ASIAN GAMES
2018 | Jakarta Palembang

Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 31st day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st August to 31st August) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

National

Asian Games

Question- In the context of the recently concluded Asian Games, consider the following facts:
(a) India received a total of 69 medals including 15 gold.
(b) India won the most 7 gold medals in athletics.
(c) Bajrang Poonia gave India the first gold medal in Asian Games, 2018.
(d) India has won 2 gold medals in boxing.
  Which of the above statement is/are false?
Answer- (d)
Related facts

- The **18th Asian Games** was held from **August 18 to September 2, 2018** in **Jakarta** and **Palembang cities of Indonesia.**
- Jakarta also hosted Asian Games in the year
- This is the first time that Asian Games were organized in two cities.
- The theme of Asian games 2018 was **'Feel the Energy of Asia'**.
- India got **15 Gold, 24 Silver and 30 Bronze** medals with a total of **69 medals** and grabbed **8th place** in the medal standing.
- This was India's best performance ever in Asian Games.
- In the first Asian Games **(1951, New Delhi),** India won **15 gold, 16 silver and 20 bronze medals**, including a total of **51 medals** and secured **second position** in the medal standing.
- China received a total of **289 medals including 132 Gold, 92 Silver and 65 Bronze medals** and topped in Medal standing consecutive **10th times**.
- In addition to China, Japan is the only country that has topped the medal standing of Asian Games.
- In 2018 Asian games, India won the most medals in athletics, **including 7 Gold, 10 Silver and 2 Bronze medals.**
- In the Asian Games, in 2018 the shooter **Ravi Kumar and Apurvi Chandela** got the first medal (Bronze) for India.
- The duo won 429.9 points in the 10-meter mixed team air rifle event.
- Indian wrestler Bajrang Poonia got first gold medal for India was won by defeatingTakatani Daichi of Japan under 65 kg weight categories by 11-8.
- Indian women wrestler Vinesh Phogat became the first Indian woman wrestler to win gold medal in Asian Games.
- Vinesh won Gold medal by defeating Japanese wrestler Irei Yuki by 6-2 under 50kg category.
- Meerut's 15-year-old shooter, Shardul Vihan, won silver medal (240.7 points) in double trap competition and became the youngest player to win a medal for India in Asian Games.
- Rahi Sarnobat won gold medal in women's 25 meter pistol event
- With this, Rahi became the first Indian shooter to win a gold medal in the Asian Games.
- The bronze medal won by Indian men's table tennis was the first medal in the history of Asian games in table tennis.
- In the semi-finals of the table tennis event, India defeated by S Korea.

- Tennis player Ankit Raina became India's second female tennis player to win medal in women's singles event in Asian Games.
- Earlier, Sania Mirza won silver medal in Doha in 2006 and won the bronze medal in Guangzhou in 2010.
- Indian boxer Amit Panghal won the only gold medal for India in boxing.
- In the final of the 49 kg weight category, Amit defeated 2016 Rio Olympic champion Hasanboy Dusmatov by 3-2.
- India got the 15th and final gold medal from Pranav Vardhan and Shivnath Sarkar duo in the bridge competition.
- In the final, Pranav and Shivnath scored 384 points.
- 60-year-old Pranav has become the oldest player to win a medal for Indian team.
- India won its 69th and final medal in men's hockey competition.
- After losing 7-6 in the penalty shootout from Malaysia in the semi-finals, the Indian team defeated Pakistan by 2-1 and secured Bronze Medal.
- 18 year old young swimmer Rikako Ikki of Japan was selected as the most valuable player of the 18th Asian Games (MVP).
- Rikako received 8 gold medals and 2 silver medals.
- Indian flag bearer in the inaugural ceremony, Neeraj Chopra gave India the first gold medal of the Asian Games in a javelin throw event.
- Neeraj won the gold medal by javelin throw at 88.06 meters.
- 21-year-old Swapna Burman became the first Indian athlete to win a gold medal in the Heptathlon Games.
- Swapna collected a total of 6026 points in this seven game event.
- Rani Rampal, the captain of the women's hockey team, was the Indian flag keeper in the finale.
- India sent a total of 804 members including 572 athletes to participate in 36 sports in the 18th Asian Games.
- Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, President of Indian Wrestling Association was the head of the Chef de Mission.
- After the announcement of the closing of the Games, the Asian Games torch was handed over to the chairman of the Olympic Council of China.
- 2022 Asian Games will be held in Hangzhou, China.
- Indian gold medalist in 18th Asian Games
- Bajrang Poonia (Wrestling), Men Freestyle (65kg Weight Category)
- Vinesh Phogat (wrestling), women's freestyle (50kg weight category)
- Saurabh Chaudhary (shooting), male 10 meter air pistol
- Rahi Sarnobat (shooting), female 25 meter pistol
- Swarn Singh, Dattu Baban Bhokanal, Om Prakash and Sukamit Singh (Rowing), Male Quadruple Sculls
- Rohan Bopanna and Divij Sharan (lawn tennis), men's doubles
- Tejinder Pal Singh (Athletics), (Shot Put)
- Neeraj Chopra (athletics), javelin throw
- Manjit Singh (athletics), male 800 meter race
- Arpinder Singh (athletics), men's trilogy
- Swapna Burman (athletics), women's heptathlon
- Jinson Johnson (athletics), men's 1500 meter race
- MR Poovamma, Saritaben Gaikwad, Hima Das and Vishmaiah (athletics), Women's 4x400m Relay Race
- Amit Panghal (boxing)

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References-
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Asian_Games
https://en.asiangames2018.id/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/India_at_the_2018_Asian_Games
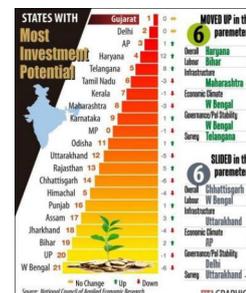
State Investment Potential Index

Que1. Which among the following state topped in N-SIPI-2018.?
(a)Delhi (b)Uttar Pradesh (c)Maharashtra (d)Kerala
Ans. (a)
Related facts:

- On **August 3, 2018**, The National Council of Applied Economic Research, NCAER, released **State Investment Potential Index-2018.**
- It is third edition of NCAER Sate Investment Potential Index (N-SIPI) covering **20 states and Delhi.**
- The index does not include the six North- Eastern states, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram Nagaland and Tripura, as well as Sikkim, Goa and Jammu & Kashmir.
- NCAER launched the N-SIPI series in March 2016 and the second N-SIPI 2017 was released in July 2017.
- The index ranks competitiveness of states on six pillars: Land, Labour, Infrastructure, Economic climate, Political stability & Governance and Business perceptions.
- These Pillars classified under following four broad categories: Factor Driven (labour & land), Perceptions Driven (Survey based responses), Efficiency Driven (Infrastructure) and Growth Driven (Economic climate, Political stability & Governance).
- NCAER contacted 1,049 business enterprises of different sizes in manufacturing and services sector for the survey.
- Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra and Kerala are the top six most favorable states for business investment.
- Delhi jumps one spot to lead N-SIPI 2018; Gujarat loses its first spot and slips to the third position; Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu move into the top five.
- Delhi tops the rankings under the third and fourth pillars on infrastructure and economic conditions in the state.
- Tamil Nadu comes in second place and tops the rankings in labour and governance.
- Assam, Jharkhand and Bihar are ranked among the least favorable states for investment, they are ranked higher under individual pillars, with Bihar doing better in the labour pillar, Assam in the land pillar, and Jharkhand in the economy pillar.
- Chhattisgarh and Karnataka maintain their ranks from last year at the 14th and 9th positions, respectively.
- Uttar Pradesh ranked 18 in N-SIPI-2018.

References:
http://www.ncaer.org/uploads/photo-gallery/files/1533372388N%20SIPI%202018%20Press%20Release.pdf
http://www.ncaer.org/event_details.php?EID=232

State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index

Question1- Which of the following state became top achiever in State Energy Efficiency Index-2018?
(a)Kerala (b)Uttar Pradesh (c)Jharkhand (d)West Bengal
Ans. (a)
Related facts:

- On **1 August, 2018 Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE)** and Alliance for an **Energy Efficient Economy (AEEE),** released the 'State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index.
- The index is released to create awareness about energy efficiency as a resource and to develop an action plan for energy conservation initiatives.
- The nationwide Index is a joint effort of the NITI Aayog and Bureau of Energy Efficiency.
- The State Energy Efficiency Preparedness Index has 63 indicators across Building, Industry, Municipality, Transport, Agriculture and DISCOM with 4 cross-cutting indicators.
- The State Energy Efficiency Index categorizes states based upon their efforts and achievements towards energy efficiency implementation as 'Front runner' (points greater than 60), 'Achiever' (points between 50-60), 'Contender' (point between 30-49) and 'Aspirant' (points below 30).
- The 'Front runner' states in the inaugural edition of the State Energy Efficiency Index are Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan.
- Kerala is top among states and union territories with 77 points.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181378

Appointment of governors in seven states

Question- Which article of the constitution of India provides authority to the President for the appointment of governors in states?
(a)156 (b)256 (c)356 (d)100
Answer-(a)
Related facts

- On **21 August, 2018**, President Ram Nath Kovind has appointed/changed Governors of seven states **(Bihar, Haryana, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim, Meghalaya, and Tripura).**
- **About Governor**–
- Governor is the **nominal head of a state** and **head of the Executive power** of a state in India.
- **Article 156** of Indian Constitution provides authority to President for the appointment of Governors of states.

- According to the **7ᵗʰ constitutional amendment** act in the constitution of India came in 1956, states that, **two or more states can have same person as a Governor.**
- They are appointed for a term of **5 years**. There is no provision in the constitution for the impeachment of the Governor.
- Eligibility for the post of Governor has been mentioned in the article **157 &158.**
- **Power of governor-**

- Governor of any state in India is vested with certain legislative, executive and, judicial powers, same as, president of India.
- Certain discretionary or emergency powers have also given to him.
- Constitution does not provides any diplomatic or military powers to the governor whereas, president enjoy these powers.

Appointments-

1. **Shri Lal Ji Tandon** as the **Governor of Bihar**.

2. **Shri Satyadev Narayan Arya** as the **Governor of Haryana.**

3. **Smt. Baby Rani Maurya** as the **Governor of Uttarakhand**.

