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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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## SUCCESSFULL LAUNCH *of* PSLV C-43



## 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 30th 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 November to 30<sup>th</sup> November) 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.

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# National

## G20 Summit

Question: Consider the following statements regarding G20 Summit:

1. G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.
2. G20 shares about 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the world's population and 3/4<sup>th</sup> of international trade.
3. Argentina is hosting this year's summit and India will host in 2022.

Choose the correct options of the following:

(a)1 and 2 only (b)2 and 3 only (c)1 and 3 only (d)All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The **2018 G20 Summit** held in the city of Buenos Aires, Argentina on 30<sup>th</sup> November and 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America.
- This was the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit held 10 years after the first G20 leader's Summit took place in Washington in year 2008.
- The theme for 2018 summit was '**Building consensus for fair and sustainable development**'.
- In this Summit **three key issues** have been identified for the agenda: the future of work, infrastructure for development and a sustainable food future.
- **India's Concern:**
  - On 30<sup>th</sup> November PM Modi presented a **nine-point agenda** that calls for joint efforts by G20 countries to form a mechanism that denies entry and safe havens to fugitive economic offenders.
  - PM Modi pinpointed that the principles of United Nations Convention against Corruption (**UNCAC**), UNITED Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime (**UNOTC**), especially related to 'international cooperation' should be fully and effectively implemented.
  - Appreciating strategic partners Japan and USA, PM Narendra Modi coined **acronym JAI (Japan, America, India)** which means success.
  - On the backdrop of South China Sea crises, the trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the G20 Summit assumed more importance.
  -
- India suggested the financial action task force should be called upon to assign priority and focus to establishing international cooperation in financial matters.
- On the issue of climate change every nation except the US, pledged the full implementation of Paris Agreement.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also announced that India will host the **G20 Summit in 2022**.



About G20:

- The group of twenty (G20) is a leading forum of the world's major economics that seeks to develop global policies to address today's most pressing challenges.
- The G20 is made up of 19 countries and the European Union.

- The 19 countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.
- The G20 was born out of a meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors in 1999 who saw a need for more inclusive body with broader representation to have a stronger impact on addressing the world's financial challenges.
- The G20 consists of both developed and emerging countries.
- Since 2008 global financial crisis, G20 leader's summit is attended by head of the states to stabilize the world economy.
- Collectively, G20 members represent all inhabited continents, 85% of total economic output, two-third of the world's population and 75% of international trade.
- In 2017 summit was held in Hamburg, Germany; Japan in 2019 and Saudi Arabia in 2020 will host the G20.

**Links:**

<https://www.g20.org/en/g20/previous-summits>

## GSAT- 29

**Question: Consider the following statements in the context of GSAT-29, India's recent communication satellite sent into orbit on 14<sup>th</sup> November:**

1. It was launched on board GSLV- Mk III
2. It is the heaviest satellite launched by India.

**Choose the correct options of the following:**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)Both 1 and 2 (d)Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018, ISRO launched the communication satellite GSAT-29 on board; it is second developmental flight GSLV- Mk III D2 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre at Sriharikota.
- GSAT-29 satellite with a lift-off weight mass of 3423 kg (heaviest satellite), is a multi-beam, multiband communication satellite of India. It has a mission life of 10 years and it is 33<sup>rd</sup> communication satellite built by ISRO.
- GSAT-29 carries Ka/Ku- band high trough put communication transponders which will bridge the digital divide of users including those in Jammu & Kashmir and Northeastern regions of India.
- It is also carrying Q/V band payload, configured for technology demonstration at higher frequency bands and geo stationary High Resolution Camera. An optical communication payload will be utilised for data transmission at a very high rate for the first time.



### **GSLV- Mk III D2**

- It is a three stage heavy lift rocket, measuring 43.494m and weighing 640 tonnes.
- The first stage has two boosters with solid propellant, the second is the core with liquid propellant, and the cryogenic engine forms the final stage.

**Links:**

<https://www.isro.gov.in/Spacecraft/gsat-29>

## Multi Modal Terminal on River Ganga

**Question: Recently newly constructed Multi Modal Terminal on River Ganga at Varanasi, which has been dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, is located on-**

- (a) National Waterways-2 (b) National Waterways-1 (c) National Waterways-4  
(d) National Waterways-3

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 12th of November 2018; newly constructed Multi Modal Terminal on River Ganga at Varanasi was dedicated to the nation by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- The MMTs are being built with the aim to develop the stretch of River Ganga between Varanasi to Haldia for navigation of large vessels upto 1500-2000 tonnes weight with an objective is to promote inland waterways as a cheaper and more environment friendly means of transport, especially for cargo movement.
- The Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) is being implemented on the Haldia-Varanasi stretch of National Waterway-1 (NW-1) with the technical assistance and investment support of the World Bank, at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,369.18 crores.
- The project entails construction of 3 multimodal terminals (Varanasi, Sahibganj and Haldia); 2 intermodal terminals; 5 Roll On – Roll Off (Ro-Ro) terminal pairs; new navigation lock at Farakka, beside other technical assistance.
- **Inland Waterways in India:**
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) formed on 27th October 1986 is the statutory authority under Ministry of shipping in charge of the waterways in India. Its headquarters is located in Noida, UP. There are 111 National Waterways in India.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184630>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pm-narendra-modi-inaugurates-first-multi-modal-terminal-constructed-on-river-ganga/articleshow/66589799.cms>

## CSIR develops Less Polluting Firecrackers named – SWAS, SAFAL and STAR

**Question: Which of the following organisation in India has developed less polluting Firecrackers?**

- (a) IISc (b) CSIR (c) ISRO (d) NASI

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts :**

- The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) scientists have developed Less Polluting Firecrackers named as safe water releaser (SWAS), safe minimal aluminium (SAFAL) and safe thermite cracker (STAR).
- This information has been notified by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Environment, and Forest & Climate Change at a press conference on 29th October 2018.
- These firecrackers are not only environment friendly but 15-20 % cheaper than the conventional types.
- Indian Fireworks industry is over 6000-crore worth of annual turnover and provides employment opportunities to over 5 lakh families directly or indirectly.



- CSIR aims at addressing the pollution concerns at the same time protecting the livelihoods of those involved in this trade.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184462>

## PM inaugurates Kundli-Manesar Section of Western Peripheral Expressway

**Question: Western Peripheral Expressway is primarily associated with which of the following state of India?**

**(a) Haryana (b) Rajasthan (c) Gujarat (d) Punjab**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Kundli-Manesar Section of the Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Western Peripheral Expressway, at Sultanpur in Gurugram district of Haryana.
- He also inaugurated the Ballabgarh-Mujesar Metro Link and laid the foundation stone of Shri Vishwakarma Skill University.
- The **Western Peripheral Expressway or Kundli-Manesar-Palwal (KMP) Expressway**, is a 6-lane (3 lanes in each direction), 135.6 km long Expressway in the State of Haryana. The 53-km Manesar to Palwal section was inaugurated I April 2016 by Shri Nitin Gadkari
- The Expressway covers major cities such as Sonipat, Kharkhoda, Bahadurgarh, Badli, Jhajjar, Manesar, Nuh, Sohna, Hathin and Palwal.
- He mentioned that in view of transforming India 27 kilometres of highway are being built everyday at present, compared to 12 kilometres per day in 2014.
- The Expressway will reduce the pollution in Delhi and surrounding areas as well as it will bring in 'Ease of Living', along with environment friendly travelling.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185835>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western\\_Peripheral\\_Expressway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Western_Peripheral_Expressway)

## NMCG on G Governance

**Question: On which of the following day, World GIS day is celebrated?**

**(a)12 November, 2018 (b)14 November, 2018 (c)16 November, 2018**

**(d)18 November, 2018**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- National Mission on Clean Ganga (NMCG) organized a brainstorming session on World GIS day 2018 on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, in New Delhi.
- '**Namami Gange Programme**', is an Integrated Conservation Mission, approved as 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014 to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution, conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.



- Theme of the session was 'G-governance of Namami Gange through geospatial technology'.
- Objective of the session was to share the knowledge on use and application of geospatial technology for monitoring and management of various activities being undertaken under Namami Gange Programme. It will also provide information current use of this technology related to Ganga basin.
- NMCG and ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre has signed a MoU for the use of geospatial technology in June 2015 and have developed Bhuvan Ganga **geo-portal** and Bhuvan Ganga **mobile app**.
- NMCG has collaborated with Survey of India and are using Geographic Information System (GIS) technology for mapping the Ganga basin in **high resolution** generating **Digital Elevation Models (DEM)**. It will provide valuable information for **identifying the baseline of river flood plains and will make plans for** restoration and preservation. **Critical pollution hotspots** are also easily identified through this technology.
- It uses drone to capture 360 degree view of Kumbh Mela area to identify pollution, sources IIT Kanpur working on project for **Reconstructing the Ganga of the Past from Corona archival imagery**.
- GIS day provides an international forum for users of geographic information system (GIS) technology to demonstrate real world's application that are making a difference in our society.
- The first formal GIS day took place in 1999.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184757>

## National Council on India's nutritional challenge

**Question: Recently third meeting on National council on India's nutritional challenge was held on Children's Day, what is the full form of e-ILA, an initiative related to Poshan Abhiyan?**

- (a) Incremental learning advantage (b) Induced learning approach  
(c) Increased learning aspiration (d) Incremental learning approach

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- e-ILA stands for Incremental Learning Approach, e-ILA is a technology developed to support the field functionaries to improve their knowledge and skills in an ongoing incremental manner.
- The third meeting of national council on India's nutritional challenges as part of Poshan Abhiyan was held at New Delhi. It discussed Action Taken Report on the recommendation of the last meeting and the brief on POSHAN MAAH outcomes.
- Minister of women and child development minister welcomed the decision taken by the Prime Minister to increase the honorarium of Angadwadi.
- She asserted that thrust should be to move faster in achieving a Malnutrition free India and appealed for more focus on nutritious food that should be fed to the Children and beneficiaries of the mission.



**Links:**

<https://www.icds-wcd.nic.in/nnm/NNM-Web-Contents/LEFT-MENU/ILA/ILA-Guidelines-English.pdf>

## India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018

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<http://www.edristi.in/>

**Question: 3<sup>rd</sup> India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 was organized at which of the following places?**

**(a) Shillong, Meghalaya (b) Guwahati, Arunachal Pradesh  
(c) Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir (d) Shimla, Himachal Pradesh**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The third edition of the India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018 was organised on 14-17 November at Shillong, Meghalaya.
- It was inaugurated by the Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad Kongkal Sangma in the presence of Japanese Ambassador to India, Kenji Hiramatsu.
- The four-day long festival was organized by the Forest and Environment Department, Govt of Meghalaya, Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.
- This event celebrates the unique autumn flowering of Himalayan Cherry Blossoms with several cultural events.
- Alongside, there was showcasing of the region's **food, wine and crafts** and several **Japanese cultural events**, a **Japanese Food Pavilion** and a **Higher Education Stall** in partnership with the **Embassy of Japan in India**.



**Links:**

<https://cherryblossomfestival.in/>

## Hunar Haat

**Question: Which of the following ministries organizes Hunar Haat in every district, starting from New Delhi?**

1. **Ministry of Minority Affairs**
2. **Ministry of Culture**
3. **Ministry of Micro, Small, Medium Enterprises**

**Choose the correct options of the following:**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)1 and 3 only (d)All of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Union Minister of Minority Affairs inaugurated Hunar Haat on 15<sup>th</sup> November at India International Trade Fair, Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It is being organized across the country by the ministry.
- This is the fourth Hunar Haat exhibition (from 14<sup>th</sup> November to 27<sup>th</sup> November) is being organized by the Ministry of Minority Affairs under USTTAD (Upgrading the skills and Training in traditional arts/crafts for development) scheme.
- Hunar Haat has significantly encouraged and promoted the rich traditional heritage of master artisans. It has been successful in providing national and international markets and employment-marketing opportunities to master artisans and craftsmen.



## Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184714>

## Govt to set up a National Institute of Inter-faith Studies

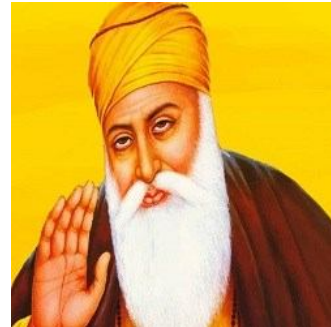
**Question: National Institute of Inter-faith Studies is proposed to be opened in which of the following state?**

**(a) Punjab (b) Gujarat (c) Karnataka (d) Himachal Pradesh**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- First-of- its –kind, a Centre for Inter faith Studies will be set up at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar (Punjab), as a part of year long activities to commemorate 550<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Devji.
- This institute will be set up on the lines of the teachings of Guru Nanak Dev advocating brotherhood, diversity and the concept of unity in diversity.
- Guru Nanak Dev was the first of ten Sikh Gurus and founder of Sikhism. He was born in Nankana Sahib, Punjab, Pakistan.
- Nanak's teachings can be found in the Sikh scripture Guru Granth Sahib, as a collection of verses recorded in Gurmukhi.



## Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/national/government-commemorate-550th-birth-anniversary-shri-guru-nanak-devji>

## Two important North East Circuits under Swadesh Darshan inaugurated

**Question: Recently two important North East Circuits under 'Swadesh Darshan Scheme' of Central Tourism Ministry were inaugurated in which of the following state?**

**(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Tripura (c) Assam (d) Meghalaya**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2018 two important projects "Development of North East Circuits: Bhalukpong- Bomdila – Tawang Project & Nafra- Seppa- Pappu, Pasa, Pakke Valleys- Sangdupota- New Sagalee- Ziro- Yomcha Project " under Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism, Government of India were inaugurated at PTSO Lake in Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh.
- These projects were jointly inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (IC) Tourism, Shri K.J. Alphons and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, Shri Pema Khandu.
- In year 2017, Foreign Tourist Arrivals **registered a growth of 16.7% over 2016** in North- Eastern region while the Domestic Tourist Visits registered impressive double digit growth of 22.8% over 2016.
- The facilities developed under this project includes Helipad, Wayside amenities, trekking trails, Rafting Centre, Log Huts, craft bazaar, Eco Park, Tourist facilitation centres, parking, multipurpose Hall, festival ground etc.
- About Swadesh Darshan Scheme:



- **Swadesh Darshan is a central-sector** scheme of the Ministry of Tourism (Government of India) launched in 2014-15 for development of thematic circuits in the country in a planned and prioritized manner.
- This scheme is envisioned to synergies with other Government of India schemes like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realize its potential.
- The Ministry has sanctioned **73 projects worth projects for Rs. 5873.99 Crore** to 30 States and UTs.
- Tourism in North-Eastern Region:
- Development of Tourism in North Eastern Region is prime area of focus for the Ministry of Tourism because of regions diversity, tourism products and its rich culture.
- The **Ministry has sanctioned 16 projects for Rs. 1349.04 crores covering all North Eastern States under its schemes of Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD.**
- The Ministry organizes International Travel Mart every year in one of the North eastern state with an objective of providing platform to North Eastern States to showcase their tourism potential to perspective international and domestic buyers and opportunity to interact with them.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1552846>

## Kulgod got title of the most developed village

**Question: Which of the following village got the most developed village title under the central government's Antyodaya scheme?**

**(a) Kulgod (b) Munsari (c) Mawlynnong (d) Dharnai**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Kulgod village located on the banks of Ghatprabha River in Belgaum district, of Karnataka got the award of India's best developed village under Antyodaya Yojna. There are a total of 5200 voters in this village having a population of 7 thousand.
- This village has received 94 out of 100 points in survey carried out on 47 parameters like Infrastructure, Financial Inclusion, Women Empowerment, Health and Education.
- It is a prosperous village well-equipped with Gram Panchayat office, branches of two national banks, one co-operative bank, one BSNL center, government primary school, and three private high schools, one of the vigilance customer care centers, one veterinary clinic, one primary health center and one ATM.
- In this village agriculture is the base of economy which is irrigated by Ghatprabha right bank canal and Rameshwar lift irrigation project.



**Links:**

<https://m.dailyhunt.in/news/india/english/news+crab-epaper-newcrb/the+most+developed+village+title+goes+to+kulgod+belgaum+karnataka-newsid-99522706https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/beautiful-kulgod-is-the-best-village/article25253342.ece>

## 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA



**Question: Which city hosted the 10th Edition of BIOFACH INDIA?**

**(a)Chennai (b)Bangalore (c)Ahmedabad (d)New Delhi**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The tenth edition of BIOFACH INDIA, India's Largest International Trade Fair on Organic Products was held during 25<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> October 2018 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi, India. Union Minister for Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the event.
- It was organized by **Nuernberg Messe India** and **APEDA (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, Ministry of Commerce and Industry** and supported by the **Indo-German Chamber of Commerce**.
- The theme of the conference was **“Enhancing export of organic products trade from India – strategies and synergies”**.
- Direct display of items and business opportunities for producers of organic food products was provided. 150 exhibitors, 150 conference delegates and more than 60 international buyers from 15 countries participated in the exhibition cum international conference and buyer-seller meet.
- Indian organic products including tea, spices, honey, basmati rice, coffee, cereals, dry fruits, vegetables, processed foods and medicinal plants were showcased and discussed about.



