## Trade winds: On falling Indian exports

The worst effects of faltering Western economies are yet to fully hit Indian exports
December 2022 marked the steepest fall in two years for India's goods exports, with products worth $\$ 34.5$ billion shipped out $-12.2 \%$ lower than a year ago. This was the second time in three months that shipments dropped year-on-year and top Commerce Ministry officials sought to calm nerves by citing the global headwinds that were posing challenges for Indian merchandise. These include the clouds of recession blowing through Europe and the U.S., the COVID-19 situation in China and a reversion towards protectionism in some markets. To be clear, a high base effect also played a role in exaggerating the year-on-year export dip in December. December 2021 had clocked the second highest exports (worth $\$ 39.3$ billion) in 2021-22, when India's goods shipments crossed a record $\$ 422$ billion. The world's trade dynamics have been altered since then, as the momentum swung from a strong post-pandemic pent-up rebound to a stuttering growth trajectory amid soaring inflation and geopolitical muddling, with the Ukraine-Russia conflict counting as only one of the many shocks to the global economy through 2022.

Amid these tumultuous times, a month-on-month reading of export trends is perhaps a better way to gauge the situation. For now, December's export numbers, even if lifted by the last batches of preholiday festive shipments reaching their destined shores, hold up well on this front vis-à-vis October and November's initial trade estimates. The other silver lining is that imports also contracted $3.5 \%$ in December, the first such instance since November 2020, although they remained flat sequentially at around $\$ 58.2$ billion. For the first nine months of 2022-23, India's goods exports are still $9.1 \%$ higher than a year ago, slightly lower than the $11.1 \%$ rise recorded till November 2022. Some agencies expect the global recession to hit demand for Indian goods far harder in the current quarter so much so that the full year could still end up with a shrinkage in exports. In December itself, new export orders grew at the slowest pace in five months as firms struggled in key export markets, as per the S\&P Global India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers Index. The latest data on U.S. retail sales signal the sharpest slump in 12 months even as industrial output has tanked, signalling that demand for finished goods or inputs is set to slacken further in India's top export destination. With China reopening, competition is expected to intensify even as demand shrinks. Some recent government moves such as fixing glitches in a duty remission scheme for exports and lifting curbs on iron ore shipments have helped, but more macro- and swifter micro-policy actions are warranted to keep the export engine chugging.
[Practice Exercise]
$>$ Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'.