4. **Shri Satya Pal Malik**, Governor of Bihar is transferred and appointed as **Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.**

5. **Shri Ganga Prasad**, Governor of Meghalaya is transferred and appointed as **Governor of Sikkim.**

6. **Shri Tathagata Roy**, Governor of Tripura is transferred and appointed as **Governor of Meghalaya.**

7. **Shri Kaptan Singh Solanki**, Governor of Haryana is transferred and appointed as **Governor of Tripura.**

 References –
https://www.livemint.com/Politics/yDUir2wZYyJfm0D7tO3wbL/Sevenstates-get-new-governors-Malik-replaces-Vohra-in-JK.html

50% Reservation to women in RPF

Question-50% reservation for women has been announced in which of following ministry?
(a)Railway Ministry (b)Home Ministry (c)HRD Ministry (d)Foreign Ministry
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- 50% reservation has been announced for women in the upcoming recruitment of **9500-10000 jawans in Railway Protection force**.
- The announcement has been made in a public address on **August 12, 2018** by Union Railway Minister Piyush Goel.

- The aim of reservation is to create more employment opportunities for women.
- Information about **13,000** job vacancies has also been given by the minister.
- **Railway Protection Force**

- It is notable that RPF has been established by the **central Act in 1957**.
- Having as many as **70,000** workers RPF is one of the biggest workforces in the country.

Reference:
https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/50-reservation-announced-for-women-in-rpf-jawans-recruitment-118081200605_1.html

Digital North East: Vision 2022

Question: How many Digital Thrust Areas have been identified in the document "Digital North East Vision 2022"?
(a)5 (b)6 (c)8 (d)7
Answer: (c)
Related Facts:-

- **On August 11, 2018**, Union Minister for Electronics & Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasadreleased the document '**Digital North East Vision 2022**' in Guwahati, Assam.
- The Document emphasized leveraging digital technologies to transform the lives of people of the northeast and enhance the ease of living.
- First electronics manufacturing cluster in northeastern region was also inaugurated on this occasion.
- **Objectives of Digital North East 2022 are as follows**:

- To provide high speed broadband connectivity and mobile connectivity in all the uncovered villages in the northeastern region.
- To create a Cloud- hub at Guwahati with Disaster Recovery Center for the NER.
- To expand Common Service Centers to all **Gram Panchayats** in North East States.
- To provide better access to quality health, educational and agricultural services using Digital Technology.
- To promote local tourism, art and culture, handicraft, handloom.
- To establish Start-ups and innovation Hub for North East.
- To provide safe and secure cyberspace for digital north east by setting up specialized cyber security labs and by providing skill development through special trainings and IEC.
- **Eight Thrust Areas** have been identified by this Vision document for the empowerment of the people of the northeastern region.
- These areas include Digital Infrastructure, Digital Services, Digital Empowerment, Promotion of Electronics Manufacturing, Promotion of IT and ITES (IT enabled services) & BPO Industries, Promotion of Digital Payments, Digital Innovation and Start-ups, and Cyber security.
- **About Northeast India:-**

- Northeast comprises Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

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- These states have a total area of over 262,230 sq km.(about 7.9% of India's territory) and according to Census of India 2011, a population of 4.4 Crore (almost 3.2% of India's population).

See also the links below:-
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/vision-document-for-digital-northeast-launched-aims-to-enhance-the-ease-of-living/articleshow/65368627.cms

Biodiversity in Odisha

Question-In which state Bhitarkanika National Park is situated?
(a)Odisha (b)Uttarakhand (c)Rajasthan (d)Punjab
Answer- (a)
Related facts-

- World- class interpretation center is being set up by Odisha government at **Dangamal near Bhitarkanika national park** to showcase its efforts in protecting crocodiles and preserving its rich mangrove diversity.
- The project has been approved under the **Integrated Coastal Zone Management Project**; its estimated cost is of Rs 3 crore.

About Bhitarkanika –

- Bhitarkanika national park is located in **Kendrapara district of Odisha** .It is one of the biodiversity hotspots. The park is famous for its green **mangroves, migratory birds, turtles, crocodiles estuarine and creeks**.

Baula project at Dangamal-

- **'Baula'** is Oriya word, means, Saltwater Crocodile. At Dangmal in Bhitarkanika sanctuary, salt-water crocodile eggs have been collected locally; and young crocodiles have been released in the creeks and the estuaries; and more than 2200 crocodiles have been released in different phases since 1977.
- This operation has been reasonably successful and the crocodile population in the Bhitarkanika river system has been increasing gradually. More than 50 released female Saltwater Crocodiles have laid eggs in the wild and bred successfully.

About Ghariyal-

- Fish eating Crocodile (also called Gharial or Gavial) is a **Critically Endangered species** in the red list of IUCN.
- In India it is found in **Girwa River**, **Chambal River, Ken River**, **Son River**, **Mahanadi River** and **Ramganga River**.

References-
http://www.odishawildlife.org/projectcrocodile.html

Human space flight Programme

Question- Indian human spaceflight programme was created by-
(a)ISRO (b)DRDO (c)BARC (d)None of the above
Answer-(a)
Related facts–

- On India's 72nd Independence Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will send an astronaut to space in the year 2022**.**

About Indian human space flight programme–

- The Indian human spaceflight programmewas created by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) to develop and launch a two or three-person crew to low Earth orbit on a vehicle called **Gaganyaan.** The crewed flight is planned for 2022 on a home-grown **GSLV-III rocket**.

Pad abort test–

- It is the recent technological advancement in Gaganyaan mission.
- It (also called Crew Escape System) is an emergency scape measure that helps to take away the crew from the launch vehicle in case of any difficulty at the launch pad.

Facts-

- India will be the fourth nation in manned space mission after U.S., China and Russia, if Gaganyaan mission becomes successful.

References-
https://sites.google.com/site/indianspaceprojects/human-spaceflight-programme-hsp/Human-Spaceflight-Program
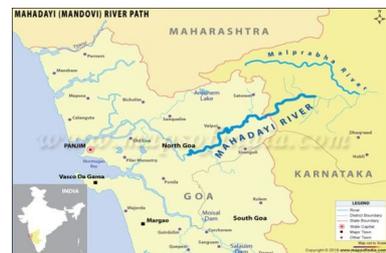
Mahadayi verdict

Question- Mahadayi water dispute between the states of-
(a)Goa, Karnataka and, Maharashtra. (b)Goa ,Kerala and Karnataka
(c)Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu (d)None of the above.
Answer-(a)
Related facts–

- **Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal**has given its verdict over the water sharing tussle of the **Mahadayi or Mandovi River** between **Goa, Karnataka and Maharashtra.**
- The Mahadayi River Water Tribunal on **14 August,**

2018 allowed Karnataka to divert an additional **5 thousand million cubic feet (TMC)** of water to the **Malaprabha basin** during the monsoon, ending the **50-year dispute with Goa.**

- **About dispute**–

- Mahadayi river **(also called Mandovi)**, originates in Karnataka , has a basin area of **2032 sq.km**, of which 375 square km lies in Karnataka, 77 sq km in Maharashtra and the remaining lies in Goa.
- The dispute started since Goa was opposed to Karnataka's plans to divert waters from the tributaries of the river through the Kalasa-Bhanduri Nala Project, which Karnataka justified was for drinking water purposes. The **Mahadayi Water Dispiute Tribunal (MWDT)** was constituted in **December**

Verdict–

- The tribunal has allowed Karnataka access to **4 tmc** of water for its consumptive use **(5.4 tmc)** and power generation **(8.02 tmc).**
- Goa got **24 tmc** with the Tribunal allowing it for the state's municipal water needs, irrigation water requirements and industrial water demands.
- Maharashtra got the lowest share of 1.3 tmc for meeting its in-basin needs with respect to five projects.

Reference:
https://www.livemint.com/Politics/YUxX5TS65bvAkfDEOdaQTL/Tribunal-on-Mahadayi-dispute-allocates-135tmcft-of-water-fo.html

Cyber attack

Question-Recently, which of the following Indian Bank faced cyber attack?
(a)Cosmos cooperative bank (b)Pune cooperative bank (c)Dena bank
(d)ICICI bank
Answer-(a)
Related facts–

- The National Payments Corporation of India **(NPCI)** has said the recent incident of cyber attack in **Pune-based Cosmos Cooperative Bank**, that has caused an over **₹90-crore loss**, is due to a malware attack on the bank's system.
- By cloning debit cards *(visa and rupay debit cards)* of the bank's customers, hackers transferred over ₹90 crore out on August 11 and 13, 2018, with the help of Malware.

Malware-

- It is software designed to perform illegal act through the computer network.
- **Types of malware**–
- *Virus* **–** It is a program that infects other programs. It replicates itself and by inserting itself into other programs it corrupts their process.

- ***Worms-*** It is a self-replicating malware that duplicates itself to spread in uninfected computers.
- ***Trojans-*** Trojan is a program that generally impairs the security of a system.

NPCI–

- It stands for, **National Payment Corporation of India**. It is an organization for all retail payments system in India.
- It is formed with support of Reserve bank of India and Indian bank's association (**IBA**).It has ten promoter banks.
- NPCI has developed an instant real – time payment system called **Unified Payments Interface (UPI).**

Reference:
https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/cyber-attack-on-pune-based-co-op-bank-rs-94-crore-siphoned-off-by-hackers-5305646/

Appointment of legal guardian of cow in uttarakhand state

Question- The high court of which state appointed itself as a legal guardian of cows?
(a)Uttar Pradesh (b)Uttarakhand (c)Rajasthan (d)Madhya Pradesh
Answer-(b)
Related facts-

- For the first time in India, high court of uttarakhand has started the '**parens patriae**' **(parent of the country)** doctrine for cow protection.
- Uttarakhand high court would hence act as the legal guardian of cows.

Parens patriae-

- **Parens patriae** is a latin word, means, '**parent of the country'** .It is a doctrine that provides the court inherent power and authority to act as guardian for those who are unable to take care for themselves.

Consequences in future of this judgment-

- The high court now acts as a legal guardian of the cows in the state and protects the cow from misconduct and torture. If there are any violations in laws and rules regarding cows, the court can take **suo moto cognizance** and issue directions to the state.

Background of this judgment-

- PIL was filed claiming that stray cattle were being slaughtered .The waste from slaughter house was dumped into water bodies which leads to serious health problem to villagers. Hence judgment came as a response of this PIL.

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Cage Farming in Karnataka

Question: Umbrella scheme "Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries (Blue Revolution)"which provides financial assistance for cage farming was approved by Union cabinet in which of the following year?
(a) 2015 (b) 2014 (c) 2016 (d) 2012
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Government of India has made commendable efforts for cage farming through its umbrella scheme of **Integrated Development and Management of Fisheries** (**a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) on Blue Revolution)**approved by Government in December 2015 with the total outlay of Rs. 3000 Crore for five years .
- *As per information given by the Minister of State for Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Shrimati Krishna Raj on 10th August 2018*, this scheme dispenses financial assistance for open sea cage culture according to which unit cost of open sea cage is fixed at Rs 5 lakh per cage of diameter 6m and depth 4m **(circular cage)**and 96 cubic meter **(6m*4m*4m)** in case of rectangular cage.
- Similarly, financial assistance for installation of cages in reservoirs and other open bodies is fixed at Rs.3 lakh per cage which includes installation and input for first crop.