**India's Perspective:**

- Indian organic food market is projected to grow at a **Compound Annual Growth Rate CAGR** of over 23% by 2023 .As per statistics India produced around 1.67 million MT (2017-18) of certified organic products.
- India holds a unique position among 172 countries practicing organic agriculture: it has 6,50,000 organic producers, 699 processors, 669 exporters and 7,20,000 hectares under cultivation.
- The organic food export realization during 2017-18 was around **INR 3453.48 crore (44 million USD)**. Organic products are exported to USA, European Union, Canada, Switzerland, Australia, Israel, South Korea, Vietnam, New Zealand, Japan etc.
- The major organic food producing states are Sikkim, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Odisha and

**About BIOFACH World Events:**

- BIOFACH is one of the biggest annual shows on organic products in Nuernberg, Germany which has global presence in not just Europe but USA, China, Brazil, Japan and India.
- **BIOFACH INDIA**, part of the BIOFACH WORLD forum is the only international show on organic products in India at the moment.
- BIOFACH WORLD is represented across the globe by five other BIOFACH events in Japan, the US, South America, China and India, and brings together over 3,000 exhibitors and 100,000 trade visitors year after year.

**Links:**

[http://biofach-india.com/new\\_sdetails.aspx?pressid=pressRe1&id=new\\_s](http://biofach-india.com/new_sdetails.aspx?pressid=pressRe1&id=new_s)

## Power consumption status

**Question: Which of the following states is at the top in power consumption?**

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Maharashtra (d) Telangana

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Telangana state is the largest consumer of power in the country and has the highest per capita power consumption. It recorded 13.62 % growth rate.
- The Central Electricity Authority has announced details of the progress of several states in the power sector for 2017-18.
- Uttar Pradesh registered a growth rate of 11.92 per cent per cent and stood on second position.
- Andhra Pradesh's growth rate of 7.43 per cent in power consumption puts it in third position.
- Maharashtra is at fourth place with 7.4 per cent growth rate.
- Telangana is offering round the clock, 24 hour free power supply to the agriculture sector and various other consumer categories including industries.
- The per capita power consumption in Telangana state has shot up by 59.3 per cent to 1,727 units as against 1084 units during 2013-14.



**Links:**

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/031118/telangana-is-largest-power-consumer.html>

## International Film Festival of India, 2018

**Question: At which of the following place this year's International Film Festival of India will be held?**

(a) Bengaluru (b) Goa (c) Mumbai (d) New Delhi

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 49th International Film Festival of India, IFFI 2018 will be held in Goa from 20th to 28th November, 2018.
- The festival will showcase 212 films from over 68 countries. International competition section has 15 films out of which 3 are Indian.
- World Panorama section has 67 films which includes 4 World Premiers, 2 International Premiers, 15 Asia Premiers and 60 India Premiers. This year World Panorama section presents 15 films.
- The festival will open with World Premiere of 'The Aspern Papers'.
- A Special Package for Visually Impaired Children will be organised under which movies 'Sholay' and 'Hichki' will be showcased.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355012>

## Cabinet approves six airports to lease on PPP basis

**Question: Which of the following Airports is not among the one chosen for leasing out on PPP basis?**

(a) Varanasi (b) Lucknow (c) Guwahati (d) Ahmedabad

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Union Cabinet has approved to lease out six airports on PPP (public private partnership) basis through Public Private Partnership Appraisal committee (PPPAC) for operation, management and development.
- The chosen airports are Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Guwahati, Thiruvananthapuram and Mangaluru.
- Presently, the airports being managed under the PPP model include Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Cochin.
- An empowered group of secretaries headed by CEO, NITI Aayog along with Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation; Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs and Secretary, Department of Expenditure to decide on any issue beyond the scope of PPPAC.

**Benefits:**

- PPP in infrastructure projects brings efficiency in service delivery, expertise, enterprise and professionalism apart from harnessing the needed investment in the public sector.
- The PPP in airport infrastructure projects has brought world class infrastructure, timely services to passengers, augmenting revenue stream to the airport.



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552167>

## India's first engine-less train

**Question: India's first engine-less train developed by Integral Coach Factory is known by the name-**

(a)Train 20 (b)Train 16 (c)Train 18 (d)Train 29

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 29, 2018; the country's first engine-less train, Known as Train 18, will be tested on the tracks. After trial outside factory it will be handed over to Research Design and Standards Organisation (RDSO) for further trials. Train 18 is developed by Chennai-based Integral Coach Factory in 18 months.
- Widely regarded as the successor to the Shatabdi Express the train is capable of running at a speed of 160 kmph and comes with technical features for enhanced quick acceleration
- According ICF General Manager Sudhanshu Mani the prototype of the train cost nearly Rs 100 crore.
- This train is run by a self-propulsion module without a separate engine. Train 18 has diffused lighting, automatic doors and footsteps besides GPS-based Passenger Information System. The swanky 16-coach prototype without a locomotive (engine) will reduced the travel time upto 15 % as compared to the Shatabdi.



**Links:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/train-18-indias-first-engine-less-train-to-hit-the-tracks-on-october-29/story/286324.html>

## Gujarat's first Mega Food Park

**Question: Recently in October, 2018, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in which of the following state?**

**(a)Haryana (b)Gujarat (c)Himachal Pradesh (d)Uttar Pradesh**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018; Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated the first Mega Food Park in Gujarat.
- Promoted by M/s Gujarat Agro Infrastructure Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd the Park is located at Village Shah and Vasravi, Taluka Mangrol, District Surat.
- A 2<sup>nd</sup> Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Mehsana District of Gujarat.
- The Gujarat Agro Mega Food Park will benefit the people of Surat District and the people of nearby Districts of Navsari, Tapi, Narmada & Bharuch.
- This Mega Food Park has been set up in 70.15 acre of land at a cost of Rs. 117.87 crore.
- Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing along the value chain **from farm to market** with strong forward and backward linkages through a cluster based approach. Common facilities and enabling infrastructure is created at **Central Processing Centre(CPC)** and facilities for primary processing and storage is created near the farm in the form of **Primary Processing Centers (PPCs)** and **Collection Centers (CCs)**.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5,000 persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.
- A total of 42 Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned so far by MoFPI in six phases.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184440>

## Environmental Cooperation among BRICS Nations

**Question: At which of the following place the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit held in July, 2018?**

**(a)Johannesburg, South Africa (b)Yekaterinburg, Russia (c)Brasilia, Brazil (d)Ufa, Russia**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- According to PIB Press Release posted on 24 October 2018 MoU signed among the BRICS Nations on Environmental Cooperation has got ex-post facto approval from the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- India had signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on Environmental Cooperation during the 10<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit in July, 2018 in Johannesburg, South Africa.



- The areas of cooperation which this MoU identifies are Air quality, Water Biodiversity, Climate Change and Waste Management.
- It also focuses on Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals and other areas of cooperation as mutually agreed upon by the Participants.
- The Memorandum of Understanding is expected to bring in the latest technologies and best practices suited for bringing about better environment protection, better conservation, and better management of climate change and wildlife protection/conservation through both public and private sectors.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184331>

## India wins Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management Award, 2018

**Question:** The program “Unnayan Banka” is related to which of the following states of India?

**(a)Odisha (b)Bihar (c)Madhya Pradesh (d)Maharashtra**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The initiative entitled “**Unnayan Banka**-Reinventing Education Using Technology of Banka District; State of Bihar has been awarded under the Category “Innovation Incubation”.
- **Unnayan Banka** is an initiative which envisages “Quality education for all’ especially for those at the bottom of the Pyramid, using latest technologies. It’s a holistic model of overall development of youths from Education to Employability.
- CAPAM has been announcing its International Innovations Awards (IIA) Programme bi-annually, since 1998. Government of India had sent entries for CAPAM International Innovations Awards, 2018 under various categories.
- Another initiative entitled “**Unified Agriculture Markets**” of Co-operation Department of Government of Karnataka has also been selected under the Category ‘**Innovation in Public Service Management**’. This initiative has also been awarded the overall Gold Award for CAPAM Awards, 2018.



**About CAPAM:**

- Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM) is a non-profit association.
- It represents an international network of over 1100 senior public servants, Heads of Government, leading academics and researchers located in over 50 different countries across the Commonwealth.
- The Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions are an institutional member of CAPAM.
- The CAPAM Awards celebrate the spirit of innovation in the public service by recognizing organizations that have made significant contributions to improve governance and services in the public sector.

**Links :**

<http://www.edristi.in/>

## India's largest Dry Dock at Cochin Shipyard

**Question: At which of the following place India's largest Dry Dock is being constructed?  
(a)Cochin (b)Madurai (c)Vishakhapatnam (d)Surat**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018; Shri Nitin Gadkari to lay the foundation for India's largest Dry Dock at **Cochin Shipyard**. This Dry Dock will give an impetus to **Make in India** initiative under Sagarmala and raise India's share in global shipbuilding to 2 percent. India currently occupies 0.66 % share in global shipbuilding market.
- Presently, Cochin Shipyard has two dry docks. The new Dry Dock is being constructed at a cost of Rs 1799 Crore. It will be 310 m long, 75m wide, with a depth of 13 m and draught of 9.5m. The dock will be designed to handle both ship building and repairs, and bear a load up to 600 T/m. It will be equipped with international safety standards. The dock will also have a water treatment plant and Green Belt Development.
- Equipped with this Dry Dock, Cochin Shipyard will be able to build specialized and technologically advanced large vessels like LNG Carriers, drill ships, jack up rigs, large dredgers, aircraft carriers for Indian Navy and high end research vessels. It will also help make Cochin a one stop maritime hub for all repair needs in South East Asia.
- The project is expected to be completed by **May 2021** and generate employment opportunities for about 2000 people.
- **Two 500** capacity passenger vessels built by CSL for Andaman and Nicobar Islands administration will also be launched on the occasion. These vessels will help enhance intra island connectivity.



Other Popular Shipyards of India are as follows:

- **Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers**, Kolkata.
- **Hindustan Shipyard Limited**, Visakhapatnam
- **Goa Shipyard Limited**
- **Mazagaon Dock Limited**, Mumbai
- **Cochin Shipyard Limited**
- **Naval Dockyard** (Bombay)
- **Naval Dockyard** (Visakhapatnam)
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust**(Navi Mumbai)

**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184442>

## Agriculture budget of India has been enhanced by 74.5%

**Question: Budget outlay of the agriculture sector in India has been enhanced by how much percent for the period 2014-2019?**

**(a)5% (b)8% (c)5% (d)5%**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Shri Radha Mohan Singh, budget outlay of the agriculture sector



has been enhanced by 74.5% to Rs 2,11,694 crore during 2014-2019 as compared to Rs 1,21,082 crore during 2009-2014. He notified this on the occasion of inauguration of Krishi Kumbh by, at Lucknow.

- To ensure higher gains for farmers, Government is implementing various schemes. **Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY)** is being implemented with a view to promote organic farming in the country, it will improve soil health and organic matter content, and by receiving premium prices, net income of farmer will also increase. Realizing the possibility of organic farming in the northeast, **Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North Eastern Region (MOVCD-NER)** has been initiated.
- The Soil Health Card (SHC) ensures judicious use of fertilizer application thus saving money for farmers. Neem-coated urea is being promoted as it enhances availability of nitrogen to the crop and reduces cost of fertilizer application.
- The **Gramin Agricultural Markets (GrAMs)**, electronically linked to **e-NAM** portal and exempted from regulations of **Agriculture Produce Marketing Committees (APMCs)**, provides farmers facility to make direct sale to consumers and bulk purchasers. Giving further boost to farmers' income, the government also increased MSP of all Kharif and Rabi crops for 2018-19 season by at least 150% of the cost of production.
- **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) & Restructured Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (RWCIS)** provide insurance cover at all stages of the crop cycle including post-harvest risks to farmers at very low rates of premium.

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184398>

## 13th India- Japan Summit Held in Tokyo

**Question: In recently held 13<sup>th</sup> India-Japan Summit, India and Japan have signed the currency swap agreement amounting-**

**(a)\$100 billion (b)\$75 billion (c)\$55 billion (d)\$67 billion**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The Indian Prime Minister visited Japan to attend the annual bilateral summit between India –Japan held on 28-29 October 2018 in Japan.

#### Important aspects of the Summit:-

- The two sides agreed for a **2+2 dialogue** between our foreign ministers and defence ministers to further work towards world peace.
- India and Japan sign \$75 billion **currency swap agreement**. The agreement will help bring greater stability to foreign exchange and capital markets. Japanese investors will also invest \$2.5 billion in India.
- Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj and Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman held the first edition of the 2+2 dialogue with US Secretary of State Michael Pompeo and Defence Secretary James Mattis in New Delhi on 6<sup>th</sup> of September.
- Both the countries have agreed to form **digital partnership** to cyberspace, health, defence, ocean to space.
- Low cost manufacturing is an advantage for businesses, combining with IT industry which is India's strength if come together with Japanese Hardware will work wonders, quoted by Prime Minister Modi.
- India and Japan sign **six agreements**, including on high-speed train and Naval cooperation.

## Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-in-japan-live-updates-shinzo-abe-5422728/?#liveblogstart>

## Mary Kom named as the brand ambassador of 10th AIBA Women World Championship

**Question: What is Magnificent Mary?**

**(a) A species of flower (b) Nick name of Mary Kom (c) Nick name of Maria Sharapova (d) Range of Mount Everest**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Iconic Indian woman boxer MC Mary Kom has been named as the brand ambassador of the **10th edition of AIBA (International Boxing Association) Women's World Championship**. It will be held at the IG Stadium's K.D. Jhadav Hall, New Delhi between November 15-24.
- She is Olympic bronze medalist and five-time World Champion. Mary Kom will be seeking her sixth Women's World Championship crown and second gold at home since
- She hails from Manipur and is nicknamed as **Magnificent Mary**. Mary Kom was nominated by the President of India as a member of the Rajya Sabha, the upper house of the Indian Parliament.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, appointed Mary Kom along with Akhil Kumar as national observers for boxing.



## Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/other-sports/story/mary-kom-bfi-2018-aiba-women-s-world-boxing-championships-1379798-2018-10-31>

## Indian Panorama announces Official Selection for 49th International Film Festival of India, 2018

**Question: The 49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India, 2018 will be hosted by which of the following city?**

**(a) Goa (b) Mumbai (c) Vadodara (d) Bhopal**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- **The 49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India** announced the selection of Indian Panorama films for the year, 2018 to be screened in Goa.
- Film **OLU** directed by **Shaji N Karun** is selected as the Opening feature film of Indian Panorama 2018 while film **Kharvas** directed by **Aditya Suhas Jambhale** has been chosen as the Opening non-feature film.
- The Feature Film Jury of thirteen members was headed by acclaimed film director and screenwriter, Shri **Rahul Rawail** while the Non Feature Film Jury of seven members was headed by acclaimed film director and editor, Shri **Vinod Ganatra**.





- **22 Feature films** and **21 Non – Feature Films** were selected by the respective jury for Indian Panorama section for 48th International Film Festival of India.
- **Four mainstreams** films (Mahanati, Tiger Zinda Hai, Padmavat and Raazi) were also selected under Indian Panorama Section of 49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India, 2018.

LINK:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184490>

## Cleanest Mega Food Parks

**Question: On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018; Smt Harsimrat Badal conferred prizes to cleanest Mega Food parks and cold chain units of the country. Which of the following company was awarded with first prize?**

**(a) Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd. (b) M/s. Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd.**

**(c) Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd. (d) Srini Food Park Pvt. Ltd.**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30<sup>th</sup> October 2018; Smt Harsimrat Badal conferred prizes to cleanest Mega Food Parks and cold chain units of the country. The first prize was awarded to **M/s. Patanjali Food and Herbal Park (P) Ltd.** in Haridwar.
- The second and third prizes were given to **Satara Mega Food Park (P) Ltd.**, Satara District, Maharashtra and **Pagro Frozen Foods Pvt. Ltd. (Cold Chain Project)** in Fatehgarh Sahib, Punjab respectively.
- These prizes were distributed for cleanliness among Mega Food Parks and Cold Chain Units for maintaining, promoting and encouraging Swachhta Culture.
- It is to be noted that these prizes were given on the occasion of Swachhta Pakhwada (a 15-day observance of cleanliness campaign) by the ministry.
- **Swachhata Pakhwada** started in April 2016 with the objective of bringing a fortnight of intense focus on the issues and practices of Swachhata by engaging Central Ministries and Departments in their jurisdiction. **An annual calendar** is pre-circulated among the Ministries to help them plan for the Pakhwada activities.
- The selection of winners was done by **National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management** based on Swachhta Audit conducted by it of 11 Mega Food Parks and 11 Cold Chain Units.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184523>

## Best State in India for teenage girls (TAG Index)

**Question: Which of the following is best state in India for teenage girls in recently released TAG Index?**

**(a) Karnataka (b) Tamilnadu (c) Kerala (d) Andhra Pradesh**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Kerala topped the **TAG Index** which compares the performance of each state based on the status of their teenage girls.



- Kerala is followed by Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur and Himachal Pradesh as the top states. Top three cities were Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru.
- This index is based on the survey of the **teen age girls** (TAG), conducted by **Project Nanhi Kali** and published by Naandi Foundation in 70,000 households across 600 districts in 30 states of India.
- The report of the first ever and largest Teen Age Girls Survey, the TAG Survey was released by Mr Anand Mahindra, Chairman of Naandi Foundation on 25 October 2018 at Mumbai.
- The objective of this survey was to understand what it means to be a teen age girl in India today. What are their aspirations, how dignified and safe are their lives, how much of their potential is being realized? Do they have access to sanitation and menstrual hygiene? The current enrolment in educational institutions, child marriage, open defecation, level of haemoglobin and body mass index, age appropriate schooling, ownership of phones and access to the internet. The ease of going to a police station and filing an FIR, and the ease of living and travelling alone were also scrutinized.