## Vocabulary

1. Falter (verb) - waver, weaken, fade, wane, abate, stammer, stutter, fumble लड़खड़ाना
2. Western (adjective) - from or connected with the western part of the world, especially Europe or North America पश्चिमी
3. Economies (noun) - Countries in terms of GDP अर्थव्यवस्थाओं
4. Hit (verb) - affect, damage, destroy, affected, disadvantage प्रभावित करना
5. Mark (verb) - indicate the position of. चिहिनत करना /बतलाना
6. Ship out (phrasal verb) - to send something away from somewhere निर्यात करना
7. Shipment (noun) - the act of shipping goods.
8. Seek (verb) - Try, attempt, endeavour, effort, strive for प्रयास करना
9. Nerve (noun) - worried, nervous feelings घबराहट, परेशानी
10. Cite (verb) - refer to, make reference to, mention, allude to हवाला देना
11. Headwind (noun) - a force or influence that inhibits/restrict progress विपरीत परिस्थिति
12. Pose (verb) - Present, cause, create खड़ा करना (चुनौती
13. Merchandise (noun) - goods;
commodities उत्पाद
14. Cloud (noun) - used to refer to a state or cause of gloom, suspicion, trouble, or worry उलझन, संदेह
15. Recession (noun) - economic decline, downturn, depression, slump मंदी
16. Blow (verb) - cause (something) to move; propel हवा चलना(मंदी)
17. Reversion (noun) - a return to a previous state वापसी
18. Protectionism (noun) - the theory or practice of shielding a country's domestic industries from foreign competition by taxing imports. संरक्षणवाद
19. Base effect (noun) - The base effect relates to inflation in the corresponding period of the previous year, if the inflation rate was too low in the corresponding period of the previous year, even a smaller rise in the Price Index will arithmetically give a high rate of inflation now
20. Play a role in (phrase) - contribute to, be instrumental in, be a factor in में भूमिका निभाना
21. Exaggerate (verb) - represent (something) as being larger than it really is. बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर पेश करना
22. Dip (noun) - Fall, decline, drop, slump, downturn, plunge गिरावट
23. Clock (verb) - register, record, log दर्ज करना
24. Dynamic (noun) -the forces which stimulate growth, development, or change within a system or process. गतिशीलता
25. Alter (verb) -change, amend, improve, modify, convert बदलना
26. Momentum (noun) - impetus, energy, impulse, speed, velocity गति
27. Swing (verb) - to move or change from one position or situation towards the opposite one बदलना
28. Post-(prefix) -After in time के बाद
29. Pent-up (adjective) - suppressed, restrained, constrained दबा हुआ
30. Pent-up demand (noun) - A sudden increase in demand for a service or product after a period of decreased spending by consumers. For example:During the period of lockdown, consumer want to purchase good but they can't do it due to lockdown, but after the lifting the lockdown, they spend lots of money to purchase
good/services so the increase of demand due to such situation is called as pent up demand.
31. Stuttering (adjective) - stammering, halting, faltering, stumbling लड़खड़ाता
32. Trajectory (noun) - course, route, path, track, line, orbit प्रक्षेपवक्र
33. Amid (preposition) - in the middle of. के बीच
34. Soaring (adjective) - rising, mounting, climbing, spiraling, increasing, elevated बढ़ते
35. Inflation (noun) - A general and progressive increase in prices मुद्रा स्फ़ीति
36. Geopolitical (adjective) - Relating to politics, especially international relations, as influenced by geographical factors. भू-राजनैतिक
37. Muddling (noun) - Disorder, confusion, disorganizing, mess up गड़बड़, अव्यवस्था
38. Count (verb) - take into account; include. मानना, गिनना
39. Shock (noun) - a disturbance causing instability in an economy. झटका
40. Tumultuous (adjective) - Turbulent, confused, chaotic, disorderly, noisy, agitated उथल-पुथल
41. Reading (noun) - a figure or amount
42. Perhaps (adverb) - maybe, for all I know, for all you know शायद
43. Gauge (verb) - measure, evaluate, estimate, judge, assess आकलन करना, मापना
44. Lift (verb) - raise, rise, boost, elevate उठाना/ बढ़ाना
45. Destined (adjective) - intended for or travelling towards (a particular place).
46. Shore (noun) - a country or other geographic area bounded by a coast.
47. Hold up (phrasal verb) - keep up, sustain, keep going, survive बने रहना
48. Front (noun) - a particular area of activity मोर्चा
49. Vis-à-vis (preposition) - regarding, concerning, about, in relation to के मुकाबले, के रू-बरू
50. Silver lining (noun) - ray of hope, positive side, glimmer of hope उम्मीद की किरण
51. Contract (verb) - reduce, decrease, diminish, lessen कम करना
52. Instance (noun) - example, occasion, occurrence, case, representative case उदाहरण, घटना
53. Sequentially (adverb) - successively, consecutively, consecutive, progressively क्रमिक रूप से
54. End up (phrasal verb) - to reach or come to a place, condition, or situation that was not planned or expected पहुंचना (अंत में)
55. Shrinkage (noun) - Reduction, decrease, decline, contraction, fall, drop कमी
56. Pace (noun) - speed, rate, swiftness, quickness गति
57. Signal (verb) - sign, indicate, suggest, show संकेत करना
58. Slump (noun) - Recession, downturn, decline, depression, stagnation मंदी
59. Tank (verb) - to drop sharply in price to the point of bottoming out गिरावट आना
60. Set (to) (adjective) - Ready, prepared, or likely to do something.
61. Slacken (verb) - loosen, become/get/make slower, slow down सुस्त होना
62. Intensify (verb) - increase, strengthen, heighten, augment तीव्र बनाना
63. Shrink (noun) - Fall, decrease, decline, diminish, lessen, dwindle, minimize कम करना
64. Fix (verb) - deal with, resolve, sort out, settle, handle, manage ठीक करना
65. Glitch (noun) - Malfunction, bug, anomaly, problem, hiccup गड़बड़
66. Duty remission scheme (noun) - it allows duty-free import of inputs that are required for the production of export
67. Lift (verb) - revoke, cancel, rescind, end, repeal हटाना
68. Curb (noun) - Restriction, limit, control, check रोक, प्रतिबंध
69. Macro- (prefix) - large; large-scale.
70. Warrant (verb) - Justify or necessitate (a certain course of action) ज़रूरी बनाना
71. Chugging (noun) - Operating, running.