About cage Farming:

- Cage Farming is a culture for raising fish commercially that encloses the fish in a cage which allows water to pass freely between the fish and the pond.
- This method requires low initial investment and is receiving more attention by both researchers and commercial producers.

Cage Farming provisions in Karnataka:

- The Government of Karnataka has reported the installation of 8 marine cages worth Rs. 29.9 lakh for Seabass and Cobia culture and a total of 102 cages in reservoir worth Rs.81 lakh.
- Assistance of 500 brackish-water cage has been sanctioned by National Fisheries Development Board (NFBD), Hyderabad to CMFRI (Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute) for installation in selected districts of Karnataka.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181798

Consumer Grievances Redressal system

Question- What are the levels of mechanism for redressal of consumer grievances under Consumer Protection Act, 1986?
(a) District For a (b) State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
(c) National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission
(d) All of the Above
Answer- (d)
Related Fact:

- **Consumer Protection Act, 1986** provides a three tier **quasi-judicial mechanism** for redressal consumer grievances.
- The three levels of mechanism are **District Fora at District level, State Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at State and National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission at Centre.**
- The Act also provides National Consumer Helpline (NCH) partnered with around 250 companies for redressal of consumer grievances where consumers can lodge complaints.
- The bureau of Indian Standards has been established under **Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986** for standardization, marking and quality certification of goods.
- The Bureau can grant, renew, suspend or cancel license on activities illegal to the Act.
- Notably, a new Consumer Protection Bill having a numbers of provisions regarding consumer grievance redressal mechanism has been introduced in Lok Sabha.
- **National Consumer Day is celebrated on 24th December of every year**.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=169223

Proposals for Inter-State River Linking

Question: Which of the following state does not fall under the drainage area of the Ponnaiyar River in south India?

1. **Karnataka Andhra Pradesh,**
2. **Maharashtra**
3. **Kerala**

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2&3 (c) 2 & 4 (d) 3 & 4
Answer: (d)
Related Facts:-

- According to PIB PRESS release on 6 august, 2018, the Ministry of Water Resources, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has formulated a plan for Inter-State River Linking.
- In this regard National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has received **47 proposals of intra-state links from 9 States**.

- These states are **Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh.**
- **There are various River link projects under consideration:-**
- **Himalayan Rivers Development Component-** Under it **14 links** have been identified.
- **Peninsular Rivers Development Component or the Southern Water Grid: –** It includes **16 links** and proposes to connect the **rivers of South India**.
- **NWDA** has completed DPR of some of such projects viz **Kosi-Mechi and Burhi Gandak-Noon-Baya-Ganga intra-state links of Bihar**and **Ponnaiyar (Nedungal) – Palar link of Tamil Nadu.**

Note:-

The Ponnaiyar (South Pennar) is a river in South India which originates in the Nandi Hills in the Chikkaballapur District of Karnataka.This River also known by the names Dakshina Pinakini (in Kannada) and Thenpennani (in Tamil), it flows through Karnataka and Tamilnadu.

Abbreviations-

- **PFR- Pre Feasibility Report**
- **FR- Feasibility Report**
- **DPR- Detailed Project Report**
- **NWDA- National Water Development Agency**

References:-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181548

Draft Forest Policy and Tribals

Question. Which of the following ministry has kept the Draft National Forest Policy 2018 in public domain for comments?
(a) Ministry of Earth & Science (b) Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change
(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
Answer- (b)
Related Fact:

- On August 6, 2018, the **Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Mahesh Sharma** was replying to a question in Rajya Sabha on **Draft National Forest Policy, 2018.**
- Forest rights of Tribals and other traditional dwellers are protected under **Forest Rights Act, 2006.**
- The Act recognizes and vests the forest rights of Scheduled Tribes who are residing in forests for generations.
- The Draft also provides provisions to ensure local community interests and consider them as partner to manage forests.
- Notably, basic motive of the Draft is conservation, protection and management of forests.

Why new Draft Proposed

http://www.edristi.in/

- The draft is prepared because there is a need to revise **National Forest Policy 1988**, In order to integrate the vision of sustainable forest management, **climate change, forest hydrology, participatory forest management, urban forestry, robust monitoring** and to launch community forest management mission to manage forest resources by a participating forest management approach.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181564

Early warning system for air pollution

Question- A task force has been established for developing an early warning system on air quality under which of the following Ministry?
(a) Ministry of Earth & Science (b) Ministry of Forest, Environment and Climate Change (c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Science and Technology
Answer- (a)
Related Fact:

- On **August 6, 2018**, a task force has been established for developing an early warning system on air quality headed by Secretary, **Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)** with representative of expert institutions.
- The early warning system for air pollution aims to strengthen the air quality forecast and to establish enforcement agencies about episodic high pollution events in advance.
- It is notable that a meeting of the task force was held on **07.2018** after which MoES started coordination on the development of an early warning system over **Delhi & NCR**.

References:
http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1541777

Karnataka launched 'Swachhmeva Jayate Campaign'

Question. Which of the following state government has launched 'Swachhmeva Jayate Campaign'?
(a) Delhi (b) Karnataka (c) West Bengal (d) Kerala
Answer- (b)
Related Fact:

- **On August 2, 2018**, Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka G Parameshwara launched Swachhmeva Jayate campaign in Karnataka.
- Rural Development department of Karnataka issued a logo which shows a girl and a boy standing before the map of Karnataka.
- The campaign coincides with the Swachh Survekshan (Grameen) 2018 (SSG 2018) survey, being undertaken by the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- This initiative aims to increase the score of SSG-2018 with the help of school children.

- Karnataka government constructed 22 Lakh lavatories in 29736 villages after starting of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).
- Karnataka needs 2 lakh lavatories before October 2, 2018 to get open defecation free (ODF) status.
- Swachh Survekshan Siksha (Grameen)-2018 will make rank of all districts and states in India on the basis of quantitative and qualitative evaluation

References-
http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2018/aug/03/government-launches-rural-cleanliness-campaign-swachhameva-jayate-1852545.html

Uttarakhand High Court declares Government Rule of denying maternity leave as unconstitutional

Question1- Uttarakhand high court declares government rule of denying maternity leave for third child as unconstitutional on the basis of-
(a) Equality before law (b) Spirit of constitution (c) Better work place (d) all of the above.
Answer- (b).
Related Fact:

- On July 30, 2018, Uttarakhand High Court set aside the state government's rule of denying maternity leave to women employees for birth of third child.
- Justice Rajiv Sharma's single bench concluded that refusing to give maternity leave for the third child is against the **Spirit of Constitution**.
- In its order, Uttarakhand High Court ruled out **2nd provision of fundamental rule 153 of Financial Handbook of the Uttar Pradesh Fundamental Rules,** adopted by Uttarakhand as it went against **Section 27 of Maternity Benefit Act, 1961** as well as **Article 42** of the Constitution which provides for **"just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief".**
- It is notable that an amendment to the Maternity Act, 1961 increased the duration of maternity leave for women employees from 12 weeks to 26 weeks.

References:
http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=351060

http://www.edristi.in/

International

Exercise SCO Peace Mission – 2018

Question- Joint exercise for SCO Peace Mission 2018 will be conducted in which of the following country.
(a) India (b) Russia (c) China (d) Vietnam
Answer – (b)
Related facts-

- SCO Peace Mission 2018 was conducted by **Central Military Commission of Russia** from **22- 29 August 2018** at **Chebarkul, Chelyabinsk, Russia**.
- The biennially exercise considered as a historic occasion because it is **India's first participation after becoming a full time member (In June 2017)** of **Shanghai Cooperation Organization**.
- Indian delegation of **200 personnel** was primarily composed of troops from infantry and affiliated arms & services along with Indian Air Force.
- From **22 August to 28 August 2018**, Indian delegation established a Joint Staff Headquarters in the staff phase of the exercise and conducted a staff exercise prior to the evolution of a joint operational plan.
- Field training phase of live **firing by air, attack helicopters, artillery**, **infantry combat vehicles & infantry weapons** was conducted on 29 August.
- **THE Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO)**

- It is an **eight-member** multilateral organization, established on **15 June**, **2001** in Shanghai by the leaders of **China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.**
- India and Pakistan became full time member of SCO in **18th SCO Summit** held in **China on June, 2017.**
- It is pertinent to mention that after the expansion of membership from 5 states to 8 states, SCO represents approximately 42% of the world's population, 20% of its GDP and 22% of the landmass.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181800

ICOMOS

Question- Which of the following alternative is true about ICOMOS?
(a)It is a non-government organization.
(b)It is also an advisory body to the UNESCO for cultural heritage.
(c)ICOMOS works for the conservation and protection of cultural heritage places.
(d)All of the above.
Answer-(d)
Related facts-

- The ICOMOS has started an initiative to evaluate the damage due to flood to the

rich cultural and built heritage in Kerala and set up an emergency response platform.

- ICOMOS has also contacted the **International Centre *for* the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM)** to take part in the post-disaster works.

About ICOMOS

- It is a dedicated non-government organization of this kind to promote the application of theories, methodologies, and scientific techniques to the conservation of the architectural and archaeological heritage.
- **ICOMOS** is also an advisory body to the UNESCO for cultural heritage.

ICCROM–

- It stands for **International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property.**
- It is Rome based **inter-governmental organization** for the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide by the help of training, information, research, cooperation and advocacy programmes.

References-
https://www.icomos.org/en/about-icomos/mission-and-vision/mission-and-vision

Postal highway

Question: Recently India provided financial assistance for the construction of postal highway project, this project is related to-
(a)Sri lanka (b)Nepal (c)China (d)Bhutan
Answer-(a)
Related facts–

- India has released additional **470 million (Nepali)** for Phase I of Postal Highway Project being constructed in Southern Plains of Nepal for ongoing construction of **14 road packages** under **Postal Highway Project**.
- India is providing financial assistance to Nepal since 1950 for infrastructure development as part of its multi-sectoral **India-Nepal Economic Co-operation Programme.**

About Postal Highway Project–

- Postal highway **(also called Hulaki Rajmarga)** runs from Bhadrapur in dadeldhura district to Dodhara in kanchanpur district of Nepal.
- It is the oldest highway in Nepal constructed by **Juddha Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana & Padma Shumsher Jung Bahadur Rana** to aid transportation and facilitate postal services throughout the Himalayan nation.

References:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Postal_Highway

Regional comprehensive economic partnership

Question-Which of the following country is not the member of regional comprehensive economic partnership (RCEP)?
(a)India (b)Myanmar (c)Bangladesh (d)China
Answer-c
Related facts-

- The Centre has formed a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Suresh Prabhu to come to a conclusion on **16-member Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)**
- Objective of this group is to resolve the deadlock over the issues of joining RCEP or not.

About RCEP-

- **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership(RCEP**) is a propounded free trade agreement (FTA) between the ten member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN) **(Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam)** and the **six Asia-Pacific states(Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea ,and New Zealand)** with which ASEAN has existing free trade agreements.
- **RCEP negotiations were launched in November 2012** at the **ASEAN Summit** in **Cambodia**. RCEP aims to boost goods trade by waiving tariff and non-tariff barriers — a move that is expected to provide the region's consumers greater option for quality products at affordable rates. It also seeks to liberalize investment norms and make it from services trade restrictions.

India's concern-

- Several countries of RCEP wanted India to open its market for **92%** of traded goods, while they remained unwilling to allow Indian skilled professionals to have a greater access in their markets. India is ready to offer access for up to 85% of items, with divergence for countries such as China, Australia and New Zealand, with whom it does not have free-trade agreements.

References-
https://www.livemint.com/Politics/fPkQ9TRvj3YtMl7Pt7GsGO/Centre-sets-up-GoM-headed-by-Suresh-Prabhu-to-decide-on-RCEP.html

http://www.edristi.in/

Kempegowda International Airport

Question- Kempegowda International Airport is located in-
(a) Nagpur (b) Kolkata (c) Chennai (d) Bangalore
Answer-(d)
Related facts-

- Kempegowda International Airport is located in Indian city of Bangalore in state of Karnataka.
- This Airport was opened in 2008 and is currently operated by Bangalore International Airport limited (BIAL), which is a Public –private institution.
  Why in News-
- According to RoutesOnline study it is found that Kempegowda International Airport is world's second fastest growing Airport in the world in terms of passenger growth.
- In compared with last year Tokyo's Haneda International added more than 4.3 million passengers from January to June, which is highest for any airport in the world.
- At second place Bangalore added 4.18 million passengers, while Jakarta's Soekarno–Hatta is third following a 3.9 million increase.
- Delhi is at 6th place in the list with 3.27 million passenger footfalls in the year.

Reference-
https://www.routesonline.com/news/29/breaking-news/280069/the-fastest-growing-major-airports-in-the-world-so-far-this-year/

World Bank and Australia's Commonwealth Bank issued bonds through blockchain technology

Question-Consider following statement regarding Blockchain Technology-
(i) Blockchain Technology was invented by Satoshi Nakamoto in 2008.
(ii) It was first invented to serve as the public transaction ledger of the cryptocurrency bitcoin.
(iii) It is typically managed by a peer-to-peer network collectively adhering to a protocol for inter-node communication and validating new blocks.
(iv) Not any particular single entity controls Blockchain.
Select the correct answer from the given code below
(a) Only (i) (b) (ii) &(iii) (c) (i),(ii) &(iii) (d) (i),(ii),(iiii)&(iv)
Answer-(d)
Related Facts-

- Blockchain technology was invented in 2008 by a Japanese person Satoshi Nakamoto (reportedly inventor of cryptocurrency bitcoin); he invented this technology to serve as the public transaction ledger of cryptocurrency bitcoin.
- Technically this technology is managed by a peer-to-peer network collectively stuck to a protocol for inter-node communication and validating new blocks.

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- Unlike any physical or any other kind of currency it is not controlled by any particular designated entity which claims its operational responsibility.
- **Why Blockchain technology is preferable-**
- Blockchain, a very foundational technology for cryptocurrencies particularly bitcoins, is one of the most attractive technology gaining lot of attention from various enterprises in the market.
- **With the help of this technology companies are exploring ways and methods to-**
- Execute transactions quicker, safer for an enhanced customer service,
  (ii) Ensure cost efficiency in its operations making it easier, trusted and efficient.
  (iii) Assure transparency to customers and regulators.
- **Why in News-**
- Recently on 23 August 2018, World Bank and Australia's largest bank "Commonwealth Bank" have issued world's first public bond exclusively created and managed by blockchain technology.
- World Bank had first notified this project on 10 August, 2018.

References-
https://cointelegraph.com/news/world-bank-and-australias-largest-bank-issue-bond-exclusively-through-blockchain

Caspian Sea agreement

Question-Which country does not share boundary with the Caspian Sea?
(a) Russia (b) Iran (c) Azerbaijan (d) Iraq
Answer-(d)
Related facts-

- To administer Caspian Sea and its surrounding area, leaders from countries surrounding the Caspian Sea have finally signed a legal deal on the status of the Caspian Sea.

- Caspian Sea is surrounded by Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan.
  Issue over Caspian sea-
- The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulted in establishment of Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan as an independent states and competitors in the region for exploiting its resources, ongoing disputes about how to draw boundaries in the Caspian have restricted all the surrounding countries' ability to exploit its resources.
- The main issue has been to legally classify the Caspian whether as a sea or a lake.
  Result of the latest summit-
- The recent summit has confirmed that the surface of the Caspian Sea would be legally recognized as a sea, which means, each country would control 15 miles

from its offshore for mineral exploration and 25 miles of shoreline for fishing and rest part of the Caspian Sea would be observed as neutral water for common use.
- Military vessels of non-Caspian states have been prohibited from entering in the Caspian Sea.

References-
https://www.rferl.org/a/majlis-podcast-the-caspian-sea-agreement-what-s-next/29441869.html

<p style="text-align:center; color:#4a90d9;">Ethnic conflicts in China</p>

Question–Which of the following is true about Uyghurs?
(a)Uyghur is Muslim ethnic minority primarily live in China's Xinjiang province.
(b)They are only found in china. (c)Both (a) and (b) (d)None of the above.
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- There are reports that china is holding a million Uyghurs in "**Counter-Extremism Centres**"or **Political Indoctrination Camps**.
- Human rights groups including Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch have communicated reports to the UN committee recording claims of mass imprisonment in camps where inmates are forced to swear loyalty to China's President Xi Jinping.
- **Chinese concern about Uyghur-**
- According to China Uyghur groups want to establish an independent state, leaders fear that radicalized states like Pakistan may support this group's movement in Xinjiang province because of their cultural homogeneity.
- **About Uyghur-**
- Uyghur is a Muslim ethnic minority primarily based in China's Xinjiang province.
- They make up around 45% of the population there. Xinjiang is officially designated as an autonomous region within China, like Tibet to its south.
- Xinjiang shares borders with **Mongolia, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India.**

References
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Xinjiang

Economics

Decline in investment in participatory notes

Question- Participatory notes are issued by-
(a) Registered foreign institutional investors (FII) (b) SEBI (c) RBI (d) None of the above
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- Investments through participatory notes into Indian capital markets have been reduced to Rs 80.341 crore which is lowest in last nine years.
- The decline is accredited to various measures taken by the market regulator SEBI to stop the misuse of controversial financial instrument 'participatory notes'.
About participatory notes-
- Participatory Notes commonly known as P-Notes or PNs are financial instruments issued by registered foreign institutional investors (FII) to overseas investors who want to invest in Indian stock markets without registering themselves with the market regulator i.e. the Securities and Exchange Board of India – SEBI.
- These are a popular way to invest in Indian markets as it not only save the investor from regulatory hassles of registration, but also allow them to remain anonymous.
Concern over P- notes-
- The main concern over P-notes is of its being anonymous in nature (not reveal the identity of the beneficiary) as these investors could be beyond the reach of Indian regulators.
- It is believed that P-notes may be used for money laundering to bring back unaccounted funds or black money and to manipulate stock prices.

References-
https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/investment-in-p-notes-continues-to-decline-hits-new-low-of-rs-80-341-cr-118081600666_1.html

Index Numbers of Wholesale Price in India (Base: 2011-12=100)

Question: Report on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) in India is published by-
(a)Office of Economic Advisor (b)Central Statistics Office
(c)Securities and Exchange Board of India (d)Ministry of Finance
Answer: (a)
Related Facts:-

- For the month of July, 2018; the official Wholesale Price Index (WPI) for **'AllCommodities' (Base: 2011-12=100)** increased to **7 from 119.2**(from previous month) by registering **0.4** percent growth.
- It is to be noted that the **annual rate of inflation**, based on monthly WPI, remained at **09%** (provisional) for the month of July, 2018 (over July, 2017) as

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compared to **5.77%** (provisional) for the month before and **1.88%** during the same month last year.

- Build up inflation rate in the financial year so far was **92%** compared to a build up rate of **0.62%** in the same period last year.

About WPI:-

- **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** generally used for the price index which measures the price alteration in the wholesale of the goods i.e. at the initial stage of the deal, when the goods are bought by one trading company from another to resale these goods.
- The items in WPI are classified into three main groups: **Primary Articles, Fuel & Power and, Manufactured Products.**
- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) is published by the **Office of Economic Advisor** a government body which comes under the **Ministry of Commerce and Industry.**
- Only the prices of **goods or commodities** come under the purview of WPI.

References:-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181875

Buffer Stock of Sugar

Question. The Central Government has created a buffer stock of 30 lakh metric ton (LMT) of sugar for which of the following objective?
(a) to improve liquidity position of sugar mills.
(b) to clear cane price arrears of farmers. (c) to stabilize domestic sugar price.
(d) All of the Above.
Answer- (d)
Related Fact:

- On August 7, 2018, Minister of State for Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution, **R. Chaudhary** told in Lok Sabha that Central Government has created a buffer stock of **30 LMT**.
- This buffer stock has been made to improve the **liquidity position of sugar mills**, **to enable sugar mills to clear cane arrears of farmers and to stabilize sugar price in domestic markets.**
- Government has fixed minimum selling price (MSP) of sugar at **29/kg** for sale at factory in domestic market to prevent cash loss and to clear cane dues of farmers in time.
- Notably, sugar price has fallen sharply in **May 2018** due to excess sugar production and decrease in demand during current season.
- The various interventions including creation of buffer stock and fixation of MSP of sugar undertaken by government aims to improve liquidity of sugar mill thereby reducing price arrears on **State Advised Price (SAP)**

Refrences:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181604

http://www.edristi.in/

Scientific

Balramji Dass Tandon

Question: Balramji Das Tandon was governor of which of the following state?