#### Promising trends:

- 81 % girls are currently studying; 96 % of them are unmarried; 70 % wish to pursue higher studies; 74 % wish to work after studies; 73 % wish to marry after 21 years of age.

#### Negative aspects:

- One in every two teenage girls is anaemic; One in every two teenage girls has a low BMI; 46 % use unhygienic materials during menstruation; 40 % of them still defecate in open.

#### Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/kerala-the-best-state-for-teenage-girls-in-india-report/article25323914.ece>

## Udyam Abhilasha

**Question: Which Bank has launched the Udyam Abhilasha Campaign?**

**(a) State Bank of India (b) Union Bank (c) Allahabad Bank (d) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has launched Udyam Abhilasha Campaign in 115 aspirational districts identified by NITI Aayog in 28 States reaching about 15000 youths. The campaign would be running parallel from 3<sup>rd</sup> October to 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 across India.
- SIDBI has partnered with CSC e-Governance Services India Limited, a Special Purpose Vehicle, (CSC SPV) set up by the Ministry of Electronics & IT, Govt. of India for implementing the campaign through their CSCs.
- The objectives of the campaign is to inspire rural youth in aspirational districts to be entrepreneurs by assisting them to set up their own enterprise, to impart trainings through digital medium across the country, to create business opportunities for CSC VLEs.
- This campaign also focuses on women aspirants in these aspirational districts to encourage women entrepreneurship and to assist participants to become bankable and



avail credit facility from banks to set up their own enterprise and making them aware about various initiatives of Government of India like Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, Start Up India (SUI) etc.

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- It will create and strengthen cadre of more than 800 trainers to provide entrepreneurship training to aspiring youths across these district.
- **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI):**
- SIDBI is the Principal Financial Institution for the Promotion, Financing, Development and Coordination of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise (MSME) sector.
- It was founded on 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1990. It is headquartered at Lucknow and has its offices all over the country.
- SIDBI is also taking-up with stakeholders including Banks, NABARD, NBFCs, SFBs, District Industries Centres, and State Govt. etc. to be a part of this campaign and ensure multifold impact.

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183911>

## Poshan Awards

**Question: In which month National Nutritional Month (Rashtriya Poshan Maah) has been celebrated?**

**(a) September (b) November (c) July (d) December**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- The month of September has been celebrated across the 36 States/UTs as Rashtriya Poshan Maah under POSHAN Abhiyaan.
- The awards are being given to sustain the momentum and recognise the effort being put in all levels as also to acknowledge the progress made by states in implementing Poshan Maah under Poshan Abhiyaan Frontline workers, Community groups, PRIs, staff at Block & District level, State Deptt. & Mini stores are exhibiting exemplary effort towards triggering Jan andolan for Poshan Abhiyaan.
- The awards are being given in several categories. These includes field level functionary awards, awards for individually excellence A+++ , village convergence awards, leadership awards, state level awards for best social media campaign, maximum reach across the theme, best innovation use of non conventional methods of spreading awareness on Poshan among others.
- States/UTs have been requested to sort list work of frontline functionaries who have worked tirelessly to make Poshan Maah success and forward the citations to Ministry of Women & Child Welfare.
- The last date for receipt of citation has been extended form midnight of 30th September to 3rd October 2018.
- The Poshan Award Ceremony is likely to be organised in the second week of October 2018 at New Delhi under the aegis of Ministry of Women and child Development.

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183805>

## India's First Multi-Skills Park

**Question: In which city, India's first TVET skill park will be settled?**

**(a) Kolkata (W.B.) (b) Lucknow (U.P.) (c) Bhopal (M.P.) (d) Patna (Bihar)**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$150 million Loan Agreement in New Delhi on 3 October 2018 to establish a Global Skills Park (GSP) in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
- This will be **first Multi-Skills Park** in India, to enhance the quality of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) System in the State and create a more skilled workforce.
- International level of facility will be provided to skilled park for **Vocational & Technical education**, resulting in increase of skilled manpower and generation of employment in the state.
- 10 **Industrial Training Institutes** will be modernized with the assistance of this park.
- This park will consist of core Advanced Training Institutes including the Centre for Occupational Skills Acquisition and the Centre for Advanced Agricultural Training as well as other support services focusing on entrepreneurship, training of trainers, and skill-related research.
- The campus will have training facilities focusing on skills for manufacturing, service, and advanced agricultural jobs, benefitting about 20,000 trainees and trainers.



**Asian Development Bank (ADB):**

- It is a regional development bank established on 19 December 1966, and is headquartered in the city of Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, Philippines.
- The bank admits the members of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and non-regional developed countries.
- From 31 members at its establishment, ADB now has 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- Its main aim is to eradicate extreme poverty in Asia & Pacific region. It assists its member and partners by providing loans, technical assistance, grants & equity investments to promote social & economic development.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183924>

## DigiYatra

**Question: DigiYatra ID is related to the passengers at-**

**(a) Airport (b) Railway stations (c) Bus stations (d) None of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- **DigiYatra** is a biometric based digital processing of passengers aims to bring together entire industry to develop a digital ecosystem that will deliver Indian customers a seamless, consistent and paperless service experience at every touch point of their journey.
- DigiYatra central platform will be operational by **February-end, 2019** and the technology would be first used in **Bangalore and**



**Hyderabad International airports** on a pilot basis. The Airport Authority of India (AAI) will roll out the programme initially at **Kolkata, Varanasi, Pune and Vijayawada by April, 2019.**

- Under the DigiYatra, passenger can get a **Digi Yatra ID** by sharing minimum details like name, e-mail ID, mobile number and details of one approved identity proof including **facial recognition biometric**. Digi-Yatra ID will be shared by passengers while booking ticket. Airlines will share the passenger data and Digi-Yatra ID with the departure airport.
- DigiYatra will provide a pan-India powerful platform for future, adding that airports will have the possibility of providing **innovative services** and **consent based targeted services** in future.

#### Links:

<https://www.governancenow.com/news/psu/digi-yatra-to-be-unveiled-by-april-2019-says-suresh-prabhu>

## STATUE OF UNITY

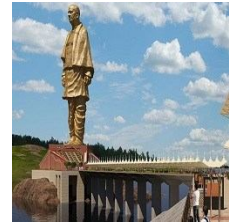
**Question: Where is the tallest statue of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel, known as ‘statue of unity’ recently inaugurated?**

**(a)Ahmedabad (b)Vadodara (c)Narmada (d)Bhavnagar**

**Answer :(c)**

**Related facts:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the ‘**Statue of Unity**’ in Kevadiya town in Narmada district of Gujarat on the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel.
- This project was first announced on 10 October 2010 by the then Gujarat government by a special purpose vehicle-Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel Rashtriya Ekta Trust (SVPRET).
- The iron needed for the statue and other structures was collected from farmers of villages all around India in a form of donation of their used farming instruments.



#### Features of ‘Statue of Unity’:

- **Height**– 182 metres, this makes the statue almost twice the height of the iconic Statue of Liberty in New York.
- **Location**– around 3.5 km downstream from Sardar Sarovar dam, on an islet **Sadhu Bet** on the bed of River Narmada.
- **Cost**– Rs. 2989 crore.
- **Sculptor**– **Padmama Bhushan Ram V. Suthar**, a 93 year-old acclaimed sculptor.
- **Construction period**– 34 months (approx.) work began on December 19, 2015.
- Materials consumed- 70,000 tons of cement, 18,500 tons of reinforcement steel, 6,000 tons of structural steel and 1700 tons of bronze which was used as outer cladding of the structure.
- It is constructed by L&T and has 5 zones of the statue.
- The viewing gallery can accommodate up to 200 people at a time.

#### Prominent tallest statues of the world:

- Statue of Unity (182m) Narmada, Gujarat, India
- Spring Temple Buddha (153m) Lushan, Henan province, China
- Ushiku Daibutsu (120m) Japan
- Statue of Liberty (93m) Liberty Island, New York

- The Motherland Calls(85m),Russia
- Christ The Redeemer (38 m) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

### Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel (Ironman of India):

- Sardar Vallabhabhai Patel, Bismarck of Modern India born on 31<sup>st</sup> October 1875 was the first Deputy Prime Minister of India.
- He was an Indian barrister and statesman, a senior leader of the Indian National Congress and founding father of the republic of India.
- He is renowned as the architect of independent India, as he united all diverse 562 princely states to build one great Republic of Independent India.

### Links:

<http://www.statueofunity.in/>

## RTI: India slips to 6th position

**Question: At what position India is placed in the Global RTI rating by Access Info Europe (AIE) and Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD)?**

(a)2<sup>nd</sup> (b)3<sup>rd</sup> (c)5<sup>th</sup> (d)6<sup>th</sup>

**Answer: (d)**

### Related facts:

- In the recent Global RTI rating of 123 countries India has slipped to **number six** with a score of 128. With 139 points **Afghanistan topped the chart**.
- The survey was carried by **Transparency International India**.
- India was at number 2 when Global RTI rating started in the year 2011. This global RTI rating has been undertaken in a project by **Access Info Europe (AIE) and Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD)**. Access Info Europe is a human rights organization and The Centre for Law and Democracy (CLD) is a non-profit organization.
- Access Info Europe and Centre for Law and Democracy looks at how RTI laws function across countries which have introduced such laws.
- In these rating criteria the list uses 150- point scale to indicate the strengths and weaknesses of freedom of information laws around the world. 85% of the total 123 countries ranged between 126 points out of 150 points.
- The score is based on 61 indicators categorized under seven heads- right to access, scope, requesting procedure, exceptions and refusals, appeals, sanctions and protections, promotional measures.



### Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/rti-rank-india-slips-a-spot-to-no-6/articleshow/66172060.cms>

## Krishi Kumbh-2018

**Question: Krishi Kumbh 2018, an International Conference and Exhibition is being hosted by which of the following state?**

(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Gujarat

**Answer: (b)**

### Related facts:

- The government of Uttar Pradesh in association with the Government of India is organizing a mega Agriculture Expo called “Krishi Kumbh-2018” from 26-28 October 2018 at Indian Institute of Sugarcane Research Lucknow.
- **KRISHI KUMBH 2018** is a high profile conglomeration of farmers, scientists, industrialists, research institutions and policy makers to generate awareness among farmers, to define latest technologies and to showcase the business opportunities in Agro processing for business houses.
- Addressing the event PM Modi reiterated government resolution of doubling the farmer’s income by 2022 and for so a strong system from seed to market is being prepared in the country.



### Objectives of Krishi Kumbh 2018:

- A platform to look for new growth opportunities, and to create awareness among farmers about the latest agricultural technological developments in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, dairying & fisheries, agriculture engineering and post-harvest management.
- To provide offer into UP’s agriculture industry as well as opportunities to invest in India’s biggest state contributing in agriculture. It will help in realizing the needs and challenges of the agriculture industry and joining hands together to find revolutionary solutions for these problems.

### Why Uttar Pradesh? :

- Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of food grains in India and accounted for about 17.83 percent share (49,144.6 thousand tonnes) in the country’s total food grain output in 2016-17.
- Major food grains produced in the state include rice, wheat, maize, millet (bajra), gram, pea and lentils.
- It is worth to note that in 2016-17, Uttar Pradesh is recognized as a major milk-producing state.

### Links:

<https://krshikumbhup.org/>

## Four Himalayan peaks named after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee

**Question: Recently four peaks of Himalayan range were named after which of the following former Prime Minister of India?**

**(a)Indira Gandhi (b)Jawaharlal Nehru (c)Atal Bihari Vajpayee (d)Lal Bahadur Shastri**

**Answer: (c)**

### Related facts:

- Four peaks of the Himalayan range have been named after India’s former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who died on August 16, 2018 at the age of 93.
- Recently Joint expedition called “**Mission Atal**” was taken to mountaineering and scaled these four peaks. This 15-day expedition was led by a team from Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council and Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM).



- The team was flagged off on October 4 from Dehradun by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. The heights of the four peaks scaled by the team measuring 6,557, 6,566, 6,160 and 6,100 metres were renamed as Atal-1, Atal-2, Atal-3 and Atal-4, respectively.
- These peaks are situated on the right flank of Gangotri glacier near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley.

**Links:**

<https://www.india.com/news/india/mission-atal-expedition-four-himalayan-peaks-christened-after-late-former-pm-atal-bihari-vaipayee-3390648/>

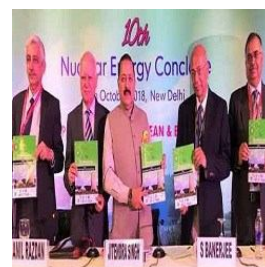
## 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave

**Question: On 25 October, 2018 the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave was organized in-**  
**(a) Jaipur (b) Gandhinagar (c) New Delhi (d) Bhubaneswar**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 25, 2018, the 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave was organized in **New Delhi**.
- The theme of this conference was “**Nuclear Power: Towards a Clean and Base Load Energy**”.
- It was organized by the **Indian Energy Forum (IEF)**.
- The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** inaugurated this conference.
- Addressing the event he said that **Kaiga Atomic Power Station (KAPS), Karnataka** has set a new world record among pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWRs) with one of its units operating uninterrupted for 895 days.



**Link:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184373>

## Sashakt India

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding Sashakt India:**

1. **Sashakt India was recommended by Sunil Mehta Committee.**
2. **Sashakt India is meant for combating large NPAs.**

**Choose the correct options from the following:**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)1 and 2 both (d)Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Sunil Mehta, the Chairman of a Banker’s Panel, said an ‘asset management company’ (AMC) for resolving large bad loans has been formed and will be called as Sashakt India Asset Management.
- With an aim to resolve the problem of stressed assets with public sector banks, the government has come up with a new plan – Sashakt- which includes creation of one or more widely held asset management companies for loans above Rs. 500 crore.





The Government had formed a panel led by Sunil Mehta, the Non-executive Chairman of Punjab National bank.

- He indicated that identifying potential investors for Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) which will fund the AMC. The committee is engaged with private sector banks to become the potential investors.
- The Mehta committee comprises representatives of all major banks, including State Bank of India.

#### Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/sunil-mehta-panel-incorporates-sashakt-india-amc-for-large-npas/articleshow/66637519.cms>

## Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti

**Question: 'Mission- Raksha Gyan Shakti' formally launched by the Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman is related to-**

**i. Self defence**

**ii. Self-reliance in defence**

**iii. To give a boost to the IPR culture in indigenous defence industry**

**Choose answer from above using following code:-**

**(a) Only I (b) Only ii (c) Only ii & iii (d) Only I & iii**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2018; 'Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti' formally launched by the Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi.
- It displayed the Major inventions and innovations done by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) and Ordnance Factories (OFs). Some of the scientists, who invented and innovated useful products for the nation, were also felicitated on the occasion by the Defence Minister.
- A panel discussion was held with participation of Chairman and Managing Directors of all DPSUs to formulate a strategy for the future in this regard. The panel discussed need to migrate from the culture of seeking Transfer of Technology (ToT) from foreign sources to generating Intellectual Property in India, to achieve the goal of self-reliance in Defence sector.

#### Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti:

- It has been instituted by the Department of Defence Production as a part of the ongoing initiatives to enhance self-reliance in defence.
- The mission objective is to give a boost to the IPR (**Intellectual Property Right**) culture in indigenous defence industry.
- 
- Responsibility of coordinating and implementing the programme has been given to the **Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA)**.
- In reality the objective of the programme is to inculcate IP culture in Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

#### IPR (Intellectual Property Right):

- The Intellectual Property Right has come out as the main element in an ecosystem which promotes innovation and ingenuity.
- An IP Facilitation Cell was established in April, 2018, which has industriously worked to attain ambitious goal of training 10,000 personnel of OFB and DPSUs on IPR and facilitate filing of at least 1,000 new IPR applications.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185978>

## Miniratna Status for NPCC

**Question: National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC) has been conferred with the status of-**

**(a)Miniratna (b)Maharatna (c)Dormant (d)Dissolved**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- **National Projects Construction Corporation Limited (NPCC)** has been conferred with the status of **Miniratna: Category-I** by the Government of India.
- The empowerment of Miniratna Status to NPCC will help the company in taking speedy decisions by enhancing the delegation of powers to the Board.
- NPCC was established on 9<sup>th</sup> January, 1957, as a premier construction company to create necessary infrastructure for economic development of the country in the core sectors of irrigation and water resources, power and heavy industries.
- NPCC, which has also been awarded with **ISO 9001:2015 Certification**, is a schedule 'B' **Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE)** under the administrative control of Ministry of Water Resources RD & GR.
- NPCC is currently making continuous profit since 2009-10 with having positive net worth for the last six years and has ambitious business plan with enhanced order book position of Rs. 11833 crore.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185971>

## IFFI screens two films on tiger conservation

**Question: International Film Festival of India (IFFI) 2018 was organized at which of the following places?**

**(a)Goa (b)Mumbai (c)Chennai (d)Delhi**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The **49<sup>th</sup> International Film Festival of India**, IFFI 2018 was organized in Goa from 20<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- Two films on tiger conservation "Gyamo – queen of the mountains" and "Machli – the world's most famous tiger" were screened by the IFFI.
- 'Gyamo – queen of the mountains' critically acclaimed film is directed by Mike Pandey and his son Gautam Pandey highlights the challenges faced by the endangered animal Gyamo, a snow leopard found in Ladakh with her two cubs.



- The second film 'Machli – the world's most famous tiger' is a documentary made by noted wildlife filmmaker S Nalla Muthu traces the life of tigress Machli that once ruled Ranthambore National Park in Rajasthan.