## Practice Exercise

## Direction (Q1 - Q3): Select the best express synonym of the given words

## [Editorial page]

1. Top Commerce Ministry officials sought to calm nerves by citing the global headwinds that were posing challenges for Indian merchandise.
A. Marginal
B. Worriedness
C. Willful
D. Unambiguous
2. Amid these tumultuous times, a month-on-month reading of export trends is perhaps a better way to gauge the situation
A. Assess
B. Turbulence
C. Chunk
D. Contempt
3. The other silver lining is that imports also contracted $3.5 \%$ in December
A. Aftermath
B. Guilty
C. Impasse
D. Reduce
4. Idioms \& Phrase

France's fashion houses still reign supreme today.
A. To focus on or bring attention to someone or something
B. In connection with the point previously mentioned
C. To announce that something belongs to you
D. To be the most important or most prevalent
5. Direction: Two statements are given below, which are jumbled in any random order. These statements will form a coherent and meaningful paragraph, when arranged in the correct sequence. Arrange the sentences in the right order and answer the questions that follow.
(i) the government has described in the Union Budget as an 'overall, (A)/ Production levels in India's industries appear to be hitting a roadblock amid what (B)/ sharp rebound and recovery of the economy' reflecting the 'country's strong resilience'.(C)/
(ii) the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) fell for (D)/ the fourth straight month in December 2021 to a 10-month low of 0.4\%,(E)/ Factory output as measured by (F)/ compared to the same month in 2020 (G)/
A. ABC, EFDG
B. DGFE, BAC
C. BAC, FDEG
D. FDGE, CBA
E. None of the above

Direction (Q6 - Q9): Read the given sentences to find out whether there is any grammatical error in them
6. Neither of the two children (A)/ said their prayer (B)/ before going to bed.(C)/ no error (D)
7. I sat down opposite him (A)/ and produced (B)/ the packet of cigarettes.(C)/ no error (D)
8. This happened (A)/ just exactly (B)/ five years ago.(C)/ no error (D)
9. Ramesh smiled when he was remembering $(A) /$ his hard early years $(B) /$ and his long road to success.(C)/ no error (D)

## 10. Find out the misspelt word

A. Indispensable
B. Viccious
C. Minuscule
D. Marshmallow

## Direction: Read the passage given below and answer the following questions.

(The Hindu Editorial: Faith and freedom - Dec 07, 2022)
Protracted litigation in the name of combating forcible religious conversion is taking up valuable time of courts. (1)/ The Supreme Court is hearing a purported Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking action to curb deceitful religious conversion in the country.(2)/ Not wanting to be left behind, the Gujarat government is seeking the removal of a stay on a provision in its anti-conversion law that requires prior permission from the District Magistrate for any conversion done "directly or indirectly". (3)/The Gujarat High Court had correctly stayed Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (amended in 2021 to include 'conversion by marriage'), while also staying the operation of other provisions that sought to cover inter-faith marriages as instances of illegal conversion.(4)/The High Court had noted that the prior permission requirement would force someone to disclose one's religious belief or any change of faith, contrary to Supreme Court rulings that say marriage and faith involve an individual's choice. In a strange claim, Gujarat argues that the stay on Section 5 is affecting even genuine inter-faith marriages that involve no fraud or $\qquad$ (a) $\qquad$ as those who usually solemnise such marriages are unable to do so. This is based on a claim that the prior permission requirement $\qquad$ (b) $\qquad$ the need to question the genuine nature of the conversion, if any, consequent upon an inter-religious marriage.