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Haryana (d) Chhattisgarh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- **On August 14, 2018**, Governor of Chhattisgarh **Shri Balramji Das Tandon** died after suffering a heart attack. He was 90 years old.
- He became the governor of Chhattisgarh in **July 2014**.
- In his long political career, he was a six-time MLA and also Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab.
- He was one of the founding members of the **Jana Sangh in 1951**.
- After his demise, Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel has been made the acting Governor of Chhattisgarh State.

References:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Balram_Das_Tandon

International Nitrogen Initiative

Question- Which Indian scientist has been elected as the chair of International Nitrogen Initiative?
(a)N Raghuram (b)Raghuram Rajan (c)Arvind Joshi (d)Amar Gupta
Answer – (a)   Related facts-

- N Raghuram is an Indian scientist who has been elected as a chair of International Nitrogen Initiative (INI).
- Raghuram specializes in the biological determinants of crop N use efficiency; He is the first Indian and Asian who is elected to the chair of INI.
- **About INI-**

- It is a global network of scientists, created and sponsored by SCOPE (sponsorship of the Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment) and the International Geosphere-Biosphere Program (IGBP).
- Its aim is to optimize the beneficial use of nitrogen and minimize the negative effect on human health as a result of food and energy production.
- It has regional centers in Europe, North America, Latin America, Africa, South and East Asia.
- The conference of INI takes place in every three years.

References-
http://www.nutrientchallenge.org/international-nitrogen-initiative

http://www.edristi.in/

Scrub typhus

Question- 'Scrub Typhus' caused by-
(a)Virus (b)Bacteria (c)Parasite (d)Fungi
Answer-(b)
Related facts-

- As per data of three years from Gorakhpur's **Baba Raghav Das (BRD) Medical College** it was confirmed that Scrub typhus has been found in the majority of **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)**patients admitted between August and October each year.
- **About Scrub Typhus-**

- 'Srub typhus' is a mite born disease caused by a bacteria called **Orientia tsutsugamushi**, which is transmitted through the bite of infected mite larvae in soil containing scrub vegetation.
- It is an infectious disease.
- It is transmitted by mites found in the hilly areas and also be transmitted by lice, ticks and fleas.
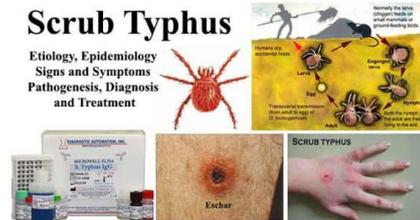- It is also called **bush typhus.**
- It can be treated easily if doctors diagnose it early.
- **Treatments-**

- It should be treated with the antibiotic Doxycycline.
- Doxycycline can be used in persons of any age.
- **Preventive measures-**

- Control the spread of rodents.
- Domestic animals should be cleaned regularly
- During the visit in jungle or in an area where lot of shrubs, skin should be properly covered.

References-
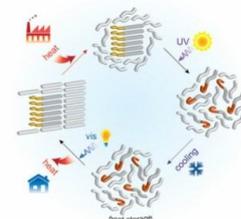https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/scrub-typhus-is-key-encephalitis-cause-in-eastern-up-study/article24627299.ece

Thermal battery

Question- Which of the following State inaugurated Thermal Battery Plant?
(a)Tamil Nadu (b)Karnataka (c)Andhra Pradesh (d)Telangana
Answer- (c)
Related facts –

- India became first in the world to inaugurate thermal battery plant.
- First thermal battery plant inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh.
- It will be owned by **Bharat Energy Storage Technology Private Limited (BEST).**

- **About thermal battery –**

- It is a battery used for storing and delivering thermal energy. It allows energy to be stored temporarily in the battery and be released whenever needed.
- It operates on thermal energy, which means energy created by temperature differences.
- **Application of thermal battery –**

- By amalgamation of thermal battery with power grids helps to boost industrial demands and provides substantial support to public transport and telecom grids.
- As long as heat is available thermal battery can work and can be helpful in transmission of power in remote areas.
- Using this technology, the problem of rising regional energy requirements can be resolved.
- It can be used in electric vehicles.
- Telecom industry will also be benefited from this technology as it will help to boost signal strength and network connectivity.
- BEST plans to create a battery capacity of **1000MW**. This is expected to be upgraded to a **10GW** capacity by 2025.
- Thermal battery technology was patented in India by Dr Patrick Glynn in 2016.

References-
https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/thermal-battery-technology-andhra-pradesh-plant-5293410/

Microcystallites

Question-Researchers from Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advance Scientific Research (JNCASR), Bengaluru developed a new type of gold in the form of very small crystals, these are-
(a)Microcystallites (b)Scutoid (c)Goldstone (d)None of the above.
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- New type of gold in the form of very small crystals called *'Microcystallites'* developed by researchers from JNCASR**, bengaluru**.
- These crystals are formed by decomposing a complex organic containing gold and other ions under controlled conditions.
- **Features of Microcystallites-**

- These are about **3 micrometer** in length and of a different crystal structure (**deformed cubic structure –tetragonal and orthorhombic cells)** than normal Gold **(FCC Structure)**.
- These are found to be better than gold as microcystallites do not dissolves in **mercury and Aqua regia** (a mixture of nitric acid and hydrochloric acid), and shows the least interaction with
- These are found to be more stable than normal gold, it has very active surface.
- With these properties these Microcystallites become an ideal candidate for catalytic purposes.
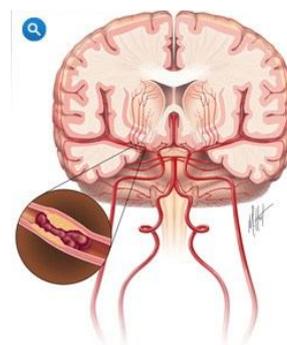
PEGylated Streptokinase

Question- '**PEGylated streptokinase**' (a new biological entity) helpful in the treatment of –
(a)Ischemic stroke (b)Cancer (c)Diabetes (d)None of the above
Answer- a
Related facts-

- A new Clot buster, **PEGylated Streptokinase** – a unique Biological Entity has recently developed by inventors of **CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR–IMTECH)**, **Girish Sahni**, DG, CSIR and Secretary, and his team of inventors at CSIR-Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), Chandigarh. This new invention is all set to revolutionize the treatment of **ischemic strokes**.
- **About PEGylated streptokinase-**

- It a novel recombinant protein that has been proved very helpful in the treatment of ischemic stroke as it dissolves blood clots.
- It is CSIR's new patented clot buster biological entity.
- **About Ischemic stroke-**

- Brain depends on its arteries to bring fresh blood from the heart and lungs which carries oxygen and nutrients to it and takes away carbon dioxide and cellular waste, whenever these arteries gets blocked the brain stops working and leads to a massive stroke.
- **Ischemic stroke is of two types :-**
- **Thrombotic** *stroke* occurs when diseased or damaged cerebral arteries become blocked by the formation of a blood clot within the brain.

- *Embolic stroke* is also caused by a clot within an artery, but in this case the clot (or emboli) forms somewhere other than in the brain itself. Often from the heart, these emboli will travel in the bloodstream until they become lodged and cannot travel any farther.

- **Facts-**

- According to the American Stroke Association (ASA), brain strokes are the second leading cause of death in the world with a staggering 15 million people effected causing 11 million people either die or become permanently disabled. Surprisingly, the prevalence of stroke is much higher in India than the West and about 87% of all strokes are ischemic strokes.

References-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181847

Parker Solar Probe

Question- NASA has recently launched a mission "touch the sun" to explore the corona, named-
(a)Parker solar probe (b)Voyager (c)MOM (d)Spitzer
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- NASA has launched **Parker Solar Probe** the world's first of its kind mission **"touch the sun"**.It will explore the sun's atmosphere and its outermost atmosphere, **the corona**.
- The main goals of this mission are to trace how energy and heat moves through the solar corona and to find what accelerates the solar wind as well as solar energetic particles.
- The corona gives rise to the solar wind, a continuous flow of charged particles that permeates the solar system.
- Solar winds cause disturbances in our planet's magnetic field and can cause destruction in communications technology on Earth. NASA hopes the findings will enable scientists to forecast changes in Earth's space environment.
- **Launch Date: Aug. 11, 2018**
- **Launch Site: Space Launch Complex 37, Cape Canaveral Air Force Station**
- **Launch Vehicle: United Launch Alliance Delta IV Heavy rocket**
- **Orbital Period: 88 days for final orbits with closest approach**
- **Mission Duration: Seven-year.**

References-
https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe

Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT)

Question-Which of the following is true about 'Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope'?
(a)It is a telescope which was used to discover the most distant radio galaxy ever known, located at a distance of 12 billion light years.
(b)GMRT located near Pune in India operated by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics, a part of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.
(c)Both (a) and (b)
(d)None of the above
Answer- (c)
Related facts-

- Astronomers have used an Indian telescope to discover the most distant radio galaxy ever known, located at a distance of 12 billion light-years.
- The distance to this galaxy was then determined using the Gemini North telescopein Hawaii and the Large Binocular Telescope in Arizona.
- This particular radio galaxy has been named TGSS J1530.

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- About GMRT-

- GMRT is a versatile instrument for investigating a variety of radio astrophysical problems ranging from nearby Solar system to the edge of observable Universe.
- Located near Pune in India, is an array of thirty fully steerable parabolic radio telescopes of 45 metre diameter, observing at metre wavelengths.
- GMRT is an indigenous project.
- About Radio Galaxies-

- It is a galaxy that emits large amounts of radio waves they are powered by the galaxy's super massive black hole .When super massive black hole eats nearby gas, dust, and stars; it is known as an active galactic nucleus (AGN).
- These active black holes have superheated material swirling around them in a circular disk, known as an 'accretion disk'.
- The material in this disk is swirling around the black hole in a tight circle, means charged particles in the accelerated.
- These charged particles emit radio waves with their direction of motion, called 'synchrotron radiation'.
- Ayush Saxena and other 12 scientist discovered this galaxy.

