



# The ACHIEVERS IAS ACADEMY

LANGUAGE - ENGLISH

## CURRENT AFFAIRS BOOSTER

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FRIDAY



LANGUAGE - ENGLISH



## WORKSHOP ON... GEOGRAPHY FOR 68th BPSC PT



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## 1. RBI: Frauds of public sector banks reduced by 51% to Rs 40,295 crore in FY22



The Reserve Bank of India has said that public sector banks have reported a 51 per cent decline in the amount involved in frauds to Rs 40,295.25 crore during the financial year 2021-22 (FY22). The central bank, in response to an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, said that in the last financial year 2020-21, 12 PSBs (public sector banks) had reported frauds worth Rs 81,921.54 crore.

However, the number of fraud cases did not come down at the same pace, with a total of 7,940 frauds reported by PSBs in 2021-22 as against 9,933 incidents reported in FY21, RBI said, according to Madhya Pradesh-based RTI activist Chandrashekhar. Gaur replied.

### main points of the report

- According to RBI data on frauds reported by PSBs across categories during FY22, the highest amount of Rs 9,528.95 crore was reported by city-based Punjab National Bank (PNB), which involved 431 such incidents.
- State Bank of India, the country's largest lender, reported frauds worth Rs 6,932.37 crore in 4,192 cases - reflecting a large number of small value fraud incidents.
- Bank of India reported fraud of Rs 5,923.99 crore (209 incidents), followed by Bank of Baroda for fraud of Rs 3,989.36 crore (280); Union Bank of India reported a fraud of Rs 3,939 crore (627), while Canara Bank reported fraud of Rs 3,230.18 crore in just 90 cases - indicating that the transactions were of high value fraud.

## 2. WPI inflation at a record high of 15.08% in April 2022



India's wholesale inflation hit a three-decade high in April as higher commodity prices and supply-chain disruptions pushed up input costs for producers. The annual rate of inflation for April 2022 (Y-o-Y) stood at 15.08% (provisional), as against 10.74% in April 2021. Inflation based on the WPI food index rose marginally from 8.71% in March 2022 to 8.88% in April 2022.

### Why does this happen?

- Higher rate of inflation in April 2022 as compared to corresponding month of previous year mainly due to prices of mineral oils, base metals, crude petroleum and natural gas, food articles, non-food items, food products and chemicals and chemical products etc. was due to increase.
- Fuel prices, a major component of the increase, were up 38.66% year on year compared to 34.52% in March.
- Office of the Economic Advisor, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade released the Wholesale Price Index in India (Base Year: 2011-12) for the months of April 2022 (Provisional) and February 2022 (Final).

## 3. Madame Tussauds Museum to open in Noida next month

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## Madame Tussauds museum

The wax museum Madame Tussauds is returning to India. The museum will be located in the Noida Mall. The new venue will be attended by 50 Indian and international stalwarts from sports, entertainment, history and music. Madame Tussauds India will let visitors stand up and get personal with celebrities as well as some of their most iconic moments.

The museum was first opened in 2017 in Connaught Place, Delhi, but was forced to close due to the pandemic. DLF Mall of India, one of the premier shopping malls in the country, will be its new destination. The museum is open to the public under strict anti-Covid guidelines. Madame Tussauds has 200 years of history and heritage, having first opened its doors in London in 1835. The sculptors at Madame Tussauds use techniques similar to the famous Marie Tussauds to create each figure. It takes at least 12 weeks for an artist to create a living figure.

## 4. World Bank Approves USD 350 Million To Gujarat For Shrestha-G Project



The World Bank has approved USD 350 million as financial assistance for the System Reform Endeavors for Transformed Health Achievement in Gujarat (SRESTHA-G) project. The SRESTHA-G project will be worth USD 500 million, with the World Bank

contributing USD 350 million. The project will involve transforming major health delivery systems in the state.