No one would buy the claim that the provision enables voluntary conversion. Freedom of religion is protected only when no questions are raised and no suspicion $\qquad$ (c) $\qquad$ based on the mere fact that an inter-faith marriage has taken place.

Common sense would suggest (A)/ that forcing someone to disclosing (B)/ an intent to change one's faith violates (C)/ freedom of conscience and the right to privacy. (D)

Also, when a separate appeal against the High Court's interim orders staying the provisions is pending before the Supreme Court, there was no need for the State government's petition seeking to revive the prior permission requirement as part of the ongoing hearing on the PIL against religious conversions. On the larger issue, the observations of a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah to the effect that religious conversion through "allurement" or charity work is a serious problem indicate an eagerness to $\qquad$ (d) $\qquad$ the Government into coming up with anti-conversion measures on a national scale. It is questionable whether courts should entertain exaggerated(A) allegations of protect(B) fraudulent conversions across the country, instead of leaving it to States to
identify the extent(C) of the problem, if any, and adopt steps to rampant(D) religious freedom and communal harmony.

Fill in the blanks with the most appropriate combinations of words
11. In a strange claim, Gujarat argues that the stay on Section 5 is affecting even genuine interfaith marriages that involve no fraud or $\qquad$ (a) $\qquad$ , as those who usually solemnise such marriages are unable to do so.
Fill the most appropriate option in (a)
(i) Pledge
(ii) Coercion
(iii) Affair
(iv) Churn
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. Both (ii) and (iv)
E. None of the above
12. This is based on a claim that the prior permission requirement $\qquad$ (b) $\qquad$ the need to question the genuine nature of the conversion, if any, consequent upon an inter-religious marriage
Fill the most appropriate option in (b)
(i) Obviates
(ii) Offset
(iii) Undergo
(iv) Undertaken
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iv)
D. Both (ii) and (iv)
E. None of the above
13. No one would buy the claim that the provision enables voluntary conversion. Freedom of religion is protected only when no questions are raised and no suspicion $\qquad$ (c) $\qquad$ based on the mere fact that an inter-faith marriage has taken place.
Fill the most appropriate option in (c)
(i) Conserve
(ii) Reflect
(iii) Entertained
(iv) Conclude
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. Both (i) and (ii)
E. None of the above
14. The observations of a Supreme Court Bench headed by Justice M.R. Shah to the effect that religious conversion through "allurement" or charity work is a serious problem indicate an eagerness to $\qquad$ (d) $\qquad$ the Government into coming up with anti-conversion measures on a national scale.
Fill the most appropriate option in (d)
(i) Endeavour
(ii) Goad
(iii) Sketchy
(iv) Unjustified
A. Only (i)
B. Only (iv)
C. Only (iii)
D. Both (iii) and (ii)
E. None of the above
15. The following sentence may or may not contain an error in one of its parts. Identify the part containing the error. If the sentence is correct, select 'No error' as your answers.
Common sense would suggest (A)/ that forcing someone to disclosing (B)/ an intent to change one's faith violates (C)/ freedom of conscience and the right to privacy. (D)
A. (A)
B. (B)
C. (C)
D. (D)
E. No Error
16. Rearrange the sentence to form a meaningful sentence.

Protracted litigation in the name of combating forcible religious conversion is taking up valuable time of courts. (1)/ The Supreme Court is hearing a purported Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking action to curb deceitful religious conversion in the country.(2)/ Not wanting to be left behind, the Gujarat government is seeking the removal of a stay on a provision in its anti-conversion law that requires prior permission from the District Magistrate for any conversion done "directly or indirectly". (3)/The Gujarat High Court had correctly stayed Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (amended in 2021 to include 'conversion by marriage'), while also staying the operation of other provisions that sought to cover inter-faith marriages as instances of illegal conversion.(4)/
A. 2341
B. 1234
C. 2134
D. 2143
E. 4321
17. Given below is a word, followed by three sentence that consist of that word. Identify the sentence $(S)$ that best express (es) the meaning of the word. Choose option 5 'None of the above' if the word is not suitable in any of the sentence