References-
https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indian-telescope-spots-distant-radio-galaxy/article24648190.ece#

Successful Test of Naval Version of Tejas

Question: Recently the Naval Version of the indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft Tejas tested on SBTF in-
(a)Mumbai (b)Kolkata (c)Balasore (d)Goa
Ans: (d)
Related Facts:-

- On 2 August, 2018; the naval version of the Tejas underwent a series of successful tests on SBTF (Shore Based Test facility) at **INS Hansa** in Goa.
- Tejas is an **indigenous fighter aircraft** jointly developed by **Aeronautical Development Agency and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the Indian Air Force and Indian Navy.**
- This version of **LCA (light combat aircraft)** Tejas, **Naval prototype 2 (NP2)** is specially designed according to the requirements of the Indian Navy.
- With this successful test of Tejas India has joined a club of countries including **US, Europe, Russia and China** to have the capability to produce aircraft which can operate from an aircraft carrier.
- It is to be noted that **Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)** program began in the 1980s to replace India's ageing **MiG-21**
- In 2003, the LCA was officially named **"Tejas"** by the then Prime Minister **Atal Bihari Vajpayee**

Reference:-
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/lca-tejas-makes-maiden-engagement-with-indigenous-arrester-hook/articleshow/65247454.cms

http://www.edristi.in/

Sports

Tennis
Western & Southern Open

Question.Who won men singles titles of western & southern open 2018?
(a)Novak Djokovic (b)Roger Federer (c)David Goffin (d)Marin Cilic
Answer: (a)

- Western & Southern Open Championship was held in Cincinnati, Mason, USA form **13-19 August, 2018**.
- **Tournament Result**
- **Mens Singles** :
- **Winner-Novak Djokovic (Serbia)**
  Runner-up -Roger Federer (Switzerland)

- **Women Singles** :
- **Winner-Kiki Bertens (Netherlands)**
  Runner-up-Simona Halep (Romania)

- **Womens Double** :
- **Winner:Lucie Hradecka (Czech Republic) & EkaterinaMakarova (Russia)**
  Runner-up – Elise Mertens (Belgium) & Demi Schuurs (Netherlands)

- **Mens Double** :
- **Winner-Jamie Murray (United Kingdom) & Bruno Soares(Brazil)**
  Runner-up-Juan Sebastian Cabal & Robert Farah (Both Colombia)

Reference:
http://www.wtatennis.com/scores

Sports Miscellaneous
India's First Medal in Asian Games 2018

Question: Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar have won bronze medal in which of the following shooting event?
(a) 10m air rifle (b) 10m air pistol (c) 25 m rapid fire pistol
(d) 10m air rifle mixed team
Answer: (d)
Related Facts:

http://www.edristi.in/

- On 19 August, 2018 Apurvi Chandela and Ravi Kumar gave India its first medal as **Bronze Medal** in **10m air rifle mixed team event** at the JSC (*Jakabaring*Sport Complex) shooting Range, Palembang in ongoing **18th Asian Games, 2018.**
- They maintained third position with a final score of 9, **Yingshin Lin and Shaochuan Lu of Chinese Taipei bagged gold medal** with a score of 494.1 by defeating Ruo Zhao and Haoran Yang of China (492.5 points).
- This bronze medal marked the first medal of Apurvi Chandela in Asian Games. She has won gold medal in 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.
- She is also the youngest Indian shooter to win two Gold medals at 2018 **ISSF World Cup.**
- **It is worth to note that 10m air rifle mixed team event is included for the first time in Asian Games**.

References:
https://en.asiangames2018.id/sport/shooting/event/shooting-10m-air-rifle-mixed-team/

Short Notes

Personalities

Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of Infosys Resigned from his post

Question: Who among the following has resigned the post of Chief Financial Officer from Infosys?
(a)Sanghamitra Bandyopadhyay (b)D Ranganath (c)Upinder Singh Bhalla (d)Ritabrata Munshi
Answer: (b)
Related Facts:-

- Infosys Chief Financial Officer (C.F.O) M.D Ranganath has resigned from his post and his resignation was accepted by the Infosys Board on **18 August, 2018**.
- According to the company he will continue in his present position as Chief Financial officer till November **16, 2018**.
- He led a successful career in the company for 18 years including as the CFO during last three years.
- Ranganath has taken such decision to advance for new plan and to undertake professional opportunities in new fields.

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About Infosys:-

Infosys Limited is an IT company of India which works as **Multinational Corporation** with its outreach in **45 countries**. It provides business consulting, information technology and outsourcing services. It has its headquarters in **Bengaluru**, Karnataka, India

References:-
https://www.infosys.com/newsroom/press-releases/Pages/cfo-decided-step-down-professional-aspirations.aspx

Somnath Chatterjee passed away

Question: Consider the following statements about former Lok Sabha Speaker Somnath Chatterjee:

1.   **He received Utkrisht Sansad Award in 1996.**
2.   **He became Member of Parliament (MP) for the first time in 1981.**
3.   **He was 10 times Member of Parliament.**

 Of the above the correct statements is /are:
(a)Only 1 (b) Only 2&3 (c)Only 1&3 (d) Only3
Answer: (c)
Related Facts:

- Former Lok Sabha Speaker and veteran parliamentarian Somnath Chatterjee passed away on 13 August at Bellevue Clinic in Kolkata. He was suffering from cardiac arrest and prolonged age-related ailments.
- He was born on 25 July 1929 in Tezpur, Assam.His father Nirmal Chandra Chaterjee was the founder and one time President of Akhil Bhartiya Hindu Mahasabha.
- Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred him as the **"Stalwart of politics".**
- **Political Career:**

- Somnath Chatterjee was a member of Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) from 1968 to 2008.He was party leader from 1989-2004 and has served as MP for 35 years.
- He was elected member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) for first time in 1971 as independent candidate supported by CPI (M) and re-elected 10 times except one which he lost to Mamata Banerjee

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from the Jadavpur Lok Sabha constituency in 1984.

- For the 10ᵗʰ time he was elected Member of Parliament for Bolapur Lok Sabha constituency in 2004.

- He has served as 14th Lok Sabha Speaker from 2004 to 2009 and was expelled out from party in 2008 for not going with party line which was withdrawing their support from congress led UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government pertaining to India-US Nuclear Deal as opposed by CPI (M).

- **Awards and Achievements:**

- He won the Outstanding Parliamentarian (Utkrisht Sansad) Award in 1996.

- By his immense efforts on 24 July 2006 Lok Sabha channel was started which provides round clock coverage of Parliament.

- Establishment of Parliamentary Museum is one of the foremost initiatives of Mr. Somnath chaterjee by which an individual can familiarize with the rich democracy heritage of India.

- He was chosen as President of commonwealth parliamentary association (CPA) at Abuja (Nigeria) held in September 2006.

- He has successfully led the commonwealth parliamentary association (CPA) meet at New Delhi in September 2007 telling 52 nations about the achievements made by India in various sectors.

References-
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Somnath_Chatterjee

Manjula Chellur became Chairperson of APTEL

Question: Manjula Chellur newly appointed as Chairperson of APTEL has served as first women chief Justice of which of the following high court?
(a)Bombay High Court (b)Kolkata high Court
(c)Allahabad high court
(d)Delhi high court
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- On **13ᵗʰAugust 2018** Manjula Chellur took oath as the Chairperson of **Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)** .Formerly, she has served as the Chief justice of **Bombay high court.**

- Tribunal Bar Association President Shri M.G. Ramachandran assured the Bench for full cooperation of the Bar Members in the day to day proceedings.

- **About Manjula chellur:**

- She was born on **5 December 1955** in Karnataka and done with her law degree from Renukacharya Law College in Bangalore.

- In 1977 she was sponsored by Supreme Court for Gender and Law fellowship to England University of Warwick. She received honorary doctorate from Karnataka State Women's University.
- She was the first woman Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court, served as the Chief Justice of Kerala High Court and the first female judge of the Karnataka High Court. She demitted her office as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court after attaining the age of superannuation on 4th December 2017.
- **About APTEL:**

- **Appellate Tribunal for Electricity (APTEL)** is the foremost authority to redress grievances related electricity, established by the Ministry of Power, Govt. of India on 7th April, 2004 by virtue of Section 110 of The Electricity Act, 2003.
- This authority hears appeals or original petitions against the orders of the Adjudicating Officer or The Central Regulatory Commission or State Regulatory Commission or Joint Commission having jurisdiction throughout India.
- Justice Anil Dev Singh was the first Chairperson of the Tribunal in 2005.The Tribunal ordinarily presides in Delhi.

References:
http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1542884

Operations & Campaign

Swachha Rail, Swachha Bharat

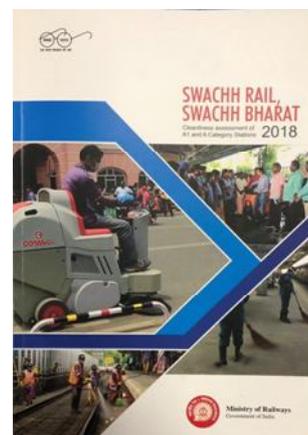**Question. Which station grabbed first position in A-1 Category stations in Swachh Rail, Swachh Bharat campaign?**
Options:
(a)Jodhpur
(b)Jaipur
(c)Marwar
(d)Ahmadabad
Answer: (a)
Related Facts:

- Minister of railways, Coal, Finance & Corporate Affairs, Piyush Goyal released a third party survey report on station cleanliness conducted by Quality Council of India (QCI).
- On the 145th birthday anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, **"Swachh Bharat Abhiyan"** a national level campaign was launched by Government of India to achieve the dreams of a Clean India by October 2nd, 2019.
- "Swachh rail, Swachh Bharat" campaign was launched by Ministry of Railways with the mission to improve cleanness across railway station.
- **Highlight of the survey:**

- The survey has been conducted for the third time in year 2018.

- Indian Railways comprises of more than ten thousand stations, divided in 16 zones. A total of 407 stations were selected for the purpose of assessment and ranking from among **75 stations are in "A 1"** and **332** stations are in **"A"** category stations.
- Jodhpur ranked first among **"A1"** category stations with score of **8%.**
- Jaipur with score 97.2 and Tirupati with score of 96.5% ranked second and third place respectively among "A1" category.
- Marwar (Rajsthan) ranked first among 'A' category stations with score of 97.3%.
- Phulera (Rajasthan) with score of 96.2 and Warangal (Telangana) with score of 95.6% ranked second and third place respectively among 'A' category.
- In zonal ranking North Western Railway (NWR) secured first position.
- **Allahabad junction** station of NCR has been adjudged the cleanest station of UP in this cleanliness assessment.
- First survey was conducted by IRCTC in 2016 by conducting interview with passengers at stations while second was conducted by Quality Council of India.

Reference:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=161888

Planning & Project
O-SMART scheme

Question-Which cabinet committee has given its approval for O-SMART scheme?
(a)Cabinet committee on economic affairs
(b)Cabinet committee on political affairs
(c)Cabinet committee on security (d)Cabinet committee on investment
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- On 29 August 2018, **The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** has given its approval for **O-SMART scheme.**
- **About O-SMART scheme-**

- It is an umbrella scheme.
- O-SMART stands for, "**Ocean Services, Technology, Observations, Resources Modelling and Science".**
- It isimplemented during the period from **2017-18 to 2019-20** at an overall cost of **1623 crore**.
- The scheme consists of **16 sub-projects** addressing ocean development activities such as **Services, Technology, Resources, Observations and Science.**
- **Benefits of this scheme-**

- It will help in harnessing both **living and non-living resources** from the seas around India.

