrain of Sangaldan in Jammu & Kashmir.

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- Northern Railway used a Phased Array Ultrasonic Testing Machine for the inspection of welds, a first in India.
- A fully equipped NABL laboratory was set up for the first time in India to ensure that quality was monitored at every stage of the project, even over time.
- The bridge will have a minimum lifespan of 120 years and will be built for trains at a speed of 100 km.

216. What is the name of India's first indigenously developed Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) which will be used for the ceremonial 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony at Red Fort?

- A. Kisrov
- B. Khyam
- C. **Howitzer**
- D. Mgram
- E. None of the above.

- For the first time, a home-grown howitzer gun will be used for the ceremonial 21-gun salute during the Independence Day ceremony at Red Fort.
- The Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) has been developed under the government's 'Make in India' initiative by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- The ATAGS will give the ceremonial 21-gun salute along with the British guns, which have been traditionally used till now.
- The defense ministry said the initiative to use the gun will stand as a testament to India's growing capacity of developing arms and ammunition indigenously.
- The gun has been especially customized, with certain technical specifications being tweaked for the ceremony.
- The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by the DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155mm artillery gun.
- This specialized gun system is compatible with C4I systems like the Artillery Combat Command and Control System called Shakti for technical fire control, fire planning, deployment management, and operational logistics management of the Indian Army.
- The defense secretary also said NCC cadets from all districts of the country have been invited to attend the main event at Red Fort.
- These include Anganwadi workers, street vendors, mudra scheme borrowers, mortuary workers, etc. They have been invited to attend the main event at the Red Fort

Gun salute with desi Howitzer on I-Day

Mortuary workers, mudra scheme borrowers special invitees on I-Day

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

For the first time, an indigenously designed and manufactured Howitzer gun will be used for ceremonial gun salute during the Independence Day here to showcase capabilities of the Indian defence industry.

Also, people from different walks of life like mortuary workers, mudra scheme borrowers and anganwadi workers will be special invitees for the event at the Red Fort.

Besides these novel additions, National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets, wearing traditional and local dresses, will form the gathering when Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses the nation on Monday, Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar said here on Wednesday.

Giving details of the new features of the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort this year, he said an indigenously made Howitzer will be used for the ceremonial 21-gun salute. The gun salute entails firing of blanks by the World War II era howitzers of British make till now.

The Howitzer or the Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System (ATAGS) is developed under the Government's 'Make in India' initiative by the



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The ATAGS will give the ceremonial 21-gun salute along with the British guns which are being traditionally used till now, Kumar said.

The initiative to use the

gun will stand as a testament to India's growing capacity of developing arms and ammunition indigenously. The gun has been especially customised, with certain technical specifications tweaked for the ceremony. The DRDO's Armament Research and Development

Establishment (ARDE), Pune, led by scientists and artillery officers worked on the project to make use of the gun possible for the Independence Day ceremony.

The ATAGS project was started in 2013 by the DRDO to replace older guns in service in the Indian Army with a modern 155mm artillery gun.

This specialised gun system is compatible with C4I systems like the Artillery Combat Command and Control System called Shakti for technical fire control, fire planning, deployment management, operational logistics management of the Indian Army. The ARDE has collaborated with Bharat Forge Limited and Tata Advanced Systems Ltd for the manufacturing of this specialised gun.

Continued on Page 2

Weekly Optimum Current Q & A PDF – Based On Recent Exam
Second Week of August (9th August – 16th August 2022)

- These cadets will be seated at 'Gyan Path' in front of the Red Fort's ramparts in a geographical formation of the map of India.

217. Which among the following is **constructing Coal Rail Corridor At Talcher?**

- A. **Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited**
- B. National High-Speed Rail Corporation Limited
- C. Delhi Metro Rail Corporation
- D. National Highways Authority of India
- E. None of the above.

- The Inner Rail Corridor for a length of 68 km is being constructed by Mahanadi Coal Railway Limited (MCRL) in two phases, information shared by Union Coal Minister Pralhad Joshi in the Rajya Sabha revealed.
- Below are MCRL project details as shared by Joshi in the Parliament today –
- Phase-I: Angul-Balram Rail Link ('14 KM),
- Phase-II: Balram-Putugadia-Jarapada-Tentuloi Rail Link (54 KM)

218. National Institute of Ocean Technology, an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is establishing the **world's first Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant** with a capacity of _____ kilowatts (kW) in **Kavaratti, Lakshadweep**.

- A. **65 kw**
- B. 100 kw
- C. 75 kw
- D. 95 kw
- E. None of the above.

- Recently, the National Institute of Ocean Technology, an autonomous institute under the Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) is establishing an Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion Plant with a capacity of 65 kilowatts (kW) in Kavaratti, Lakshadweep.
- The plant will power the one lakh liter per day low-temperature thermal desalination plant, which converts seawater into potable water.
- The plant is the first of its kind in the world as it will generate drinking water from seawater using indigenous technology, green energy, and environmentally friendly processes.
- Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) is a process for producing energy by harnessing the temperature differences (thermal gradients) between ocean surface waters and deep ocean waters.
- The MoES is developing technologies for mining deep sea resources like polymetallic nodules from the Central Indian Ocean at a water depth of 6000 meters.