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355941>

## Airsewa 2.0 to provide Chatbot support

**Question: consider the following statements regarding Airsewa 2.0:**

1. Airsewa 2.0 will provide a chatbot for travelers support.
2. Manoj Sinha has launched the service in New Delhi.

**Choose the correct options of the following:**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)Both 1 and 2 (d)Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu launched Airsewa 2.0 in New Delhi on 19<sup>th</sup>
- Airsewa 2.0, the upgraded version of the web portal and mobile app (Airsewa), will provide chatbot support for faster resolution and personalized traveler experience. It will be operated through an interactive web portal and apps on android and iOS platform.
- The Airsewa portal and mobile app were launched in November 2016.
- Further upgrades of AirSewa are also being planned which would include DigiYatra registration, airport maps, BHIM payment integration and grievance escalation and transfer.
- Meanwhile Chennai airport bagged the champion for achieving 100% timely closure of grievances in one year.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184832>

## The 6th Indian Social Work Congress

**Question: The 6th Indian Social Work Congress was held in-**

**(a) Pune (b) New Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Bengaluru**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The 6th Indian Social Work Congress was held in New Delhi (01-03 Nov, 2018).
- The Indian Social Work Congress is an initiative of the National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI).
- It was jointly organized by National Association of Professional Social Workers in India (NAPSWI) and Department of Social Work (Delhi School of Social Work),



University of Delhi. Theme of this meet is Human Development and Social Inclusion: Imperatives for Social Work Education and Practice.

- **Objectives of the 6th ISWC:**
- To provide platform to social work professionals to discuss and deliberate on issues related to human development.
- Engage with issues related to Social Justice and Inclusion, within context of social work education, research and practice.
- Address issues of diverse nature and challenges pertaining to human development and social justice vis-à-vis social work profession in rapidly transforming socio-political and economic scenario.
- Share and exchange experiences of social work educators, researchers and development practitioners to augment networks and coalitions of social workers for strengthening social work profession.

**Links:**

<http://www.napswi.org/cong/index.html>

## Rationalization of Flexi fare system

**Question: with which of the following sector Flexi fare system is related?**

(a) Banking (b) Railway (c) Aviation (d) Manufacturing

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian Railways has scrapped flexi-fare in 15 premium trains in which the occupancy is less than 50 percent throughout the year.
- The scheme will be discontinued in 32 other trains during lean periods (February, March and August) with average monthly occupancy between 50-75% throughout the previous year
- This step came in the wake of a report of comptroller and auditor general (CAG)
- The railway has also reduced flexi-fares from 1.5 to 1.4 times the base ticket fare in 101 trains.
- To increase the occupancy of less patronized classes (2A, 3A, CC etc.), Graded discount of 20% and 10% in the train fare will be given according to the preset rules.



**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/railways-scraps-flexi-fare-from-15-trains-discontinues-it-in-32-trains-during-lean-periods/articleshow/66449612.cms>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184518>

## President of India inaugurates International Arya Mahasammelan-2018

**Question: In which of the following city International Arya Mahasammelan- 2018 was organised?**

(a) Varanasi (b) Gaya (c) New Delhi (d) Ahmedabad

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 25, 2018; the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the International Arya Mahasammelan- 2018 in Delhi.
- This Mahasammelan discussed on the issues such as prevention of superstition,



modernization, women empowerment, tribal welfare, and management of natural calamities. Around 10,000 units of Arya Samaj are engaged in welfare activities across the world.

- President expressed the hope that the Arya Samaj will also work to promote the use of solar and other alternative sources of energy to contribute towards environmental protection.
- Arya Samaj has made effective contributions to promote modern education based on ethics and worked for the upliftment of all sections of society, especially women and the deprived. It has established many schools and colleges in the country.
- It is to be noted that the 150th Anniversary of the Arya Samaj is also going to be celebrated in 2025.

#### **About Swami Dayanand Saraswati:**

- 200th Birth Anniversary of the founder of Arya Samaj, Swami Dayanand Saraswati in 2024.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati (Mulshankar in the childhood) was born in 1824 in a small town of Tankara belonging to Kathiawar of Gujarat in a conservative Brahmin family.
- Swami Dayanand Saraswati was an intrepid warrior of social and spiritual reform. He worked for eradication of discrimination in society on the basis of caste, creed and sect and motivated everyone to become Arya i.e. The Best.

#### **Principles of Arya Samaj:**

- Arya Samaj was established in Bombay on 10th April, 1875.
- Acceptance of the Vedas as the only source of truth. Opposition to idol worship.
- Opposition to the theory of God-incarnation and religious pilgrimages.
- Recitation of the Mantras of the Vedas and performance of 'Havan' and 'Yajna'.
- Faith in female education. Opposition to child-marriage and polygamy
- Propagation of Hindi and Sanskrit languages.

#### **Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184367>

## **International** Global Wage Report 2018

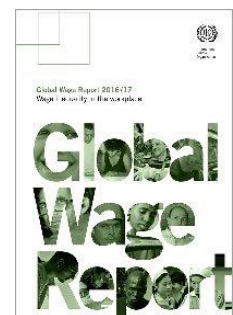
**Question: According to the Global Wage Report released by International Labour Organisation (ILO), at what level India led the average real wage growth during 2008?**

**(a)5 (b)8 (c)5 (d)5**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018; the ILO released its two-yearly Global Wage Report, which stated that in South Asia, India led the average real wage growth in 2008–17 at 5.5 against 3.7 (a regional median).
- According to the Global Wage Report, India was followed by Nepal (4.7), Sri Lanka (4), Bangladesh (3.4), Pakistan (1.8) and Iran (0.4). Global Wage grew by 1.8 per cent in 2017, down from 2.4 per cent in 2016 and the slowest rate since the global financial crisis in 2008.
- ILO director-general Guy Ryder in his report mentioned slow wage growth has become an obstacle to achieving sustainable economic growth. The Report has highlighted that in the past 20 years, average real wages have almost tripled in emerging and developing G20 countries, but they have risen by only 9 per cent in advanced G20 countries.
- Lawmakers in India are examining the possibility of extending the legal coverage of the current minimum wage from workers in 'scheduled' occupations to all wage employees in the country.



**Links:**

[https://www.domain-b.com/economy/general/20181127\\_wages.html](https://www.domain-b.com/economy/general/20181127_wages.html)

## Global Cooling Innovation Summit

**Question:** Recently Global Cooling Innovation Summit was held at which of the following city?

(a) London (b) Paris (c) New Delhi (d) Oslo

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**

- On November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the Global Cooling Innovation Summit was inaugurated by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan in New Delhi.
- First-of-its-kind solutions-focused event, the two-day summit has been organized to explore the avenues to outstay the climate threat that comes from the increasing demand from room air conditioners.
- John Loughhead Vice-Chair, Mission Innovation Steering Committee and Iain Campbell, Senior Fellow at Rocky Mountain Institute also graced the occasion along with speakers from around the world, including innovators, philanthropists, venture capitalists, and other industry leaders.
- **The Global Cooling Prize** has been initiated as an international competition in the two days Global Cooling Innovation Summit for incentivizing the development of a residential cooling technology that will have at least five times less climate impact than the standard Room Air Conditioning (RAC).
- Over the course of the two-year competition will have prize money of US \$3 million for Breakthrough Innovations in Cooling Technology. The prize will be supported by Mission Innovation, the Government of India through the Department of Science and Technology and its partner organizations.



**Some other facts:**

- There are currently 1.2 billion room air conditioning units in service around the world which expected to increase to 4.5 billion by the year 2050. India alone will see over 1 billion air conditioning units by the year 2050.
- Comfort cooling represents one of the largest end-use risks to the climate as it puts the most vulnerable populations at risk and consumes great amount of energy.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184690>

## World's standard definition of Kilogram, Second & Metre redefined

**Question:** World's standard definition of Kilogram, Second & Metre was redefined recently on which of the following physical constants?

(a) Gravitational Constant (b) Planck's Constant (c) Richardson constant (d) Stefan-Boltzmann constant

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**



- During November 13<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> 2018; the 26<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Conference on Weights and Measures (CGPM) was held at Palais des Congrès, Versailles, France.
- This meeting was very special and historic as the members have voted for the redefinition of 130 years old “Le grand K – the SI unit of kg” in terms of the fundamental Planck’s constant (h). The new definitions will come into force on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2019.
- The definition of the seven base units namely, second, metre, kilogram, ampere, Kelvin, mole and candela has been changed from being linked to artefacts to being based on the **fundamental constants on nature**.
- It is to be noted that CGPM is the highest international body of the world for accurate and precise measurements. The CGPM comprises 60 countries including India and 42 Associate Members. India is also a member.
- The metric system was intended to be rational; universal set of units “for all people, for all time”. The **SI unit** will finally be truly universal system, free of any human artefacts.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185840>

## New Caledonia Referendum

**Question: Which of the following Western Pacific Islands (Archipelago) has gone through referendum and decided to stay with France?**

**(a)Palau (b)Samoa (c)New Caledonia (d)Mariana**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, **New Caledonia** went for the polls in a referendum deciding whether they wish to become independent from France.
- Final result showed that 56.4% chose to remain part of France while 43.6% voted to leave. Recent inhabitants (representing 17% of the total of 210,105) who are registered to vote in general elections were ineligible to vote in the referendum, as agreed in the 1998 Nouméa Accord.
- This island is located in the southwest pacific, just east of Australia. This archipelago is a part of the Melanesia region of Oceania. It is a dependent overseas territory of France since it was colonized in 1853.
- This is for the second time New Caledonia has undergone referendum for independence, first it was held in 1987.



**Links:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/nov/01/new-caledonias-independence-referendum-what-you-need-to-know>

## Global Annual Talent Ranking

**Question: What is the rank of India in the Global Annual Talent List released by IMD Business School Switzerland.**

**(a)13<sup>th</sup> place (b)53<sup>rd</sup> place (c)39<sup>th</sup> place (d)50<sup>th</sup> place**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018; a Global Annual Talent Ranking list was released by IMD Business School Switzerland. India slipped two places to 53<sup>rd</sup> China got the 39<sup>th</sup> place in this list. Within Asia, Singapore topped the chart with a global 13<sup>th</sup> place on the list that ranks 63 countries in developing, attracting and retaining talent.
- Switzerland has topped the global ranking, for the fifth consecutive year, followed by Denmark, Norway, Austria and the Netherlands in the top-five.
- The IMD World Talent Ranking is based on countries' performance in three main categories- **Investment & Development; Appeal; and Readiness**. The three categories assess how countries perform in the area of education, apprenticeships, workplace training, language skills, cost of living, quality of life, remuneration and tax rates.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-slips-two-places-to-53rd-position-on-global-talent-ranking-switzerland-on-top/articleshow/66705009.cms>

## 17th ASEAN ECONOMIC COUNCIL MEETING

**Question: In which country 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Community Council Meeting was held?**

**(a)Thailand (b)Indonesia (c)Singapore (d)Malaysia**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 17<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Economic Community Council (AEC) meeting was held in Singapore on 12<sup>th</sup> Nov, 2018 as part of the 33<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN Summit and related summit meetings. The meeting was attended by the ASEAN Economic Ministers and AEC ministers.
- The meeting reiterated ASEAN's commitment to free and open trade by deepening the integration of its economic and realizing the AEC Blueprint 2025 for the long-term growth for the ASEAN region.
- They signed the ASEAN Agreement on e-commerce, concluded the ASEAN Trade in Services Agreement (ATISA) and finalized the fourth Protocol to the ASEAN Comprehensive Investment agreement (ACIA).



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355298>

## Cabinet approves MoU amongst BRICS nations regarding cooperation in the social and labour sphere

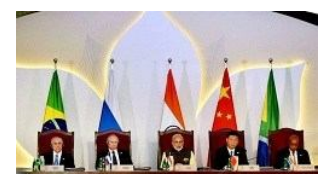
**Question: When was South Africa inducted into BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) to form BRICS?**

**(a) 2009 (b) 2008 (c) 2011 (d) 2010**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- BRICS is the acronym for an association of five major emerging national economies: Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. Originally the first four were grouped as "BRIC" (or "the BRICs"), before the induction of South Africa in 2010.





- The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi gave ex-post facto approval for MoU amongst BRICS nations regarding cooperation in the social and labour sphere.
- The MoU was signed on 3rd August, 2018 during BRICS's Labour and Employment Ministers (LEM) Meeting.
- In the MoU, the parties including India have agreed to cooperate and hold mutual events in the prominent areas viz. labour legislation and enforcement, protection of workers' rights etc.
- The MoU also focuses on vulnerable groups, Employment and Labour market policies, Professional education, skills & training and social protection.
- This would also ensure networking of international Training Centre of International Labour Organization (ILO) with the BRICS Network of Labour Institutes which includes V.V. Giri National Labour Institute of India.
- The BRICS Social Security Cooperation framework will deepen social security cooperation among BRICS nations and would facilitate cooperation for improvement of social security systems and social security agreements among member countries.

**Background:**

- The 2nd meeting of BRICS Employment Working Group was held on 30th July to 1st August 2018 and BRICS Labour and Employment Ministerial meeting took place from 2nd August, 2018 to 3rd August, 2018 under the South African Presidency in Durban, South Africa.
- The Draft MoU between BRICS countries regarding cooperation in the social and labour sphere was discussed, deliberated and finalized in the BRICS EWG meeting held between 30th July and 1st August 2018.
- The MoU was then signed by respective Labour Ministers of BRICS member countries on 3rd August 2018.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184335>

## NGC- 6302

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding NGC- 6302:**

- 1. It is a planetary nebula, commonly known as butterfly nebula.**
- 2. It is 3800 light years away from earth and situated in Scorpius Constellation.**

**Choose the correct options of the following:**

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of the above

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian astrophysicists have discovered large ultraviolet lobes and jets, hurled out from a dying star, using data from Astrosat, the space observatory launched by the Indian Space Research Organization in 2015.
- The discovery has been published in Astrosat Picture Of the Month (APOM) for October 2018.
- Pro. Kameshwara Rao of Indian Institute of Astrophysics and his collaborators used the Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on board Astrosat to study a planetary nebula called NGC 6302.
- When a hydrogen and helium fuel gets exhausted, the star expands in size and becomes a red giant star then it sheds most of its outer layer which expands outwards. The inner core which is made of carbon and oxygen shrinks and becomes hotter. This hot core shines brightly. This glowing ionized gas is what is seen as a Planetary Nebula.
- The Scorpius constellation lies between Libra and Sagittarius to



the east. It is a large constellation located in the southern hemisphere near the centre of the Milky Way.

- ASTROSAT is India's first dedicated multi wavelength space observatory which endeavors for a more detailed understanding of our universe. It enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite. ASTROSAT is launched on 28th September, 2015 by ISRO.
- ASTROSAT observes universe in the optical, ultraviolet, low and high energy X-ray regions of the electromagnetic spectrum.

**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/science/indian-scientists-discover-ultraviolet-wings-of-butterfly-nebula/articleshow/66445833.cms>

## New Prime Minister of Bhutan

**Question: Who has been elected as the new prime minister of Bhutan?**

(a) Lotay Tshering (b) Jigme Thinley (c) Tshering Tobgay (d) Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 19, 2018, Lotay Tshering was elected as the new Prime Minister of Bhutan. He is president of Bhutan's political party Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa (DNT).
- He will replace Tshering Tobgay. First Round of voting was held on 15-09-2018, and the Second Round on 18-10-2018.
- It is significant that the third general election (Election of the National Assembly) was held in Bhutan on 15th September and 18th October 2018.
- In this election, DNT (Druk Nyamrup Tshogpa) got 31.85 percent votes and Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party got 30.92 percent votes.
- While the ruling party People's Democratic Party (PDP) was at the third spot with 27.44 percent of the vote.
- In the 47-member National Assembly, 30 seats were bagged by the DNT party and 17 seats by Bhutan Peace and Prosperity Party.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184274>

## Living Planet Report 2018

**Question: Which of the following institutions /body releases the Living Planet Report?**

(a) UNDP (b) UNEP (c) WWF (d) UNFCCC

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- **Living Planet Report:**
- The Living Planet Report, WWF's flagship publication released every two year, is a comprehensive study of trends in global biodiversity and the health of the planet.
- This is the 12th edition of the report and provides the scientific evidence what nature has been telling us repeatedly.
- Multiple indicators have been used in preparing the Index, provided by Zoological Society of London (ZSL).



- **Key findings:**
- Earth's wild animal population decreased rapidly 60% in 44 years, due to runaway of its consumption, this has triggered a mass extinction and exhausted earth's capacity to accommodate humanity's expanding appetites.
- For fresh waters vertebrates, losses topped 80%, geographically; South and Central America have been hit hardest.
- Index tracks more than 4,000 species spread across nearly 17,000 populations.
- Birds, mammals, amphibians, corals and cycads species are showing a trend towards oblivion.
- Nearly 20% of the Amazon rainforest, the world's largest, has disappeared in five decades.
- The earth is estimated to have lost about half of its shallow water coral reefs in past 30 years.
- Globally nature provides services worth \$125 trillion a year, while also helping ensure the supply of fresh air, clean water, food, energy, medicines, and much more. Everything that has built modern society is provided by nature and, increasingly, research demonstrates the natural world's incalculable importance to our health, wealth, food and security.