## RAMPANT

(i) He accused her of writing rampant untruths.
(ii) Many Americans have a deep rampant of advertising.
(iii) He said that he had encountered rampant prejudice in his attempts to get a job.
A. Only (i)
B. Only (ii)
C. Only (iii)
D. (i), (ii)
E. (ii), (iii)
18. In the following question, a sentence is given with four words marked as (A), (B), (C), and (D). These words may or may not be placed in the correct order. Four options with different
arrangements of these have been provided. Mark the option with the correct arrangement as the answer. If no rearrangement is required, mark option (5) as your answer.
It is questionable whether courts should entertain exaggerated(A) allegations of protect(B) fraudulent conversions across the country, instead of leaving it to States to identify the extent(C) of the problem, if any, and adopt steps to rampant(D) religious freedom and communal harmony.
A. $A-D$
B. $B-D$
C. $\mathrm{C}-\mathrm{D}$
D. $A-B$
E. No arrangement
19. In the following question, two statements and five connectors are given. Only one of the connectors from those given can be used to combine the given two statements into one sentence without changing the meaning. Choose that connector as your answer.
(i) Poachers have hunted and killed too many elephants for their tusks;
(ii) They have become an endangered species in some parts of the world.
A. Unlike
B. Though
C. Consequently
D. Otherwise
E. None of these
20. Fill the appropriate preposition in the given blanks

He was greatly Incensed $\qquad$ his conduct.
A. at
B. In
C. Upon
D. To

## Answers

1. B
2.A
3.D
2. D
5.C
6.B
3. B
8.B
9.A
10.B 11. B
4. A
13.C
5. E
6. B
7. B 17.C
8. B 19.C 20.A
[Practice Exercise]

## Explanations

1. Nerve (noun) - worried, nervous feelings घबराहट, परेशानी

- Marginal (adjective) -slight, small, minimal, negligible, insignifican मामूली
- Wilful (adjective) - deliberate, intentional, conscious, wanton जानबूझकर
- Unambiguous (adjective) -clear-cut, unmistakable, explicit स्पष्ट

2. Gauge (verb) - measure, evaluate, estimate, judge, assess आकलन करना, मापना

- Turbulence (noun) - turmoil, instability, conflict, upheaval, tumult उथल-पुथल
- Chunk (noun) - a significant amount of something. अंश, भाग, हिस्सा
- Contempt (noun) - scorn, disdain, disrespect, shame, disregard अवमानना

3. Contract (verb) - reduce, decrease, diminish, lessen कम करना

- Guilty (noun) - Culpable, blameworthy, at fault, in the wrong दोषी
- Aftermath (noun) - consequence, outcome (of a significant unpleasant event) दुष्परिणाम
- Impasse (noun) - deadlock, dead end, stalemate, stand-off गतिरोध

4. Reign Supreme (phrase) - To be the most important or most prevalent सबसे महत्वपूर्ण होना
5. BAC, FDEG

Production levels in India's industries appear to be hitting a roadblock amid what the government has described in the Union Budget as an 'overall, sharp rebound and recovery of the economy' reflecting the 'country's strong resilience'. Factory output as measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) fell for the fourth straight month in December 2021 to a 10month low of $0.4 \%$, compared to the same month in 2020
6. (B) 'their' के बदले 'his' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'each, either, neither' के लिए possessive सामान्यतः ‘his' होता है; जैसे -
(i) Neither of the boys has done his homework.
(ii) Each of them has done his homework.

- 'his' will be used instead of 'their' because the possessive for 'each, either, neither' is generally 'his'; like -
(i) Neither of the boys has done his homework.
(ii) Each of them has done his homework.

7. (B) 'produced' के बदले 'offered him' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'produce' का सामान्यतः अर्थ होता है ‘पैदा करना, उत्पन्न करना, प्रस्तुत करना’ जबकि 'offer' का अर्थ होता है 'अर्पित करना’A प्रस्तुत प्रश्न में ‘सिगरेट का पैकेट बढ़ाया’ का भाव है; अर्थात् 'offer' किया का भाव है।

- 'offered him' will be used instead of 'produced' because 'produce' usually means 'to produce, produce, present' whereas 'offer' means 'to offer' The question has the meaning of 'offered cigarette packet'.