### Key Points of Shrestha-G Project:

- Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel approved the Shrestha-G project, after which the proposal was sent to the Union Finance Ministry. The Government of Gujarat will implement the program through the Department of Health and Family Welfare (HFWD).
- The program development aims to improve service delivery in Gujarat by improving the quality, equity and coverage of primary health care, improving the service delivery model for adolescent girls and improving the capacity of the disease surveillance system.

## 5. At Plumbex India Exhibition, India Tap Project Unveiled



The Plumbex India Exhibition function was inaugurated by Shri Hardeep Singh Puri, Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. He also announced the Bharat Tap project, a campaign to produce low-flow fixtures and sanitaryware to help India enter a new era of water conservation and sustainable development. Plumbex India is a three-day event that will take place at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi and is the country's largest single exhibition on plumbing, water and sanitation products.

### key points:

- It is a public awareness campaign to promote BIS certified water efficient plumbing fixtures under IS 17650, Part 1 & 2, including low flow sanitaryware and sanitary fittings that save at least 40% of the water source but reduce the distribution of water.

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- This will save both water and energy as less water will be required for pumping, transportation and purification.
- At Plumbex India, Mr. Hardeep Singh Puri also introduced 'Nirmal Jal Prayas'. Because it is important to protect fossil water/ground water, NAREDCO Mahi maps groundwater through Nirmal Jal efforts.
- NAREDCO MAHI's 'Nirmal Jal Prayas' is an initiative that will focus on advocacy, awareness and expansion of water conservation.

## 6. Punjab cabinet approves incentive of Rs. 1500 per acre for farmers



The Punjab cabinet has authorized an incentive of Rs 1,500 per acre for farmers growing paddy using direct sowing of rice technology. A total of Rs 450 crore has been set aside to provide incentives to farmers who are promoting DSR (Direct Seeding of Rice) technology, which uses less water and is more cost-effective. The cabinet approved the incentive scheme in a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann.

### key points:

- The incentive was offered by Bhagwant Mann to deal with the depleting groundwater level in the state.
- Paddy seeds are drilled in the field using DSR process, which uses a machine that completes both rice sowing and pesticide spraying at the same time.
- As per the traditional practice, farmers raise immature paddy seedlings in the nursery before planting them in the puddle field.

- Incentives will encourage farmers to use this established approach, which uses significantly less water for irrigation, reduces seepage, reduces agricultural labor dependence, and improves soil health. and increases the yield of wheat by 5-10%.
- The cabinet also resolved to provide Rs 1,500 per acre in financial assistance to farmers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), for which the grain procurement portal of Punjab Mandi Board has already provided Aadhaar numbers, mobile numbers of about 11 lakh farmers. And a database has been created with the bank account number.

## 7. Avoid using food grains as a COVID vaccine, India's warning to the West



After receiving criticism for banning wheat exports, India accused the West of neglecting the principles of justice, affordability and access in the matter of COVID-19 vaccination and asked them not to do the same again in the case of food grains. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was present at the meeting held at the United Nations Headquarters. New Delhi came under fire after the United States and other G-7 countries barred exports of wheat without the previous government's approval.

### key points:

- Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan represented India at a ministerial conference in New York hosted by US Secretary of State Antony Blinken to discuss the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict and the resulting supply disruptions.

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- When it comes to food, she believes that everyone needs to understand the importance of equity, affordability and access.
- The world has already seen how these principles were neglected at great cost in the example of COVID-19 vaccination. The justification for open markets should not be used to justify injustice and discrimination. At a ministerial meeting organized by the US, Muraleedharan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government in New Delhi saw a sudden jump in global wheat prices.

Which has put India's food security, as well as that of its neighbors and other vulnerable countries, at risk.