#### **WWF**

- The World Wide Fund for Nature is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961. Its headquarters is located at Gland, Switzerland.
  - WWF is one of the world's largest and most experienced independent conservation organizations, with over 5 million supporters and a global network active in more than 100 countries.
  - WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans can live in harmony with nature.
  - Conserving the world's biological diversity, ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable, and promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption.
- Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London)
- It was founded in 1826, ZSL (Zoological Society of London), is an international conservation charity, with a vision of a world where wildlife thrives. This Society is working every day to achieve this, through science, field conservation around the world and to inspire, inform and empower people to stop wild animals going extinct.
  - **Its priority areas:**
  - **WILDLIFE & PEOPLE:** Fostering sustainable relationships between wildlife and people – because people thrive when wildlife thrives. **WILDLIFE HEALTH:** Ensuring the health of wildlife, improving the health of people and the environment. **WILDLIFE BACK FROM THE BRINK:** Bringing the most threatened species back from the brink of extinction.

#### **Links:**

[https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/LPR2018\\_Full%20Report.pdf](https://www.wwf.org.uk/sites/default/files/2018-10/LPR2018_Full%20Report.pdf)

## India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2018

**Question: 38th edition of India International Trade Fair assumes special significance as it marks the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of-**

(a) Pt Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Mahatma Gandhi (c) JRD Tata (d) G.D Birla

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14th November 2018, the 38th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) 2018 started in Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by the Minister of State for Commerce & Industry, C.R. Chaudhary.



- This fair is the flagship event of India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) and will continue from 14th to 27th November 2018. This year's theme of IITF is "Rural Enterprises in India".
- Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is partner country, while Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal is focus country, and the focus state is Jharkhand for this edition of India International Trade Fair; it marked the beginning of the 150th birth anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The fair also showcases various initiatives of the Government of India like Make in India, Startup India, Digital India, Skill India and Swachh Bharat; all States, Government Organizations and other stakeholders exhibited the vision 'Sab ka Saath, Sab ka Vikas'.
- The Fair has registered foreign participation from Afghanistan, China, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan, Iran, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Turkey, Tunisia, Vietnam and UAE.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184740>

## Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas

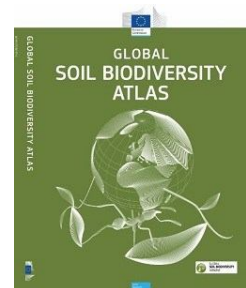
**Question: India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity according to the study published by-**

(a) Geological Survey of India (b) WWF (c) ISFR- 2017 (d) Forest Survey of India

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity according to the study published by WWF through its Global Soil Biodiversity Atlas. It is recently prepared by World Wide Fund for nature (WWF).
- This atlas is a collection of images, text and figures depicting the importance of soil biology. The atlas was released as part of WWF's bi-annual Living Planet Report (LPR) 2018.
- Big threat to soil biodiversity and pollinators (bees and other flying insects) is highlighted in report (LPR). The 2018 report found a "decline of 60% in population sizes" of vertebrate species overall from 1970 to 2014.
- Pollution and nutrient over-loading, over grazing, intensive agriculture, fire, soil erosion, desertification and climate change are the various reasons for listing India among countries whose soil biodiversity faces the highest level of risk.
- WWF report also made it clear that India's high population made it vulnerable to an ecological crisis although its per capita ecological footprint was less than 1.75 hectares/person.
- The Living Planet Report is the world's leading, science-based analysis on the health of our planet and the impact of human activity. Humanity's demands exceed the Earth's capacity to sustain us.
- This report is published every two years by the World Wide Fund for Nature since 1998.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/india-among-nations-that-face-grave-danger-to-soil-biodiversity/article25374860.ece>

## Ease of Doing Business Report 2019

**Question: Recently released Ease of Doing Business Report by World Bank, India is ranked?**

(a) 100 (b) 85 (c) 77 (d) 74

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- India jumped 23 places to the rank 77th in recently released Ease of doing Business Index 2018. This report is released every year by World Bank since 2006. In the last two years the country has climbed 53 notches.
- New Zealand have top the list and Somalia is at the bottom among 190 countries across the world. These countries are judged in 10 indicators ranged across the lifestyle of a business from 'starting a business' to 'resolving insolvency'.
- India features among the report's list of top 10 improvers for the second year in a row.
- The reforms India has undertaken in streamlining the process of obtaining a building permit; improving building quality controls; consolidation of multiple application forms; introduction of GST; strengthening access to credit; infrastructure development to promote trade and business; logistics and supply chain centered initiatives; overall fiscal reforms including insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC).



**Ease of doing Business:**

- In ease of doing business index five main pillars of business are taken into account namely
  1. Starting a business; 2. Getting a location; 3. Accessing finance; 4. Dealing with day to day operations; 5. Operating in a secure business environment.
- There are 11 indicators are taken into consideration while measuring these 5 pillars:
  1. Starting a business; 2. Labour market regulation; 3. Dealing with construction permits; 4. Getting electricity; 5. Registering property; 6. Getting credit; 7. Protecting minority investors; 8. Trading across borders; 9. Paying taxes; 10. Enforcing contracts & 11. Resolving insolvency.

**Links:**

<http://www.doingbusiness.org/>

## Michael D Higgins re-elected as Irish president

**Question: Who has been elected as the President of Ireland in recently held election?**

**(a) Michael D. Higgins (b) Peter Casey (c) Joan Freeman (d) Gavin Duffy**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- **Veteran Independent politician Michael D. Higgins has been re-elected for second term as the President of Ireland attaining 55.51 percent of total votes. He was elected in the year 2011 for the first time.**
- The election for the President of Ireland took place on 26<sup>th</sup>
- Independent candidate Peter Casey secured second position in the presidential elections with 23% votes.
- It is worth to note that the term of President in Ireland is of 7 years.
- The President of Ireland is elected through proportional representation – single transferable vote. All Irish citizens entered on the current electoral register are eligible to vote.



**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-45999270>

## 27th BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change

**Question: The 27<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was hosted by which of the following city?**

**(a) Cape Town (b) Shanghai (c) New Delhi (d) Rio de Janeiro**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 27<sup>th</sup> BASIC Ministerial Meeting on Climate Change was held in New Delhi, India, on 19-20 November, 2018. The group consists of newly industrialized countries – Brazil, South Africa, India and China.
- The meeting focused on climate affairs was chaired by Dr Harsh Vardhan, Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of India along with other dignitaries.



### **Outcomes of the Meeting:**

- The meeting emphasized deep concern for climate change and reaffirmed its commitment to the successful implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention (UNFCCC), its Kyoto Protocol and its Paris Agreement. The meeting stood firmly to promote a global green and low carbon transition and economical civilization.
- BASIC group will continue to remind developed countries about their earlier commitment to provide \$100 billion annually from 2020.
- The participating BASIC countries also requested developed countries to take actions to fill pre-2020 implementation gaps by 2023 which according to them can be used for first Global Stocktake (GST).
- Brazil will be hosting the next BASIC Meeting.

### **About Global Stocktake:**

- 'Global Stocktake' as referred in Article 14 of Paris Agreement, proposed five-yearly review of the impact of countries' climate change actions.
- Under the Paris Agreement, the first global stocktake will happen in 2023.
- It will assess whether the net result of the climate actions being taken was consistent with the goal of keeping the increase in global average temperature below 2 degree Celsius and to limit the increase to 1.5°C, since this would substantially reduce the risks and effects of climate change.

### **About BASIC:**

- BASIC Group (Brazil, South Africa, India and China) is a geopolitical alliance constituted in November 2009.
- BASIC Group acts as a bloc in the negotiations under the auspices of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The group is working to define a common position on emission reductions and climate aid money, and to try to convince other countries to sign up to the Copenhagen Accord.

### **Links:**

<https://www.gov.za/speeches/environmental-affairs-conclusion-27th-basic-ministerial-meeting-climate-change-20-nov-2018>

## Iranian oil crisis

**Question:** Consider the following statements regarding recent Iranian oil crisis:

1. Iran is the third largest supplier of crude oil to India
2. India and China are amongst 8 nations which got exemption from ban
3. Iran is the second largest producer of petroleum oil in the world.

**Choose the correct options of the following:**

**(a)1 and 2 only (b)2 and 3 only (c)1 and 3 only (d)All of the above**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- India is one of the countries to receive temporary exemptions from U.S. sanctions on Iran that came into effect on 3<sup>rd</sup>. Ban was imposed on Iran by America a few months back over the issue of **Iranian Nuclear Deal** which included permanent end of Iran's nuclear weapons programme, stop enrichment and closing down its heavy water reactor. Iran has to also stop proliferating ballistic missiles, and end support to 'terrorist' groups.
- Other countries which have got exemptions are China, India, Italy, Greece, Japan, Greece, South Korea, Taiwan and Turkey.
- Iran is India's third largest supplier of oil after Saudi Arabia and Iraq.
- Iran is fifth in production of oil in world whereas US is leading the global production.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/india-china-among-8-countries-allowed-to-buy-iranian-oil-mike-pompeo/article25429069.ece>

## Changsha Declaration

November 22, 2018 Devendra Yadav

**Question:** Changsha Declaration, which has been signed by 26 countries and 11 International Organizations in China, aims for-

**(a)Space Exploration (b)Global warming (c)Terrorism Elimination (d)Agricultural and rural development**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 2 November 2018, the Ministerial Forum on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture (MFASSC) was held in Changsha, Hunan.
- The forum was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).
- This was held under the theme, "2030 Sustainable Development Goals: New Opportunities for Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture" to stamp out poverty and hunger.



- During the forum, the Changsha Declaration on Global South-South Cooperation in Agriculture was adopted.
- The Changsha Declaration, formalized in the held forum, sets out plans to include South-South cooperation principles into national policies and programmes, and was agreed to by 26 countries and 11 international organizations.
- The result of this Ministerial Forum will provide new momentum for international development cooperation, and will be an important contribution to the second UN Conference on South-South Cooperation (BAPA+40) to be held in Argentina next year.

### South-South cooperation (SSC):

- In 1974, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the establishment of a special unit within the United Nations Development Programme – United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC).
- **South-South cooperation** is a broad framework for collaboration among countries of the South in the political, economic, social, cultural, environmental and technical domains.

### Links:

[http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201811/t20181107\\_296074.htm](http://english.agri.gov.cn/news/dqnf/201811/t20181107_296074.htm)

## India has been re-elected as the member of the ITU Council

**Question: Recently India has been re-elected as the member for another 4-year term of which of the following organizations?**

- (a) International Telecommunications Union (ITU) (b) Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)  
 (c) North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)  
 (d) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- India has been re-elected as the member of the International Telecommunications Union Council (ITU) for the period another four years (2019-2022). The elections to the council were held during the ITU Plenipotentiary Conference 2018 at Dubai, United Arab Emirates.
  - During the elections, India had secured 165 votes and ranked third among the 13 countries elected to the council from the Asia-Australasia region, eighth among the 48 countries elected globally to the council having 193 member states.
  - India's presence in the ITU council will help the country voice its opinions at a time when global standards for technology are being framed and work around 5G standards is in progress.
  - The country has been a regular member of the ITU Council since 1952.
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU):**
- ITU was founded in Paris in 1865 as the International Telegraph Union. It took its present name in 1934, and in 1947 became a specialized agency of the United Nations.
  - ITU, based in Geneva, Switzerland, is a member of the United Nations Development Group, and has 12 regional and area offices in the world. ITU has been an intergovernmental public-private partnership organization since its inception.

### Links:

[http://www.tele.net.in/view-point/item/download/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=24543](http://www.tele.net.in/view-point/item/download/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=24543)



## World's largest airport terminal under one roof

**Question: In which of the following city world's largest airport terminal under one roof has been opened?**

**(a)New York (b)Istanbul (c )Mumbai (d)Tokyo**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The world's largest airport terminal “**under one roof**” with a capacity to serve **90 million** passengers has been officially opened on October 29 in **Istanbul** on its **Republic Day**.
- The new airport is located near the Black Sea coast on the Europe side of Istanbul. It features two runways, while 114 narrow body aircraft can dock with the terminal building at the same time.
- Phase-1A of the project – Istanbul New Airport – will have a capacity to handle 90 million passenger per year, making it the largest such facility in the world. Overall the first phase has cost 5 billion Euros.
- The new terminal once fully functional by December-end will allow passengers to use its five pier blocks as well as 77 boarding gates and 143 aero-bridges.
- It is to be noted that the airport has been envisioned to have a total capacity of up to **200 million**passengers, once all four phases are completed in the next **10 years**.



**Links:**

<https://odishatv.in/world/worlds-largest-airport-under-one-roof-to-open-in-istanbul-329427>

## 2nd International Conference on Primary Health Care

**Question: 2nd Global Conference on Primary Health Care was organized in which of the following country?**

**(a)Astana, Kazakhstan (b)Amsterdam, Netherland (c)Copenhagen, Denmark**

**(d)Munich, Bavaria**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 25-26 October 2018, Global Conference on Primary Health Care held in Astana, Kazakhstan to renew a commitment to primary health care to achieve **Universal Health Coverage (UHC)** and **Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)**.
- The Conference was held at the Palace of Independence and was cohosted by the Government of Kazakhstan, WHO and UNICEF.
- Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare led the Indian delegation. He emphasized that multi-sectoral action is a key to addressing social and environmental determinants. He also spoke on the theme of the conference: **The future of Primary Health Care**.
- The Conference took place at the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the International Conference on Primary Health Care in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, at which the Declaration of Alma-Ata was issued.



**Declaration of Alma-Ata:**

- The **Declaration of Alma-Ata** was adopted at the International Conference on **Primary Health Care (PHC)**, Almaty (formerly Alma-Ata), Kazakhstan (formerly Kazakh Soviet

Socialist Republic), 6–12 September 1978. It expressed the need for urgent action by all governments, all health and development workers, and the world community to protect and promote the health of all people. The primary health care approach has since then been accepted by member countries of the World Health Organization (WHO) as the key to achieving the goal of “Health For All” but only in developing countries at first. This applied to all other countries five years later

- The **Declaration of Astana** pledged in four key areas: (1) make bold political choices for health across all sectors; (2) build sustainable primary health care; (3) empower individuals and communities; and (4) align stakeholder support to national policies, strategies and plans.

#### THE ROLE OF PRIMARY HEALTH CARE:

- Primary health care (PHC) is an essential part of health care and its main principles are equity, health promotion and disease prevention, community participation, appropriate health technology and multi sectoral approach. Organizational and management key elements of PHC are strategic management, decentralization, coordination and development of strategic systems.

#### Importance and Implementation of Astana Declaration:

- The vision of Governments and societies to prioritize, promote and protect people’s health and well-being, at both population and individual levels, through strong health systems;
- Primary health care and health services that are high quality, safe, comprehensive, integrated, accessible, available and affordable for everyone and everywhere, provided with compassion, respect and dignity by health professionals who are well-trained, skilled, motivated and committed;
- Enabling and health-conducive environments in which individuals and communities are empowered and engaged in maintaining and enhancing their health and well-being; Partners and stakeholders aligned in providing effective support to national health policies, strategies and plans.
- UNICEF and WHO will assist governments and civil society to act in accordance with the Astana Declaration and to encourage them to support the movement. Both organizations will also assist countries to review the implementation of this Declaration in cooperation with other partners.

#### Links:

[https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=14753:new-global-commitment-to-primary-health-care-for-all-at-astana-conference&Itemid=1926&lang=en](https://www.paho.org/hq/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=14753:new-global-commitment-to-primary-health-care-for-all-at-astana-conference&Itemid=1926&lang=en)

### WHO launches first Global Guidelines on Sanitation & Health

Question: Headquarter of WHO is situated in-

(a)New York (U.S.A.) (b)California (U.S.A.) (c)London (U.K.) (d)Geneva (Switzerland)

Answer :(d)

Related facts:

- In order to achieve its goal of universal sanitation coverage WHO has launched the first global guidelines on sanitation and health.



### The new guidelines set out four principal recommendations:

- Sanitation interventions should ensure entire communities have access to toilets that safely contain excreta.
- The full sanitation system should be undergoing local health risk assessments to protect individuals and communities from exposure to excreta – whether this is from unsafe toilets, leaking storage or inadequate treatment.
- Sanitation should be integrated into regular local government-led planning and service provision to avert the higher costs associated with retrofitting sanitation and to ensure sustainability.
- The health sector should invest more and play a coordinating role in sanitation planning to protect public health.

### About WHO:

- The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948, and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland. The WHO is a member of the United Nations Development Group.
- The constitution of the World Health Organization had been signed by 61 countries on 22 July 1946. As of 2016, the WHO has 194 member states: all of them Member States of the United Nations except for the Cook Islands and Niue.
- The WHO is responsible for the World Health Report, the worldwide World Health Survey, and World Health Day. The current Director-General of the WHO is Tedros Adhanom, who started his five-year term on 1 July 2017.

### Links:

<http://www.who.int/news-room/detail/01-10-2018-who-calls-for-increased-investment-to-reach-the-goal-of-a-toilet-for-all>

## IORA Countries adopt Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy

**Question: Headquarter of IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) is situated in which of the following country?**

**(a)India (b)Australia (c)Bangladesh (d)Mauritius**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- IORA member countries adopted Delhi Declaration on Renewable Energy in Indian Ocean Region at 2<sup>nd</sup> IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial meeting held at 2nd Global Re-Invest-India-ISA (International Solar Alliance) Partnership Renewable Energy Investor's Meet & Expo in Greater Noida on 4<sup>th</sup>
- **Delhi Declaration** calls for collaboration among IORA member countries in meeting growing demand for renewable energy in Indian Ocean littorals, development of common renewable agenda for Indian Ocean region and promote regional capacity building.
- It seeks to promote technology development & transfer, strengthening of Public Private Partnership in renewable energy & collaboration among member states of IORA and ISA.
- IORA member countries also resolved to collaborate with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA).