8. (B) 'just' तथा 'exactly' का प्रयोग एक साथ नहीं होता है क्योंकि दोनों का अर्थ ‘ठीक' होता है और दोनों में से किसी एक का प्रयोग ही किया जाता है; जैसे-
(i) He came here just two years ago.
(ii) He came here exactly two years ago.

- 'just' and 'exactly' are not used together because both mean 'right' and either of them is used; like-
(i) He came here just two years ago.
(ii) He came here exactly two years ago.

9. (A)'was remembering' के बदले 'remembered' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि 'remember' एक nonactional/stative verb है जिसका continuous tense नहीं होता है।

- 'remembered' will be used instead of 'was remembering' because 'remember' is a nonactional / stative verb which does not have continuous tense.

10. Vicious (adjective) - brutal, ferocious, savage भ्रष्ट
11. Coercion (noun) - force, violence, constraint, duress, compulsion ज़ोर-ज़बर्दस्ती

- Pledge (noun) - promise, guarantee, swear प्रतिज्ञा
- Affair (noun) - matter, event, issue, situation, concern, case, thing मामला
- Churn (noun) - turmoil, agitation, uproar, mayhem उथल-पुथल, खलबली

12. Obviate (verb) - preclude, prevent, remove, get rid of, do away with, get round, rule out, eliminate छुटकारा पाना

- Offset (verb) - counterbalance, balance, counteract, compensate, neutralize बराबर करना
- Undergo (verb) - Experience, endure, suffer, go through गुज़रना
- Undertake (verb) - Start, commence, embark on, carry out शुरू करना

13. Entertain (verb) - take into consideration, have in view; agree to, approve of विचारना, स्वीकार करना

- Conserve (verb) - Preserve, save, keep, protect, safeguard, support, maintain, sustain सुरक्षित/ संरक्षित रखना
- Reflect (verb) - Indicate, show, manifest, signify, suggest दिखाना, प्रदर्शित करना
- Conclude (verb) - finish, end, come to an end, terminate समाप्त होना

14. Goad (verb) - provoke, spur, prick, sting, prod, egg on प्रेरित करना

- Endeavour (noun) - an attempt to achieve a goal. प्रयास
- Sketchy (adjective) - Vague, unclear, hazy; superficial, incomplete अस्पष्ट/ अधूरा
- Unjustified (adjective) - irrational, unreasonable, unsound, unreasoned अनुचित

15. 'Disclosing' के बदले 'disclose' का प्रयोग होगा क्योंकि Infinitive 'To' के बाद $\mathrm{V}^{1}$ का प्रयोग होता है!
16. (B) $\mathbf{1 2 3 4}$

Protracted litigation in the name of combating forcible religious conversion is taking up valuable time of courts. The Supreme Court is hearing a purported Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking action to curb deceitful religious conversion in the country. Not wanting to be left behind, the Gujarat government is seeking the removal of a stay on a provision in its anticonversion law that requires prior permission from the District Magistrate for any conversion done "directly or indirectly". The Gujarat High Court had correctly stayed Section 5 of the Gujarat Freedom of Religion Act, 2003 (amended in 2021 to include 'conversion by marriage'), while also staying the operation of other provisions that sought to cover inter-faith marriages as instances of illegal conversion.
17. Rampant (adjective) - uncontrolled, unrestrained, unchecked, unbridled, widespread अनियंत्रित

According to the given options only (iii) are contextually correct.
Because the (i) and (ii) sentences are not giving any meaning and correct sentences should be like

Many Americans have a deep distrust of advertising.
He accused her of writing deliberate untruths.
18. It is questionable whether courts should entertain exaggerated allegations of rampant fraudulent conversions across the country, instead of leaving it to States to identify the extent of the problem, if any, and adopt steps to protect religious freedom and communal harmony
19. Poachers have hunted and killed too many elephants for their tusks; consequently, they have become an endangered species in some parts of the world.