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- It will help in dealing with the ocean disasters like **cyclone, tsunami**, and storm surges with the help of early warning system established under O-SMART scheme.
- O-SMART will help in addressing issues relating to Sustainable Development Goal-14, which aims to conserve use of oceans, marine resources for sustainable development**.**
- This scheme will provide economic benefits to a number of user communities in the coastal and ocean sectors, i.e., fisheries, offshore industry, coastal states, Defence, Shipping, Ports etc.
- This scheme (O-SMART) also provides necessary scientific and technological background required for implementation of various aspects of "**Blue Economy".**

Blue economy-

- The blue economy is sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods and jobs, and ocean economic health.
- **It encompasses many activities-**
- **Renewable energy.**
- **Waste management.**
- **Maritime transport.**
- **Climate change**.

References-
http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/infographic/2017/06/06/blue-economy

Project Navlekha

Question- 'Project Navlekha' was started by-
(a)Google (b)Facebook (c)Whatsapp (d)Instagram
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- Google has started **Project Navlekha**to promote regional language publishers to make their content online.
- In Sanskrit Navlekha means '**a new way to write**'.
- The project aims to bring **135,000 local language publishers online**by making web hosting smooth and simple.
- At present, only **1%**content in Indian languages is present online compared to English.

References–
https://navlekha.withgoogle.com/intl/en/#!/benefits

NPCI's UPI 2.0

Question-Consider following statements regarding National Payment Corporation of India-

1. **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was set up in 2010.**
2. **It acts as central infrastructure for various retail payment systems in**
3. **It is envisaged by reserve Bank of India as the payment utility in the country.**
4. **It has been incorporated as a "Not for Profit" Company under the provisions of Section 25 of Companies Act 1956 (now Section 8 of Companies Act 2013).**

Which of the above statement is/are correct?
(a)Only (1) (b) (1) ,(2) and (3) (c)(2),(3) and (4) (d) all of the above
Answer-(c)
Related facts-

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was established in **2009** as the central body for various retail payment systems in India and was envisaged by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) as the **payment utility** in the country.
- **Why in news-**

- **Recently, on 16 august 2018, NPCI has launched UPI 2.0,** UPI Version 2.0 has been expected to lay down the path for innovative payment solutions to be provided by banks, as being standardised and based on open source, it is efficient as well.
- **Features of UPI 2.0 –**

- **It has four new features**–
- **Linking of over draft-**Besides current and saving account customer can link their overdraft account to UPI.
- **UPI mandate-** With help of this money can be transferred later by giving commitment at present.
- **Invoice in the inbox-** It is designed for customers to check the invoice sent by merchant prior to making payment. It will help customers to verify the essentials that whether it come from the right merchant or not.
- **Signed intent and QR-** Itis designed for customers to check the authenticity of merchants while scanning QR (quick response code)**.** It will give information that the merchant is verified UPI merchant or not.

- **About UPI –**

- It stands for, **Unified Payments Interface**. It is an instant real –time payment system developed by National Payment Corporation of India providing inter-bank transactions.
- It is regulated by the **Reserve Bank of India**.

- It is built over **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** for direct and immediate transaction of money and available 24*7 hours, including public holidays.

References-
https://www.npci.org.in/sites/default/files/Press%20Release_Launch%20of%20Unified%20Payments%20Interface%202.0.pdf

National Energy Storage Mission

Question- Which of the following alternative is/are true about National Energy Storage Mission?

1.   **It is a mission for energy storage to meet the peak demand.**
2.   **Its objective is to strive for leadership in energy storage sector by creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework that encourages manufacturing, deployment, innovation and cost reduction.**

(a)Only 1 (b) Both 1 & 2. (c)Only 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2
Answer-b
Related facts-

- In February 2018, an **Expert Committee** was constituted by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy to propose a draft for setting up **National** Energy **Storage Mission (NESM)** for India.
- The Expert Committee proposed a draft for **NESM** with objective to strive for leadership in energy storage sector by creating an enabling policy and regulatory framework that encourages manufacturing, deployment, innovation and further cost reduction.
- NITI Aayog and Rocky Mountain Institute's joint report on India's Energy Storage Mission has proposed three stage solution approach i.e.
- **Creating an environment for battery manufacturing growth.**

- **Scaling supply chain strategies.**

- **Scaling of battery cell manufacturing**.

- **Key areas for energy storage application includes-**

- **Integrating renewable energy with distribution and transmission grids.**
- **(ii)   Setting rural micro grids with diversified loads or stand-alone systems.**

- **Developing Storage component of electric mobility plans.**

- **Features of the draft national energy storage mission-**

- It hopes to intensify grid-connected energy storage in India, setup a regulatory framework, and encourage the manufacturing of indigenous batteries.

- Its target is to grid-connected storage of 15-20 giga watt hours (GWh) within next five years.

References-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181698

Approval on Policy of Exploration of Unconventional Hydrocarbons

Question-Recently, the union cabinet chaired by P. M. Narendra Modi has approved the policy to permit exploration and exploitation of –
(a) Unconventional Hydrocarbons (b) Conventional Hydrocarbons
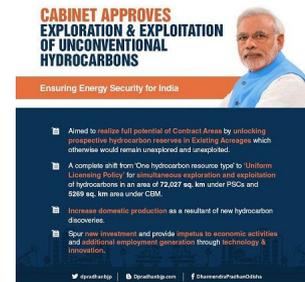(c) Coal Bed Methane only (d) None of the above
Answer-(a)
Related facts-

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the policy to permit exploration and exploitation of unconventional hydrocarbons such as Shale oil/gas, Coal Bed Methane (CBM) etc.
- It will be carried out under the existing Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), CBM contracts and Nomination fields to encourage the existing Contractors in the licensed/leased area to unlock the potential of unconventional hydrocarbons in the existing acreages.
- As per existing contractual regime of PSCs, existing Contractors are not allowed to explore and exploit CBM or other unconventional hydrocarbons in already allotted licensed/leased area. Similarly, CBM Contractors are not allowed to exploit any other hydrocarbon except CBM.
  Benefits of this policy framework-
- This policy will enable the yield of prospective hydrocarbon reserves in the existing Contract Areas which otherwise would remain unexplored and unexploited.
- Due to this, there is a chance of discoveries of new hydrocarbons, new investments in exploration and production activities and thus increase in domestic production.
- Induction of new, innovative and cutting-edge technology to exploit unconventional hydrocarbons.
- The policy encourages new investment in this field which leads to employment generationand thus benefitting various section of society.
  Coal Bed Methane is an unconventional form of natural gas found naturally in coal deposits.
  Shale gas is a natural gas that is found trapped within shale formation.

References-
http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1541081

http://www.edristi.in/

NITI Aayog and CII Launch Partnership on SDGs

Question: With which of the following organization NITI Aayog has made a partnership to propagate Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in India?

(a)CII   (b)WTO

(c)UNDP   (d)ILO

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On **8 August 2018**; a partnership on SDGs was launched between **NITI Aayog and CII** at the Government and Business Partnership Conclave in New Delhi.
- It was organized by **NITI Aayog, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and UN.**
- CII and NITI Aayog have entered into a three-year partnership for which a MoU was signed between parties.
- **This partnership focuses on specific activities that seeks to develop:-**
- **Vision and Action Agenda for businesses and industries to contribute for SDGs;**
- **Annual Status Reports.**
- **Sector-specific Best Practice Documents.**
- **CII launched the report**—*Indian Solutions for the World to Achieve SDGs.*

- **About Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):-**

- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are the Global Goals to put forward a universal call for action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that all people enjoy peace and prosperity.

- **About CII:-**

- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) is a non-government, not-for-profit, industry-led and industry-managed organization, playing a proactive role in India's development process. It works to develop and sustain an environment conducive for the growth of India, partnering industry, Government, and civil society, through advisory and consultative processes.

- **Role of UNDP:**

- In the year 2015 leaders from the 193 countries of the world came together to formulate a plan in the form of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** to fight the daunting problems like famines, drought, wars and poverty etc, faced by the people around all over the globe.
- The **SDGs** came into effect in January 2016.
- **To fulfill the SDGs by the year 2030**, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) came forward to lead the mission.
- As the lead UN development agency, UNDP is uniquely placed itself to help in implementation of these Goals.

- UNDP provides support to governments to integrate the SDGs into their national development plans and policies.

References-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181656
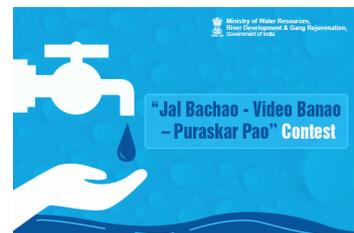
Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao Contest

Question: who has won first prize in Jal Bachao, Video Banao, and Puraskar Pao contest?
(a)Shresth Sahu (B)Satish Mewada (C)Gopal Kumar Prajapati (D)Dhirendra Joshi
Answer: (a)
Related Facts:-

- *Jal Bachao, Video Banao, Puraskar Pao*contest related to the conservation of water was launched on **10th July 2018,** whose winners were announced on **8 august, 2018**.
- It was organised by the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.**
- Ministry announced three winners for the first, second and third positions in this contest, respectively as **Shreshth Sahu** from Varanasi, **Satish Mewada** from Bhopal and **Gopal Kumar Prajapati** from Bokaro for the period **10th July to 24th July 2018**.
- Prize amount of Rs 25,000/, Rs 15,000/- and Rs 10,000/- will be given to the three winners respectively.
- In collaboration with the MyGov portal of the Government of India the Ministry launched this contest with the objective of spreading awareness about water conservation.
- **Who can take part in the contest**: Any Indian citizen can participate in the contest**.**
- **What to do:-** Shoot an original video on the theme and upload the entries on YouTube and enter the publicly accessible link on the Video link section of MyGov contest page mygov.in
- Three winners will be chosen every 15 days till the 4th of November, 2018.