- IORA & IRENA also agreed to undertake expansion of Global Renewable Energy Atlas, world's largest ever joint renewable resource data project, coordinated by IRENA. This will help in creating Indian Ocean's region first & most comprehensive map and data base which can be used to tap sizable renewable energy potential of region & collaborate on opportunities available under International Renewable Energy Learning Platform (IRELP).

#### About Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA):

- Indian Ocean Rim Association (**IORA**) is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean; the organisation was established as Indian Ocean Rim Initiative in **Mauritius** on March 1995.
- It comprises 21 member states (including India) and 7 Dialogue Partners.
- The Objective of (**IORA**) is to promote sustainable growth and balanced development of the region and member states, to focus on areas of economic cooperation which provide maximum opportunities for development, shared interest and mutual benefits.
- It promotes liberalisation, remove impediments and lower barriers towards a freer and enhanced flow of goods, services, investment, and technology within the Indian Ocean rim.

#### Links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian-Ocean\\_Rim\\_Association](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian-Ocean_Rim_Association)

### Longest sea-crossing bridge of the world

**Question: The longest sea crossing bridge of the world was inaugurated by which of the following country?**

**(a)China (b)Japan (c)France (d)USA**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 23 October 2018, Chinese president **Xi Jinping** inaugurated a 55- km long bridge that will escalate the integration of Hong Kong and Macao with the rest of China.
- The **world's longest sea-crossing bridge** will be at the heart of an Integrated **Greater Bay Area (GBA)** covering 11 major neighboring cities, which include Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
- The giant **GBA** comprising 68 million people are expected to rival **San Francisco Bay Area** of the US, as well as the **Tokyo Bay Area of Japan**.
- The bridge has been built to combat super typhoons, a magnitude 8 earthquake, as well as hits by supersized cargo ships.
- It took about a decade to build the \$20 Billion Bridge. It was built using 400,000 tons of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.
- In the past, travelling between **Zhuhai** and **Hong Kong** would take up to four hours – the new bridge cuts this down to 30 minutes.
- This bridge is not a continuous one it has a section **7 km underground sea tunnel** to allow uninterrupted flow of shipping above, along the super busy Pearl River Delta, is also part of bridge's design.



**By Ramayan Upadhyay**

**Links:**

<http://www.edristi.in/>

## Economics

### Support and Outreach Initiative for MSME sector

**Question: Which of the following initiative are taken by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for MSME sector?**

- (a) 59 minutes loan portal to enable easy access to credit
- (b) Mandatory 25 per cent procurement from MSMEs and CPSEs
- (c) Ordinance for simplifying procedures for minor offences
- (d) All of the above

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 12 measures to boost the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) sector.
- It includes a 59 minute loan portal for easy access of loan up to 1 crore and 2% subvention for all GST registered MSMEs. Link to this portal will be made available through the GST portal.
- All central government companies will have to subscribe to Government E-Market place (GeM), and it is mandatory to procure 25 per cent from MSMEs by public sector undertakings. Out of the 25 percent procurement, 3 percent must now be reserved for women entrepreneurs.
- An Ordinance has been brought, under which, for minor violations under the Companies Act, the entrepreneur will no longer have to approach the Courts, but can correct them through simple procedures.
- These are key initiatives taken by the PM-
- Access to credit, Access to markets, Technology up gradation, Ease of doing business, Social Security of MSNE sector employees.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184578>

### Strategic Petroleum Reserve

**Question: At which of the following places Strategic Petroleum Reserves is not located?**

- (a) Jaipur (b) Vishakhapatnam (c) Mangalore (d) Padur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- To ensure energy security, the Government of India had decided to set up 5.33 million metric tons (MMT) of strategic crude oil storage by constructing reserves at three locations namely, Vishakhapatnam (1.33 MMT), Mangalore (1.5 MMT) and Padur (near Udupi) under Phase I of the SPR(Strategic Petroleum Reserves)programme.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the filling of Padur Strategic Petroleum reserves (SPR) at Padur, Karnataka by overseas National Oil Companies (NOCs). This SPR is an underground rock cavern with a total capacity of 2.5 MMT having four compartments of 0.625 MMT each.



- The total 5.33 MMT capacity is currently estimated to supply approximately 9.5 days of India's crude requirement according to the consumption data for FY 2017-18. Government has given 'in principle' approval in June 2018 for establishing additional 6.5 MMT SPR facilities at Chandikhol in Odisha and Bikaner in Rajasthan, which is expected to augment India's energy security by 11.5 days.

**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552160>

## Assent to Promulgation of Companies' Amendment (Ordinance), 2018

**Question: Which of the following ministry is responsible for Companies' Amendment Ordinance 2018?**

- (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (b) Ministry of Finance (c) Ministry of Shipping  
(d) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The centre has promulgated the Companies' Amendment Ordinance, 2018 to promote ease of doing business with better corporate governance.
- President Ram Nath Kovind gave his assent to the recommendation of the union cabinet for promulgation of the ordinance.
- Ministry of Corporate Affairs is responsible ministry for promulgating the ordinance which is based on the recommendations of the committee appointed by the government to review offences under the Companies Act, 2013.
- The main amendment in the act include shifting of the jurisdiction of 16 types of corporate offences from the special courts to in-house adjudication, which is expected to reduce the caseload of special courts by over 60 per cent.



**Links:**

<http://www.prsindia.org/billtrack/the-companies-amendment-ordinance-2018-5489/>

## Core Industries growth in September 2018

**Question: Which of the following is not true regarding core industries in India?**

- (a) steel has the maximum share in IIP  
(b) eight core industries comprises 40.27 percent of the IIP  
(c) highest growing sector is cement industry  
(d) core sector growth has registered 4.3% growth in September, 2018

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The eight core industries comprise 40.27 per cent of the weight of items included in Index of Industrial production (IIP).
- The overall growth in the index can be attributed to the considerable growth in the production of cement, electricity generation, refinery and coal sectors. Crude oil and natural gas were the only sectors to register decline in production.
- The combined IIP of Eight Core Industries for September 2018 grew by 4.3%. The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 127.2 in September, 2018, which was 4.3% higher as compared to the index of September, 2017.
- Its cumulative growth during April to September, 2018-19 was 5.5%.



- **Industries that recorded growth are as follows:**

Coal production	6.4%	Petroleum Refinery production 2.5%
Fertilizers	2.5%	Steel production 3.2%
Cement	11.8%	Electricity generation 8.2%

- **Industries that recorded negative growth are as follows:**

Crude oil	-4.2%	Natural gas -1.8%
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**Links:**

- <http://www.careratings.com/upload/NewsFiles/SplAnalysis/Core%20Sector%20Growth%20in%20September%202018.pdf>
- <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/core-sector-growth-jumps-52-in-sept-fastest-pace-this-fiscal/article9935107.ece>

## India has emerged as the most Investment-Savvy Economy in Asia

**Question: India has emerged as the most Investment-Savvy Economy in Asia, which of the following institution carried out this study?**

**(a)World Bank (b)IMF (c)Standard Chartered (d)RBI**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a study “**The Emerging Affluent Study 2018– Climbing the Prosperity Ladder**” by **Standard Chartered**, India has emerged as the most investment-savvy economy in Asia.
- The study says that over two-third of the country’s affluent class prefers to make use of various investment products to meet their financial goals and greater social mobility.
- The study examined the views of emerging affluent consumers from 11 markets across Asia, Africa and the Middle East.
- About 63% of these people in India prefer investing in financial products as part of their long-term financial plan to meet financial goals and boost their personal wealth. Another popular strategy adopted by these people was career progression and increment in salary (44%), followed by starting a new business (25%) to increase their wealth.
- While approximately 31% of emerging markets affluents in India are choosing **mutual funds** to meet their financial goals, about 25% are selecting **fixed-income investments** and 22% are choosing **equity investments**.



**Standard Chartered:**

- **Standard Chartered** is a British multinational banking and financial services company headquartered in London, England.

- It is a universal bank with operations in consumer, corporate & institutional banking, and treasury services.
- Despite its UK base, it does not conduct retail banking in the UK, and around 90% of its profits come from Asia, Africa and the Middle East.

**Links:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/economy/india-shines-bright-again-tops-as-asias-most-investment-savvy-economy-shows-stanchart-study/1366251/>

## Scientific

### Defense/Science Short Notes

#### SIMBEX 18

**Question: Which of the following country is involved with India in bilateral exercise SIMBEX 18?**

**(a)Indonesia (b)Malaysia (c)Singapore (d)Vietnam**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 25<sup>th</sup> edition of SIMBEX, an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime bilateral exercise” is scheduled from 10<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> November, 2018, off Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
- This bilateral maritime exercise was started in 1994 with training of RSN ships with Indian Navy.
- The 25<sup>th</sup> edition will witness a diverse range of exercises at sea ranging from live weapon drills including multiple missile firings, Heavy Weight Torpedo (HWT).
- This year, the Indian Navy is being represented by the Ranvir class destroyer – INS Ranvijay, two Project 17 multirole stealth frigates – INS Satpura and INS Sahyadri, the Project 28 ASW corvette – INS Kadmat the Project 25A missile corvettes, INS Kirch, the OPVs INS Sumedha and INS Sukanya, the Fleet Support Ship, INS Shakti, a Sindhughosh Class submarine, INS Sindhukirti, the P8I Long Range Maritime Patrol and ASW aircraft from INAS 312, Dornier 228 Maritime Patrol aircraft from INAS 311, Mk 132 Hawk AJTs from INAS 551 and integral helicopters such as the UH3H, Seaking 42 B, Seaking 42C and Chetak utility helicopters.
- The initial harbour phase will be held at Port Blair, the capital of Andaman and Nicobar Islands from 10<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November followed by Sea Phase from 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> November in the Andaman Sea. The second harbour phase from 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November will be held at Visakhapatnam



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552298>



## India-US Military Exercise Vajra Prahar

**Question: Military exercise 'Vajra Prahar' is a joint exercise between India and?**

(a)Japan (b)Russia (c)France (d)United States

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018; the joint military exercise between India and the United States 'Vajra Prahar' commenced in Jaipur.
- Contingent of the United States Pacific Commander and Indian Special Forces will take training at **Mahajan Field Firing** at Jaipur. It will be a 12-day long exercise.
- The contingents of both the country will carry out rigorous joint training in semi-desert and rural terrain to enhance the interoperability of the two armed forces and further the military to military co-operation.
- In this exercise training will be done on different aspects including hostage rescue, building intervention, desert survival, medical aid and combat firing.



**Links:**

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/indo-us-joint-military-exercise-vajra-prahar-commences-in-jaipur/316941>

## Indian Coast Guard launches patrol ship ICGS VARAH

**Question: Which of the following patrol ship is launched by the Indian Coast Guard?**

(a) Saryu (b) Samar (c) Vikram (d) Varah

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- A patrol ship ICGS VARAH has been launched by the Indian Coast Guard to patrol the sea coast.
- It is 98 M series offshore patrol vessels (OPVs) of Indian Coast Guard and it is the third in a series of seven similar ships that are to be handed over to the Coast Guard till March 2021.
- It is manufactured indigenously by Larsen & Toubro at Chennai's Larsen and Tubro Kattupalli Shipyard.
- This vessel is equipped with Integrated Bridge System, Automated Power Management, and Integrated Platform Management High Power External Fire Fighting System. It uses 30 mm and two 12.7 mm guns and can surf with maximum speed of 26 knots. It has an endurance of 5,000 nautical miles.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=354871>

## Supersonic Parachute of NASA for the Mars 2020 Mission

**Question: With its Supersonic Parachute NASA created world record as being able to deploy how much amount of mass aiming for Mars 2020 mission?**

(a) 28000 kg (b) 37000 kg (c) 20000 kg (d) 17000 kg

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On September 7, 2018 NASA launched its Supersonic Parachute in 58-foot-tall (17.7-metre) Black Brant IX rocket.
- Aiming for Mars 2020 mission, with this Supersonic Parachute NASA created world record as being able to deploy 37,000 kg experimental load upon the surface of earth. It is 85-percent higher load than what scientists would expect the Mars 2020 parachute to encounter during its deployment in Mars' atmosphere. The parachute deployed said load at twice the speed of sound just in four-tenths of a second. The parachute made of Nylon, Technora and Kevlar fibres.
- According to NASA, in less than two minutes after the launch of the rocket a payload separated and began its dive back through Earth's atmosphere towards the surface.
- It was the third and final test flight of the Advanced Supersonic Parachute Inflation Research Experiment (ASPIRE) project.
- The ASPIRE tests have shown in remarkable detail how our parachute will react when it is first deployed into a supersonic flow high above Mars.
- The 37,000-kg load was the highest ever survived by a supersonic parachute.

**Links:**

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/jpl/third-aspire-test-confirms-mars-2020-parachute-a-go>

## Satellite Launch to Study Climate

**Question: Which of the following countries collaborated for the first time and launched a satellite to study climate change?**

(a) France and Russia (b) France and China (c) China and Russia (d) India and China

**Answer:(b)**

**Related facts:**

- For the first time Franco-Chinese satellite was launched into orbit on Monday to study ocean surface winds and waves around the clock. It was launched through a Long March Carrier 2C carrier Rocket blasted off from the Jiuquan satellite launch centre in northwest China's Gobi desert.
- It will give a better forecasting of cyclones and improve scientists' understanding of climate change.
- The rocket successfully put the satellite into orbit 520 kilometres (323 miles) above the Earth.
- The satellite is fitted with two radars: French made SWIM which will measure the direction and the wavelength of waves (ocean) and China's SCAT, which will analyse the force and direction of winds.
- The 650-kilogram (1,430 pound) China-France Oceanography Satellite (CFOSAT) is the first satellite jointly built by China and France and will allow climate scientists to better understand interactions between oceans and the atmosphere.
- It will help increase the observation and prediction of catastrophic sea states, such as huge waves and tropical storms, and provide security support for offshore operations and engineering, ship navigation, fisheries, and coastal management.



**Links:**

<https://tribune.com.pk/story/1836499/3-china-france-launch-satellite-study-climate-change/>

## NASA's Dawn Mission to Asteroid Belt ended

**Question: What is the name of largest object in asteroid belt?**

(a) Ceres (b) Vesta (c) Pallas (d) Hygeia

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<http://www.edristi.in/>



**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1st November, 2018 NASA's historic mission Dawn ended and the spacecraft had stopped sending signals, since the spacecraft finally ran out of hydrazine (fuel). Dawn became the first spacecraft to orbit a body in the region between Mars and Jupiter.
- It is to be noted that the Dawn spacecraft launched 11 years ago to visit the two largest objects in the main asteroid belt 4.3 billion miles (6.9 billion kilometers beyond Earth).
- Dawn entered Vesta's orbit on July 16, 2011, and completed a 14-month survey mission before leaving for Ceres in late 2012. It then entered Ceres' orbit on March 6, 2015.
- Dawn collected astounding images and data from Vesta and Ceres and which very useful and critical to understanding the history and evolution of our solar system.

**Links:**

<http://astronomy.com/news/2018/11/nasas-mission-to-vesta-and-ceres-has-ended>

## Longest continuous DNA Sequence decoded

**Question: Recently Scientists from which of the following country have decoded the longest continuous DNA Sequence?**

(a) USA (b) UK (c) France (d) Japan

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Scientists at Nottingham University have decoded the longest continuous DNA sequence to date, measuring around 10,000 times longer than normal sequencing reads and twice as long as the previous record holder. In normal sequencing, DNA is divided into fragments and subsequently reassembled as the sequence is being read.
- The research team, led by Dr. Matt Loose from Nottingham University, used human DNA to continuously sequence 2.3 million base pairs. The most common length of DNA to be read is 150 base pairs. Continuous measurement of DNA was achieved using a "nanopore" sequencing machine.



**DNA Sequencing:-**

- DNA sequencing is a method used to determine the precise order of the four nucleotide bases – adenine, guanine, cytosine and thymine – that make up a strand of DNA. These bases provide the underlying genetic basis (the genotype) for telling a cell what to do, where to go and what kind of cell to become (the phenotype).
- Nucleotides are not the only determinants of phenotypes, but are essential to their formation. Each individual and organism has a specific nucleotide base sequence.

**Links:**

<https://www.iflscience.com/plants-and-animals/british-scientists-break-record-for-decoding-longest-dna-sequence/>

## Indra 2018

**Question: Which of the following countries is involved in joint military exercise (Indra 2018) with India?**

a) UK b) Russia c) The USA d) All of the above

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The annual joint military exercise INDRA 2018 between India and Russia aimed at combating insurgency under the aegis of United Nations (UN) will begin on November 18th, 2018 at Babina Field Firing Range in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh.
- The objective this 10th joint military exercise is to provide an opportunity to the armed forces of both the countries to train in counter-terrorism operations in multinational scenario.  
Key highlights:
  - It will focus on training and enhancing team building, special tactical level operations such as Cordon and Search, house intervention, handling and neutralization of Improvised Explosive Devices and integrated employment of force multipliers in the peace keeping/enforcement environment under the aegis of the UN.
  - This 11 day long military exercise will consists of 250 servicemen 5th Army of the Russian Federation and Mechanized Infantry Battalion of India.

**Links:**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-to-day/gk-current-affairs/story/india-russia-will-host-joint-military-exercise-in-jhansi-up-1389016-2018-11-15>

## India conducts successful Night Trial of Agni-1 ballistic missile

**Question: Agni-1 is a-**

- (a) Surface-to-surface missile (b) Air-to-surface missile (c) Air-to-air missile  
(d) Surface-to-air missile.