- Muraleedharan said that India had sent food aid in the form of thousands of metric tonnes of wheat, rice, pulses and pulses to several countries in South Asia and Africa to improve its food security.
- He also mentioned India's donation of 50,000 tonnes of wheat to the Afghan people and 10,000 tonnes of rice and wheat to Myanmar.
- India was also supporting Sri Lanka with food aid, as the island nation had just hit a severe economic crisis.

## 8. Kerala to Launch India's First Government OTT Platform



The Kerala government will launch a state-owned over-the-top (OTT) platform on November 1, which will offer film lovers a range of films, short films and documentaries of their choice. Kerala will become the first state in India to have a state-owned OTT platform.

Kerala Cultural Affairs Minister Saji Cheriaan named the OTT platform as CSPACE.

### Key points of the initiative:

- CSPACE is an initiative of Kerala State Film Development Corporation (KSFD) on behalf of the state government.
- The OTT platform will showcase internationally recognized and award winning films, best films and short films and documentaries screened at the annual International Film Festival of Kerala (IFFK) as well as films with artistic value irrespective of their box office performance. The registration of films to be streamed on CSPACE will start from June 1.

## 9. Engine Relight test successful on Hansa-NG aircraft



The Hansa-NG 2 seater flying trainer aircraft designed and developed by CSIR-NAL passed the in-flight engine relight test at DRDO's Aeronautical Test Range (ATR) facility at Challakere. Indian Air Force Aircraft and Systems Testing Establishment (ASTE) test pilots Wing Commander KV Prakash and Wing Commander NDS Reddy conducted the flight test at an altitude of 7000-8000 feet with a speed range of 60 to 70 knots (IAF).

### key points:

- The aircraft's in-flight engine relight capability was proven using a wind milling propeller and a starter aided start. During these test flights, the aircraft operating characteristics and flight parameters were found to be normal.
- According to CSIR-NAL, the in-flight engine relight test is the most significant and significant milestone towards

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DGCA certification of the aircraft. After obtaining requisite clearances from DGCA, the aircraft was shifted to ATR, Challakere.

- The flight tests were supervised by Shri Abbani Rinku, Project Director, Hansa as well as members of the CSIR-NAL design team and the flight test team of ASTE: Wing Commander Senthil Kumar, Director of Flight Testing, Class Leader Sahil Sarin, Safety Pilot and GP Capt. M. Rangachari, Chief Test Pilot.

## 10. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann launched 'Lok Milani' scheme



The Chief Minister of Punjab, Bhagwant Mann listened to the grievances of the people of the state and issued redressal instructions in 'Lok Milni', a first of its kind public relations programme. This interactive program was started with the aim of providing a single-window platform to the people of the state for redressal of their grievances. The people of the state had lodged various complaints and grievances with the state government in the last two months to participate in this programme.

During this 'Lok Milani' 61 complainants lodged their complaints with the Chief Minister. He directed the top officers of various departments present on the occasion to ensure that these complaints are resolved in a time bound manner.

### ONE LINER

- Establishment of RBI: April 1, 1935;
- RBI Headquarters: Mumbai, Maharashtra;

- RBI Governor: Shaktikanta Das;
- Deputy Governors of RBI: Mahesh Kumar Jain, Michael Debabrata Patra, M Rajeshwar Rao, T Rabi Shankar.
- World Bank Headquarters: Washington, D.C., United States of America.
- Formation of the World Bank: July 1944.
- President of the World Bank: David Malpass.
- Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs: Shri Hardeep Singh Puri
- Chief Minister of Punjab: Mr. Bhagwant Mann
- Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India: Shri V Muraleedharani
- Secretary-General of the United Nations: Antonio Guterres
- US Secretary of State: Antony Blinken
- Capital of Kerala: Thiruvananthapuram;
- Governor of Kerala: Arif Mohammad Khan;
- Chief Minister of Kerala: Pinarayi Vijayan.
- Punjab Capital: Chandigarh;
- Punjab Governor: Banwarilal Purohit;
- Chief Minister of Punjab: Bhagwant Mann.