Why Relevant:-

Optimum Water Utilization and Water Resource Development and Management in different parts of the country is the need of the day as water resources depleting fast due to over use and wrong practices.
References-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181655

http://www.edristi.in/

NITI Aayog indentified 117 districts as Aspirational Districts for RUSA Scheme

Question: Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in the year–
(a)2014 (b)2016 (c)2017 (d)2013
Answer-(d)

According to PIB press release on 6 august 2018, NITI Aayog has identified **117districts** as '**Aspirational Districts'** under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of **Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).**

- **Criteria of the Selection**–

These districts have been selected on the basis of composite index which includes published data of deprivation enumerated under **Socio-Economic Caste Census, Health & Nutrition, Education and Basic Infrastructure.**

- **Following are the features of this Scheme:**
- **New Model Degree Colleges (MDCs):** These will be set up in'**Aspirational '**
- **Central assistance to States:** It has been provided for creation of one Model Degree College each in 60 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) including **8 in Odisha**.
- **The Project Approval Board (PAB) of RUSA-** It has approved central supports for one MDC each in 70 such districts including 6 in Odisha**.**
- **An Expert Committee constituted by the University Grants Commission (UGC) –** It had identified 374 Educationally Backward Districts (EBDs) where Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) in higher education was less than the national average of **4%** based on **2001** census data.

RUSA Scheme:

Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), launched in **2013** aims at providing strategic funding to eligible state higher educational institutions. **The central funding (in the ratio of 60:40 for general category States, 90:10 for special category states and 100% for union territories)**would be norm based and outcome dependent. The funding would flow from the central ministry through the **state governments/union territories** to the State Higher Education Councils before reaching the identified institutions. The funding to states would be made on the basis of critical appraisal of State Higher Education Plans, which would describe each state's strategy to address issues of equity, access and excellence in higher education.

See also the links below:-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181574

Ishan Vikas and Ishan Uday schemes for benefit of North Eastern Students

Question: National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS) is located in-
(a)Chennai (b)Bengaluru (c)New Delhi (d)Hyderabad
Ans: (b)
Related Facts:-

- **On 6 august 2018, two special scholarship schemes Ishan Vikas** and **Ishan Uday**have been started for the students of North Eastern region.
- **Ishan Vikas Scheme-**
- It is being coordinated by **IIT, Guwahati**.
- Vacation period of school children from selected schools will be utilized under this program tobring them in close contact with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IITs), Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS).**
- Purpose is to motivate the students to pursue science**, technology, engineering and mathematics as their career option.**
- It will also facilitate internship opportunities for the engineering college students in various institutes of national importance.
- Annual target has been set to provide visit of **96 school children** to premier institutes and summer internships to **250 engineering students**.
- In **2014-15**, 1637 school children and 372 Engineering students have benefited since inception of the programme.
- **Ishan Uday Scholarship Scheme-**
- It is administered by **University Grants Commission (UGC).**
- Under this scheme, scholarship is provided to the economically backward students from the North East Region for pursuing general degree courses, technical and professional degree courses.
- 10000 scholarships will be are provided under this scheme annually.

NIAS-

National Institute of Advanced Studies(*located in Indian Institute of Science Campus, Bengaluru, Karnataka* **) is a centre of higher learning in India engaged in interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary research in natural sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. It was founded by J. R. D Tata.**
Reference-
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181571

Conference

SAARC Agri Cooperative Business Forum

Que1. The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum was held in:
(a)Kathmandu (b)New Delhi (c)Jakarta (d)Sri Lanka
Answer. (a)
Related Facts:

- From **28-30 August, 2018**, The First South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Agri Cooperative Business Forum was held in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The theme of three-day Forum was '**Organizing and Strengthening Family Farmers' Cooperatives to attain the Sustainable-Development-Goals-1 and 2 in South Asia'.**
- The forum was co-organized by Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of United Nations and Asian Farmer's Association (AFA) with the support of International Fund for Agricultural Development.
- The Forum brings together representatives both from the government and non-governmental entities from the Member States of SAARC as well as from regional and international organizations.

Reference:
http://www.newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=352214
http://saarc-sec.org/uploads/digital_library_document/First_SAARC_Agriculture_Cooperative_Business_Forum-Kathmandu-28August2018.pdf

The World Congress of Philosophy

Q.The 24th World Congress of Philosophy (WCP) was held in –</strong
(a)Beijing, China (b)New Delhi, India (c) California, United States (d)Telangana, India
Answer-(a)
Related Facts-

- The **XXIV World Congress of Philosophy** was held in Beijing, China from **13 to 20 august 2018.**
- The theme of the congress was **"Learning to Be Human."**
- The world congress of Philosophy is organized in every five years by federation of Philosophical Societies (FISP).
- More than 6000 philosophers and academics from 121 countries and regions had attended the congress.
- The first world congress of Philosophy was organized in 1900 in Paris.

References:
http://www.icpr.in/World-Congress-of-Philosophy.pdf

BRICS FILM FESTIVAL-2018

Question 1- The 3rd BRICS Film Festival, 2018 held in-
(a) New Delhi (b) Durban (c) Gold Coast (d) Macau
Answer: (b)
Related Facts:

- The 3rd BRICS Film Festival took place in Durban, South Africa, along with International Durban Film Festival from **22 to 27 July, 2018**.
- The 3[rd]BRICS Film Festival recognized following categories – Best Film, Best Producer/s, Best Director, Best Script, Writer / Screenplay writer, Best Actor, Best Actress, Best Supporting Actor, Best Supporting Actress, Best Editor, Best Cinematography / Director of Photography (DOP), Best Composer / Music, Special Jury award.
- The Indian Delegation was headed by **Shri Manoj Kumar Pingua**.

Awarded Indian Films / Personalities

- **Best Actress: Bhanita Das, Village Rockstars**
- **Best Film: Newton by Amit Masurkar**
- **Special Jury Award: Village Rockstars by Rima Das**

Screened Indian Films

- The festival screened four Indian Films in the following category

Films in Competition Section:

1. **Newton Amit Masurkar**
2. **Village Rockstars Rima Das**

Films in Non-competition Section:

1. **Sinjar – Sandeep Pampally**
2. **Bhanayakam– Jayaraj**

References:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181201

http://www.edristi.in/

Year, Day & Week

International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples

Question: International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on –
(a) 26th August (b) 12th August (c) 10th August (d) 9th August
Answer: (d)
Related Facts:

- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples is celebrated on 9th August every year since 1994 to promote and protect the rights of Indigenous Population.
- Indigenous peoples are the inheritors and practitioners of a distinct culture, society and are facing major challenges of protection of their rights, with which they retained their identity and culture such a long time.
- The theme of 2018 World's Indigenous Peoples Day is **"Indigenous peoples' migration and movement"**.

Significance of this day-

The purpose of this day is not only promotion and protection of indigenous population but it also aims to make the world realize how society, tradition and culture can have the balancing effect on environmental resources and their judicious uses, Indigenous people represents what is sustainable use of environmental resources ,which is need of hour in modern world.

World Hindi Conference

Question- 11th World Hindi conference was held in-
(a)Mauritius (b)Nepal (c)China (d)Bhutan
Answer-(a)
Related facts–

- 11th World Hindi conference was held between **18-20 August, 2018**, in **Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre,** Mauritius with the theme of **"Hindi Vishwa Aur Bharatiy Sanskriti."**
- **"Bhopal to Mauritius"** book written by **Ashok Chakradhar** was also ingaurated in this conference.

About the World Hindi conference–

- It is dedicated to Hindi language for its promotion as an international language.
- First world Hindi conference was held in **1975 in Nagpur**, India.
- Till now 11 such conferences have been held in different parts of the world.

Objective of this conference–

- To promote Hindi as an international language and further it leads for acceptance at the United Nations as an official language.

References-
http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=351677

World Humanitarian Day

Question: World Humanitarian Day is celebrated on-
(a) 21 August (b) 21 June (c) 19 August (d) 16 June
Answer: (c)
Related Facts:

- World Humanitarian day (WHD) is observed every year on **19th august** to pay tribute to the aid workers who lost their lives for humanitarian services.
- **On 19 August, 2003**, Sergio Vieira de Mello (UN's representative in Iraq) and 22 people lost their lives in a terrorist attack in United Nations headquarters in Baghdad.
- Five years later, Un General Assembly decided to designate World Humanitarian Day in order to increase public awareness about Humanitarian assistance activities worldwide.
- Theme of 2018 WHD Campaign was **#NotATarget** which aspired to draw attention towards the problems faced by civilians amid arms conflict. This year campaign appealed world leaders to do everything in their capacity to protect all civilians entangled in conflicts.

Statistics:

- According to the **Aid Worker Security Database (AWSD) 2018,313** aid workers were victims of major attacks in 2017, among which 139 killed,102 wounded and 72 kidnapped. As per report **South Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan**, **and Central African Republic (CAR)** are proned to such type of attacks and accounted for two-third of the major such incidents.
- **According to the Global Humanitarian Report 2018** Turkey is the biggest donor for humanitarian assistance with an amount of 8,070 million US$ in 2017 and Syria is the largest recipient of humanitarian assistance of 2,579 million US$ in 2016.
- As per Global Humanitarian Report 2018 Syria suffered the largest displacement in population with **4 million displaced** people in 2017,**Colombia(6.5 million)** & **Democratic Republic of the Congo (5.0 million)** being second and third respectively in that context.

Indian Context:

- India has emerged as one of the biggest donor country for humanitarian assistance owing its stronger economic growth due to better governance.

- Recently, India has announced to increaseits annual contribution to the **United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA)** from **$1.5 million to $5 million from 2018-19 for a period of three years.**

References:
http://www.un.org/en/events/humanitarianday/

World Biofuel Day

Question: World Biofuel Day is celebrated on-
(a) 10 August (b) 5 August (c) 26 August (d) 12 August
Answer (a)
Related Facts:

- World Biofuel Day is celebrated on **10 August** every year to promote the awareness about **non-fossil fuels (Green or Bio Fuels).**Biofuels are renewable, biodegradable, sustainable and eco-friendly and can be used over conventional fossil fuels.
- This day marks the achievement made by **Sir Rudolph Diesel (inventor of Diesel Engine)** for operating the mechanical engine with **peanut oil as fuel**.

Indian context:

- Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas has been observing this day since 2015.In continuation to this, government celebrated this day at **Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**.Honourable Prime Minister was the Chief Guest of the event.
- Government of India has made appreciable efforts for the advancement of Biofuels. Biofuels will retard the import dependency on crude oil, safeguard cleaner environment, put additional ways to generate income to the farmers and generates employment.
- The biofuels programme is also in synergy with the Government of India initiatives for *Make in India, Swachh Bharat* and enhancing farmer's income.
- **Since 2014** there has been positive growth in the blending of Biofuels.Etanol blending reported increment from **38 crore to 141 crore litres** and Biodiesel blending to 7.6 crore litres since its inception in August, 2015.
- Oil PSUs are also planning to set up 12 Second Generation (2G) Bio-refineries to augment ethanol supply.
- The Government has approved National Policy on Biofuels in June 2018 whose objective is to **reach 20% ethanol blending and 5% Biodiesel blending by 2030**. GST on Ethanol blending has been reduced from **18% to 5%.**

References:
http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=181664