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- A night trial of India's indigenously developed nuclear-capable Agni-1 ballistic missile with a strike range of 700 km was successfully conducted on 30th October 2018 by the Indian Army's Strategic Forces Command off Abdul Kalam Island in the Bay of Bengal, off the coast of the Indian state of Odisha. It is a part of a user trial by the Army. The night trial was conducted only for the second time to reconfirm its technological parameters.



**About Agni-1:**

- Agni-I is a short range ballistic missile developed by DRDO in collaboration with Defence Research Development Laboratory and Research Centre Imarat and integrated by Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad.
- Weighing 12 tonnes, the 15-metre-long Agni-I can carry payloads up to 1000 kg. Agni-I missile has a specialized navigation system which ensures it reaches the target with a high degree of accuracy and precision.
- Agni-I was first tested at the Interim Test Range in Chandipur in 1989.
- It is succeeded by the already deployed Agni-II medium-range ballistic missile, the Agni-III medium-range ballistic missile, and the Agni-III and Agni-IV intermediate-range ballistic missiles.

**Links:**

<https://www.drdo.gov.in/drdo/pub/npc/2018/november/din-01november2018.pdf>  
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Agni-I>

## ESA & Roscosmos Mars Rover

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding “ExoMars”**

1. The NASA and Russia's Federal Space Agency have teamed up on ExoMars
2. It comprises of two missions, which includes a trace gas research and communication satellite and a rover.



Select the correct statements

(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)Both 1 and 2 (d)Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: (b)

Related facts

- ExoMars (exobiology on mars) is a two part astrobiology project for evidence of life on mars. It is a joint mission of European Space Agency (ESA) and The Russia's Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos).
- First part, launched in 2016, placed a trace gas research and communication satellite into Mars Orbit and released a stationary experimental Lander.
- ExoMars rover, the (ESA) and the Roscosmos' joint venture to the Red Planet that will set out in 2020, will likely land on Mars' equator called Oxia Planum. The Oxia Planum had housed a massive pool of water in the prehistoric era.
- Another site which was also considered as a likely landing spot was Mawrth Vallis that literally means "a valley on Mars".

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/esa-roscomos-mars-rovers-landing-spot-revealed-5444319/>

## Bilateral Exercise 'Samudra Shakti'

**Question: On 12-18 November, 2018, bilateral naval exercises – Samudra Shakti was organized between which of the following countries?**

(a) India and Oman (b) India and Russia (c) China and Nepal (d) India and Indonesia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 12-18 November 2018, the first ever bilateral naval exercise 'Samudra Shakti' was organized between the navy of India and Indonesia at the port of Surabaya, Indonesia.
- The purpose of this exercise is to strengthen bilateral relations, expand maritime cooperation, enhance interoperability and exchange best practices.
- The Harbour Phase of this exercise was conducted between 12-15 November while Sea Phase was organized on 16-18 November 2018.
- The bilateral exercise will include operations such as Joint manoeuvres, Helicopter operations, Surface warfare exercise, ASW exercise and Anti Piracy exercises.
- From the Indian side INS Rana of the Eastern Fleet based at Visakhapatnam under the Eastern Naval Command participated in the joint naval exercise.
- INSRana is a Rajput-class Soviet Kashin-class guided missile destroyer commissioned in Indian Navy on 28<sup>th</sup> June 1982.



Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/defence/eye-on-china-india-indonesia-navies-to-have-first-ever-bilateral-exercise-samudra-shakti/1380557/>

## Earth Bio-Genome Project

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding Earth Bio-Genome Project (EBP):**

1. This mission aims at sequencing and cataloguing the genome of all living eukaryotic organism only.
2. Till date roughly 0.2% of total complex life forms have their genome sequenced.

**Of the above which is/are correct?**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)1 and 2 both (d)None of the above**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- An ambitious mission, Earth Bio-Genome Project (EBP) was announced on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2018: to map the entire genome of all animal, plant, fungus and protozoan on the earth.
- Decade long process to map the genomes of about 1.5 million species will roughly cost \$4.7 billion. Arguably the most ambitious proposal in the history of biology, will completely transform our scientific understanding of life on earth.
- Till date only 3500 complex life forms, roughly 0.2% of total have their genome sequenced.
- It will provide new resources to cope with the rapid loss of biodiversity and habitat changes that are primarily due to human activities and climate change.
- UK's **Wellcome Sanger Institute** has taken the initiative to come forward to map 66,000 species in the UK. This institute was involved in the Human Genome Project.



**Links:**

<https://www.earthbiogenome.org/>

## INS Arihant

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding INS Arihant:**

1. India became fifth country to have a nuclear triad after its induction.
2. INS Arihant recently completed its maiden deterrence patrol.

**Chose the correct options of the following:**

**(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)1 and 2 both (d)None of the above**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- PM Narendra Modi on Monday received its first nuclear armed submarine INS Arihant, which had successfully completed its first deterrence patrol.
- With this India entered into an elite club of powers with land, air and sea-based nuclear weapons delivery platform.
- Strategic Strike Nuclear Submarine (SSBN) INS Arihant is the first indigenously developed nuclear submarines with Indian Navy. It weighs 6,000 tons. It is able to stay underwater, undetected for longer periods than conventional submarines due to nuclear powered 83 mw pressurized water nuclear reactor.
- The submarine is equipped with K-15 short-range missiles, having a range of 700 km. It also has the K-4 ballistic missiles with a range of 3,500 km.



- Arihant was launched on 26 July 2009 at the ship building centre, Vishakhapatnam.
- India is also working on two more Arihant class submarines at the ship building centre in Vishakhapatnam.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184599>

## Ultra Light Howitzers inducted into the services

**Question: Which of the following Ultra Light Howitzers, light artillery gun is inducted into the services?**

(a) Pinaka (b) Dhananjay (c) Vajra (d) Prahar

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Defence Minister, on 9th November dedicated the globally combat proven M777 A2 Ultra Light Howitzers, K-9 Vajra-tracked Self Propelled Guns to the service of the Nation at Devlali Field Firing Ranges.
- 6x6 Field Artillery Tractors by Ashok Leyland was also inducted to provide replacement to ageing Gun towing vehicles.
- The 155mm, 39 calibre Ultra Light Howitzers have been procured from USA under government to government foreign military sales and will be assembled in India by BAE Systems in partnership with Mahindra defence.
- The gun systems versatile light weight and can be heli-lifted, thereby providing much needed flexibility in deployment in various terrains.
- The first ten K9 Vajra 155mm/52 calibre guns have been imported from South Korea and balance 90 guns will be largely manufactured in India with some major assemblies coming from South Korea.



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1552309>

## Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN- 2018

**Question: Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN- 2018 is a joint military exercise between India and-**

(a) Russia (b) Japan (c) Vietnam (d) Myanmar

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1st November, Exercise DHARMA GUARDIAN- 2018, 14 days joint military exercise between Indian & Japanese Armies, commenced at Counter Insurgency and Jungle Warfare School, Vairengete, Mizoram, India.
- The Japanese contingent is being represented by 32nd Infantry Battalion, while the Indian side is being represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles with 1 platoon strength from each side.
- The exercise will consist of a balance of indoor classes and outdoor training activities with an objective to build and promote army to army relations in addition to exchanging skills and experiences between both the armies.
- Exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018' will be another step in deepening strategic ties including closer defence cooperation between the two countries. It will contribute



immensely in developing mutual understanding and respect for each other's militaries and also facilitate tracking the worldwide phenomenon of terrorism.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184550>

## Spacecraft BepiColombo

**Question: Recently Spacecraft BepiColombo was sent to probe which planet?**

**(a)Jupiter (b)Mercury (c)Mars (d)Uranus**

**Answer :(b)**

**Related facts:**

- An Ariane 5 Rocket was launched from French Guyana with an unmanned spacecraft BepiColombo which is carrying the two probes.
- The European Space Agency (ESA) and the Japan aerospace exploration agency (JAXA) have successfully sent two probes on a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to Sun.
- The spacecraft separated and went into orbit for the 7-year trip to Mercury.



**Details of this Mission:**

- It is the first European mission to Mercury and the first to send two spacecraft to make complementary measurements of the planet and its environment at the same time.
- The ESA-built Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) that will carry the orbiters to Mercury using a solar electric propulsion and gravity assist flybys.
- The two orbiters are ESA's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and JAXA's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO).
- The two orbiters will be able to operate some of their instruments during the cruise phase, to try and collect data at Venus.

**Challenges before the Mission:**

- The mission will have to ensure a controlled fall.
- The sun's enormous gravity makes it difficult to place a spacecraft into a stable orbit around Mercury.

**Links:**

<https://solarsystem.nasa.gov/missions/bepicolombo/in-depth/>

## Sports

### Tennis

Alexander Xverev

**Question: Who has won the ATP finals by defeating Novak Djokovic in recently concluded Nitto ATP Championships?**





**(a)Alexander Xverev (b)Martin del Potro (c)Marin Cilic (d)Rafael Nadal**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The young German Alexander Xverev have defeated Novak Djokovic and won Nitto ATP championships, 2018 (11-18 November). He became the youngest winner at the ATP finals since Djokovic in 2008.
- By doing this he became the first player to beat both Djokovic and Federer in the same ATP Finals Tournament. He also became the first to beat the top two seeds in the semifinals and final of the event since Andre Agassi in 1990.
- He is the first German winner since Boris Baker in 1995.

**Links:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2018/nov/17/alexander-zverev-beats-roger-federer-atp-finals-london>

## Fed Cup-2018

**Question: Which of the following team won the Fed Cup, 2018?**

**(a) Czech Republic (b) United States (c) Russia (d) Belgium**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts: -**

- The premier Women's International Tennis tournament Fed Cup 2018 was bagged by Czech Republic, sealing 3-0 triumph over USA in best of 5 sets.
- It was 56<sup>th</sup> edition of the prestigious tournament organized in Prague, Czech Republic.
- It is notable that this win marks the 11<sup>th</sup> title of Czech Republic of the same tournament.
- Petra Pala was the captain of Czech Republic while Kathy Rinaldi was the captain of the United States.
- U.S.A. has won the Fed Cup title most 18 times.
- This tournament was known as Federation Cup till the year 1995.



**Links:**

<https://www.fedcup.com/en/news/296187.aspx>

## Cricket

### ICC Women's World Twenty20 XI

**Question: Who has been named as the captain of World Twenty20 XI announce recently?**

**(a)Harmanpreet Kaur (b)Smriti Mandhana (c)Jhulan Goswami (d)Poonam Yadav**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 26 November 2018, India's batting star Harmanpreet Kaur was named captain of the ICC Women's World Twenty-20 Team XI.
- This team also features Indian opener Smriti Mandhana and leg-spinner Poonam Yadav.



- Three players from England, two from Australia and one each from Pakistan, New Zealand and the Windies have also been named in the World Twenty20
- The team was picked up by a selection panel of ICC in Dubai on the basis of the players' performances in the tournament.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355859>

## ICC Women's World Twenty-20 2018

**Question: Which of the following team won the Women's T-20 World Cup 2018?**

**(a)Australia (b)England (c)New Zealand (d)South Africa**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Australia has lifted the Women's World Twenty-20, 2018 title thrashing England by 8 wickets.
- The sixth edition of **ICC Women's World Twenty-20, 2018**, was organized from 9<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, in West Indies.
- This championship features 10 teams Australia, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Bangladesh and Ireland.
- This world cup marks the fourth **Women's World Twenty20 title of Australia.**
- **Player of the Match:** Ashleigh Gardner, Australia
- **Player of the Tournament in Women T20:** Alyssa Healy, Australia.
- **Most Wickets:** Megan Schutt (10 wickets), Australia
- **Most Runs:** Alyssa Healy (225 runs), Australia.
- **Most Sixes:** Harmanpreet Kaur (13 sixes), India.



Links:

<https://www.worldtwenty20.com/stats>

## Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first Indian women to hit century in T20I cricket

**Question: Who among the following are the first Indian Women to hit a century in T20 International cricket?**

**(a) Mithali Raj (b) Smriti Mandhana (c) Harmanpreet Kaur (d) Jhulan Goswami**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Harmanpreet Kaur becomes first ever Indian women to hit century in T20I cricket, achieving the feat against New Zealand in the ongoing sixth Women T20 2018 in West Indies.



- The 29-year-old scored 103 runs off 51 balls slamming eight sixes and seven fours. India posted the highest-ever total (194/5) in the history of the Women's World T20.
- It is worth to note that Harmanpreet is only the **third** cricketer to smash a century in Women's World T20.

**Links:**

[https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/icc-womens-world-t20-india-captain-harmanpreet-kaur-hits-her-  
maiden-t20i-century-1945096](https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/icc-womens-world-t20-india-captain-harmanpreet-kaur-hits-her-maiden-t20i-century-1945096)

## Hockey

### Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy 2018

**Question: Which city hosted the Asian Champions Trophy 2018?**

**(a)Muscat (b)Delhi (c)Colombo (d)Singapore**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The fifth edition of **2018 Men's Asian Hockey Champions Trophy** was held at Muscat, Oman between October 18–28, 2018.
- Tournament featured six nations Oman, Pakistan, Malaysia, India, South Korea, and Japan.
- Pakistan and India were declared joint winners by virtue of forfeiture of the final due to incessant rain while Malaysia finished at the 3rd place.
- The **Asian Hockey Champions Trophy** is an event held annually by the Asian Hockey Federation (since 2011). It features the Asian Games top six field hockey teams competing in a round robin Pakistan and India are the most successful teams in Asian Hockey Champions Trophy.



**Awards:**

<b>Player of the Tournament</b>	Akashdeep Singh (India)
<b>Best Goalkeeper of the Tournament</b>	P R Sreejesh (India)
<b>Highest scorer of the Tournament</b>	Faizal Saari (Malaysia)
<b>Emerging Player of the Tournament</b>	Abu Bakkar Mahmood (Pakistan)

**Link:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018\\_Asian\\_Men%27s\\_Hockey\\_Champions\\_Trophy#Final\\_ranking](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Asian_Men%27s_Hockey_Champions_Trophy#Final_ranking)

## Football

### Subroto Cup 2018

**Question:** 59<sup>th</sup> edition of the Subroto Cup was won by which of the following country?

(a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal (c) India (d) Bhutan

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- The 59th edition of the (Under 17 school) International Football Tournament “**Subroto Cup-2018**” was won by **Bangladesh Krida Shiksha Prothishtan (BKSP)** beating Amini School, Afghanistan by a solitary goal at the Ambedkar Stadium in New Delhi.
- A total of 95 teams and 1500 players participated in the tournament, featuring it one of the biggest tournaments in its category in the entire football world.
- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa was the chief guest of the event.



**Awards:**

1. **Best Goalkeeper Award:**Pranub Limbo, Govt. Senior Secondary School, Namchi (Sikkim).
2. **Best Player Award:**Mohammad Nemil, Reliance Foundation School, Mumbai.
3. **Best Coach Award:**Raghu Kumar, Army Boys Sports Company, Bangalore.
4. **Fair Play Trophy:**Reliance Foundation School, Mumbai.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/football/subroto-cup-football-tournament-2018-final-5456210/>

## Chess

### Magnus Carlsen

**Question:** Who is the winner of World Chess Championship-2018 held recently in London?

(a)Fabiano Caruana (b)Magnus Carlsen (c)Viswanathan Anand (d)Anish Giri

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**

- Magnus Carlsen of Norway won the World Chess Championship- 2018, held in London. He defeated Fabiano Caruana 3-0 in the rapid.
- The result leaves Carlsen as the king of the chess world for at least another two years, given he is not due to face his next challenger until 2020.
- He surpassed a rating of 2800 in 2009 and became the youngest person to reach number one in the FIDE world rankings in 2010.
- Carlsen became World Champion in 2013 by defeating Viswanathan Anand. In the following year, he retained his title against Anand, and won both the 2014 World Rapid



Championship and World Blitz Championship, thus becoming the first player to simultaneously hold all three titles. He defended his main world title against Sergey Karjakin in 2016.

**Links:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnus\\_Carlsen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magnus_Carlsen)

## Badminton

### Lakshya Sen wins boys singles bronze at World Junior Badminton Championships

**Question:** BWF World Junior Championships 2018 was organized in which of the following city?

(a) Markham, Canada (b) Dublin, Ireland (c) Vienna, Austria (d) Madrid, Spain

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- India's top junior shuttler Lakshya Sen settled for a bronze medal at the Li Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships 2018 at Markham, Canada. He was defeated by the world junior number one Kunlavut Vitidsarn of Thailand.
- This medal marks the India's fifth boys singles bronze medal at the BWF World Junior Championships and the only medal India got at this year's Championships.
- Siril Verma was Boy's Singles silver-medallist at the World Junior Championships in the year 2015.
- Saina Nehwal (2008) remains India's exclusive gold medallist at the BWF World Junior Championships.
- The Li-Ning BWF World Junior Badminton Championships was split into two competitions: The team event and the individual competitions (singles, doubles and mixed doubles).



**Links:**

<https://www.wjc2018.ca/>

## Boxing

### Magnificent Mary bagged record 6th gold medal

**Question:** Which of the following is the first Indian woman boxer to won record six gold medals in World Boxing Championship?

(a) Aruna Mishra (b) Sarjubala Devi (c) Mary Kom (d) Simranjit Kaur

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**

- India's boxing legend Mary Kom bagged gold medal at the 10<sup>th</sup> edition of AIBA (International Boxing Association)



Women's World Championship held in New Delhi from 15<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> November 2018. She defeated Ukraine's Hanna Okhota by a unanimous 5-0 decision in the women's 48-kilogram light flyweight category.

- In this Championship, India won total four gold, three silver and three bronze medals.
- This victory marked her sixth medal in World Boxing Championship. Prior to this, she won the gold medal in 2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 editions of the Championships.
- She has also bagged bronze medal in the 2012 London Olympics.
- Nicknamed as **Magnificent Mary** hails from Manipur. She was nominated by the President of India as a member of the Rajya Sabha.
- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, appointed Mary Kom along with Akhil Kumar as national observers for boxing.

**Links:**

<http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355605>

## Billiards, Snooker & Squash

### Pankaj Advani wins the World Billiards Championship (150-Up) 2018

**Question: World Billiards Championship (150-Up) 2018 which recorded Pankaj Advani's hat-trick of wins was hosted by which of the following city?**

**(a) Beijing, China (b) Abu Dhabi, UAE (c) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (d) Yangon, Myanmar**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian player Pankaj Advani bagged World Billiards (150-Up) title at Yangon, Myanmar by defeating Nay Thway Oo of Myanmar by 6-2 in the final.
- With this victory overall number of world titles of Advani mounts to 20.
- This win also marks a hat-trick of wins for Advani in the shorter format. He won his first in hometown Bengaluru in 2016 and second one in year 2017 in Doha.
- Another Indian player Sourav Kothari and Englishman David Causier shared joint Bronze for Long-Up format.



**Links:**

[http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=836:pankaj-advani-wins-the-world-billiards-championship-150-up-2018&Itemid=187](http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=836:pankaj-advani-wins-the-world-billiards-championship-150-up-2018&Itemid=187)

### Pankaj Advani wins the Grand Double of World Billiards 2018

**Question: World Billiards 2018 which marks record four times grand double win of Pankaj Advani was hosted by which of the following city?**

**(a) Beijing, China (b) Abu Dhabi, UAE (c) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (d) Yangon, Myanmar**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has bagged World Billiards Long-Up Championship (long format) by defeating his compatriot and sparring partner Bhaskar Balachandra.



- Prior to this, he has also bagged the short format (World Billiards 150-Up Championship) that together makes it Grand Double of the year 2018.
- This win marks the record four time victory in the both long and short formats of the IBSF World Billiards Championship.
- This is the 21st World title of the legendary Indian snooker and billiards player.
- Sourav Kothari and Englishman David Causier shared joint Bronze for Long-Up format.

**Links:**

[http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=843:pankaj-advani-wins-the-grand-double-of-world-billiards-2018&Itemid=187](http://www.ibsf.info/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=843:pankaj-advani-wins-the-grand-double-of-world-billiards-2018&Itemid=187)

## Formula One Valencia MotoGP

**Question: Who is winner of recently held Valencia Grand Prix MotoGP?**

**(a) Alex Rins (b) Andrea Dovizioso (c) Marc Marquez (d) Valentino Rossi**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18<sup>th</sup> November 2018; Ducati team's Andrea Dovizioso of Italy has won the Valencia Grand Prix MotoGP, Spain's Alex Rins (Suzuki) took the second spot.
- The race was split over two sessions due to rains and poor conditions of the weather.
- Dovizioso ensured his fourth win of the season with a time of 24 minutes and 3.408 seconds.



**Links:**

[https://www.dailyfreeman.com/sports/national/dovizioso-wins-rain-affected-valencia-motogp/article\\_1795e221-f4da-58e0-a250-66c408b43002.html](https://www.dailyfreeman.com/sports/national/dovizioso-wins-rain-affected-valencia-motogp/article_1795e221-f4da-58e0-a250-66c408b43002.html)

## Sports Miscellaneous

### Harmanpreet Kaur enters top-five in ICC Women's T20I rankings

**Question: Which of the following player entered the top-five in the ICC Women's T20 International player batting ranking released recently?**

**(a) Mithali Raj (b) Smriti Mandhana (c) Harmanpreet Kaur (d) Jhulan Goswami**

**Answer: (c)**

- Indian skipper Harmanpreet Kaur entered the top-five achieving 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in the latest ICC women's T20 International player batting rankings updated on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. Suzle Bates of New Zealand bagged the first spot.
- Opener Smriti Mandhana (6<sup>th</sup>) and Jemimah Rodrigues (10<sup>th</sup>) also achieved their career-best rankings. Mithali Raj holds the 9<sup>th</sup>
- Harmanpreet has gained three slots to reach the third position. The Indian captain aggregated 183 runs including a match-winning 103 in the tournament opener against New Zealand.



- India is at the fifth place with 256 points in the Team Ranking (T-20), the top spot is held by Australia with 283 points.

**Links:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/rankings/womens/player-rankings/t20i/batting>

## Bhavani Devi wins gold medal in Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship

**Question: Which of the following is the first Indian to win a Fencing gold medal in the Commonwealth Championship?**

**(a) Bhavani Devi (b) Mansukh Devi (c) Nandita Das (d) Niraja Tandon**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- India's Bhavani Devi bagged the gold medal in the Sabre event in the Senior Commonwealth Fencing Championship 2018 held in Canberra, Australia. She defeated England's Emily Ruaux 15-12 in the final.
- Bhavani Devi is the first Indian to win a gold medal in the Commonwealth Championship.
- The Sabre Fencing is one of the three disciplines of modern fencing. The Sabre weapon is for thrusting and cutting with both the cutting edge and the back of the blade. It is a fast, aggressive and requiring split-second decision-making.
- Prior to this, Bhavani Devi also bagged a silver medal in the Tournoi Satellite Fencing Championship in Iceland.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355833>

## Lewis Hamilton has won his fifth F1 World Championship

**Question: Which of the following player has won the Mexican Grand Prix 2018?**

**(a) Sebastian Vettel (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Max Verstappen (d) Brendon Hartley**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 28th October 2018; Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes clinched fifth Formula One world title by finishing fourth at the Mexican Grand Prix enough to seal the title.
- The 33-year-old becomes only the third man in history to win five world titles in front of capacity crowd of 135000. He matches the haul of the Argentine legend Juan Manuel Fangio and is two behind all-time record holder Michael Schumacher.
- Red Bull's Max Verstappen was the eventual winner and Sebastian Vettel finished second in this race.
- Hamilton who finished fourth in this race now came upon equal footing as with Argentine legend Juan Manuel Fangio and is two behind all-time record holder Michael Schumacher.





- Lewis Carl Davidson Hamilton MBE is a British racing driver who races in Formula One for Mercedes AMG Petronas.

**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/racing/top-stories/lewis-hamilton-clinches-fifth-f1-title-as-max-verstappen-wins-in-mexico/articleshow/66408656.cms>

## Elavenil-Hriday Shoot Gold at Asian Championship

**Question: India's pair of Elavenil Valarivan and Hriday Hazarika won gold medal at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Shotgun Championship in which of the following category?**

**(a) 10m rifle mixed event (b) Trap Men (c) Double Trap Men (d) Skeet Men**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- India's pair of Elavenil Valarivan and Hriday Hazarika bagged gold medal in 10m rifle mixed event at the 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Shotgun Championship held from 2-12 November 2018 in Kuwait.
- The pair finished with score of 502.1 setting world and Asian Junior record in the event.
- The Chinese pair finished with silver while India's another pair Mehuli Ghosh and Arjun Babuta won bronze in the same event.



**Links:**

[http://www.asia-shooting.org/news/articlefiles/942-Result%20Book%20\(08th%20Shotgun\).pdf](http://www.asia-shooting.org/news/articlefiles/942-Result%20Book%20(08th%20Shotgun).pdf)

## Wrestler Bajrang Punia rises to World No. 1 rank in UWW List

**Question: Indian star wrestler Bajrang Punia achieves World No. 1 rank in which of the following weight category?**

**(a)65 kg (b)57 kg (c)61 kg (d)70 kg**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2018 star Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia achieved the number one rank in the world in the 65kg category.
- He bagged the top spot with 96 points in the newly released United World Wrestling (UWW) list.
- Bajrang has won five medals this season, including Common Wealth Games and the Asian Games gold and a silver at the World Championship in Budapest.
- Alejandro Enrique Vlades Tobier of Cuba is at second with 66 points while Russia's Akhmed Chakaev acquired the third place.
- **United World Wrestling** is the international governing body for the sport of amateur wrestling. Its duties include overseeing wrestling at the Olympics.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355172>

## Angad Vir Singh Bajwa shoots gold at 8th Asian Shotgun Championship

**Question: Angad Vir Singh Bajwa holds the world record in which of the following shooting category?**

**(a) Trap men (b) 25 m Standard Pistol Men (c) 25 m Center Fire Pistol men (d) Skeet Men**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 6<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa has won gold medal with a world record score in the **men's skeet** in 8<sup>th</sup> Asian Shotgun Championship in Kuwait.
- He became the first Indian skeet shooter to win a Continental or World Level event.
- He shot a perfect 60 out of 60 in the final round while China's Di Jin shot 58 and maintained second spot. UAE's Saeed Al Maktoum won bronze with a score of 46.



**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355028>

## Sports Personality

### Kuldeep Yadav enters top-five in ICC Men's T20I rankings

**Question: Which of the following player entered the top-five in the ICC Men's T20 International player bowling ranking released recently?**

**(a) Ravichandran Ashwin (b) Bhuvneshwar Kumar (c) Jasprit Bumrah (d) Kuldeep Yadav**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian wrist spinner Kuldeep Yadav is at the 3<sup>rd</sup> spot in the ICC Men's T20 International player bowler rankings updated on 25 November 2018. Rashid Khan of Afghanistan is the top ranked bowler.
- Kuldeep achieved the feat whopping 20 places to claim the third position in the latest rankings.
- Recently Kuldeep Yadav has bagged 4 wickets in the T-20 series against Australia.
- Pakistan continues to top the table followed by India and England in the Team (T-20) ranking.



**Links:**

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/rankings/mens/player-rankings/t20i/bowling>

## John Hastings

**Question: Cricketer John Hastings recently announced retirement from all forms of cricket recently. He belonged to the country-**

**(a) Australia (b) Britain (c) Newzeland (d) West indies**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Australia all-rounder John Hastings announced retirement from all forms of cricket due to a lung disease. He has already retired from ODI and Test cricket last year but continued to play T20 cricket.



- He is a right-arm medium-fast bowler has taken 50 wickets in 39 international matches. He has made 369 International runs in 29 ODIs, nine T20Is and one Test match combined.
- In an 11-year-long cricket career, Hastings played for Victoria and Melbourne Stars at home and Durham in English county. In the Indian Premier League, he represented Chennai Super Kings, Kolkata Knight Riders and Kochi Tuskers Kerala. He also featured in the Pakistan Super League.

**Links:**

<https://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/australias-john-hastings-retires-from-international-cricket-due-to-lung-disease-1947144>

## Ashmita Chaliha

**Question: On 18th November Ashmita Chaliha of India won the Dubai International Challenge badminton tournament by defeating-**

(a) Nozomi Okuhara (b) Zhang Beiwen (c) Jeon Jui (d) Chen Yufei

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18th November, 2018 Ashmita Chaliha from Guwahati, India won the Dubai International Challenge badminton tournament after beating sixth seed Jeon Jui of Korea in straight sets 21-19, 21-15.
- Chaliha, a Guwahati girl got a walkover in the semi-finals In Dubai, when top seed Beatriz Corrales of Spain withdrew due to an injury.
- This was the first international tournament Chaliha participated in on the senior circuit, apart from the Asian Games earlier this year; she took part in the mixed team event.



**Links:**

<https://www.sportskeeda.com/badminton/dubai-international-challenge-ashmita-chaliha-wins-title-on-debut-subhankar-dey-loses-final>

## Personalities

### Notable litterateur Himanshu Joshi died

**Question: Which of the following is literary work of prominent Hindi litterateur Himanshu Joshi?**

(a) Suraaj (b) Kashi Ka Assi (c) Chitrlekha (d) Jhutha Sach

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Prominent Hindi writer and journalist Himanshu Joshi died at New Delhi after prolonged illness. He was 83 years old.
- Hailed originally from Champawat district in Uttarakhand, he has written many novels, short stories, poetry, memoirs and travelogues.
- He started his career as a journalist working in 'Kadambani' and later in 'Weekly Hindustan'.
- He was credited with many popular novels such as **Kagaar ki Aag**; **Chhaya mat Choona Man** and **Tumhare Liye**. He also wrote **Mahasagar**; **Samay Saskshi hai**; **Suraaj** and **Aranya**.



- He was conferred Govind Vallabh Pant Honor, Award of Uttar Pradesh Hindi Institute and Ganesh Shankar Vidarthi Award for Central Hindi Institute.

**Links:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/renowned-hindi-writer-himanshu-joshi-dies-at-83/india/news/1413746.html>

## Noted Classical Musician Ustad Imrat Khan Died

**Question: Legendary Indian Classical Musician Ustad Imrat Khan belongs to which of the following Gharana of India?**

**(a) Imdadkhani Gharana (b) Senia Gharana (c) Jaipur Gharana (d) Bishanpur Gharana**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2018, classical music stalwart Ustad Imrat Khan, who dedicated his life in propagating the Sitar and the Surbahar worldwide, passed in United States after a brief illness. He was 83 years old.
- Surbahar sometimes known as **Bass Sitar** is a plucked string instrument used in the Hindustani Classical Music is closely related to the sitar, but has a lower tone.
- He belonged to the eminent **Etawa Gharana** or the **Imdadkhani Gharana**, named after his grandfather Ustad Imdad Khan.
- Imrat Khan had performed at the Cannes Film Festival in year 1970 for a Merchant-Ivory partnership.



**Links:**

<http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=355785>

## A B Pandey

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding A B Pandey:**

1. **Ajay Bhushan Pandey is the new Revenue Secretary.**
2. **He has replaced Hashmukh Adhia.**

**Choose the correct option/s from the following:**

**(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Central Government appointed Ajay Bhushan Pandey (UIDAI CEO) as new Revenue Secretary. He will take charge from Hashmukh Adhia (superannuation) on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- A B Pandey, a 1984 batch IAS officer will continue to hold additional charge of CEO of UIDAI and also chairman of GST Network.
- Shri A.B. Pandey is an alumnus of IIT and a doctorate from University of Minnesota Minneapolis.
- UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India), an agency of the Government of India responsible for implementing the AADHAR scheme.



## Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uidai-ceo-to-replace-hasmukh-adhia-as-new-revenue-secretary/article25527904.ece>

## New Chief Election Commissioner of India

**Question: Who was recently appointed the new Chief Election Commissioner of India?**

**(a) Ashok Lavasa (b) Sunil Arora (c) Ashok Kumar Mathur (d) Rajesh Arora**

**Answer:(b)**

**Related facts:**

- On November 27, 2018, senior election commissioner Sunil Arora was appointed the 23rd Chief Election Commissioner of India.
- At this post, he will replace Om Prakash Rawat and he will assume on 2 December, 2018.
- Sunil Arora is a retired 1977 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre



**Election Commission of India:-**

- Election Commission of India is a permanent Constitutional Body established in accordance with the Constitution on 25th January 1950.
- As per the Article 342(2) of Indian Constitution The Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of other Election Commissioners, if any, as the President may from time to time fix and the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners shall, subject to the provisions of any law made in that behalf by Parliament, be made by the President.
- The term of the Chief Election Commissioner is of 6 years or till the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- It is notable that the senior most election commissioner is appointed the Chief Election Commissioner.
- The Chief Election Commissioner can be removed from office only through impeachment by Parliament.
- It is worth to note that Sukumar Sen was the first Chief Election Commissioner of India.

## Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/president-kovind-appoints-sunil-arora-as-new-chief-election-commissioner-5465892/>

## Fortune Business Person of the Year 2018 list

**Question: Shantanu Narayan, who has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list, is the CEO of which of the following software company?**

**(a)Salesforce (b)Adobe (c)Oracle (d)Microsoft**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian-American Shantanu Narayan CEO of Adobe has been named by Fortune in its 2018 Business Person of the Year list.



- 56 years old Narayan got the 12th rank in the list, which has been topped by Tricia Griffith CEO of insurance company Progressive. He started his career at Apple.
- Selection for Fortune's Business person of the Year, has been done by weighing 10 financial metrics including 12-month and 36-month increases in profits and revenue, stock performance and total shareholder returns.

**Links:**

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/adobe-ceo-shantanu-narayan-in-fortune-business-person-of-the-year-list-3186541.html>

## Environment Chief of UN, Erik Solheim resigns

**Question: Erik Solheim was the chief of which of the following body of UN?**

**(a) United Nation Environment Programme (b) World Health Organisation  
(c) International Atomic Energy agency (d) Food and Agriculture Organisation**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, Chief of UN Environment Programme, Erik Solheim resigned from his post following an official audit report which questioned his huge Travel Expenses. He had incurred costs of \$488,518 (£382,111) while travelling for 529 out of 668 days.
- He submitted his resignation to Antonio Guterres, Chief of United Nations. He was appointed to the post of Executive Director in the United Nations Environment Programme in May 2016.
- Deputy Executive Director **Joyce Msuya** will head as the new chief of UNEP.
- While many in UN circles will be glad to see the former Norwegian environment minister go, some will miss the energy and greater visibility he brought to a once-lackluster branch of the organization.
- He was the leading voice in drawing the world's attention to critical environmental challenges, including plastics pollution and circularity; climate action; the rights of environmental defenders; biodiversity; and environmental security.



**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-46281051>

## Arvind Saxena appointed UPSC chairman

**Question: Who has been appointed as the next Chairman of Union Public Service Commission?**

**(a) Vinay Mittal (b) Alka Sirohi (c) Deepak Gupta (d) Arvind Saxena**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Arvind Saxena has been appointed as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission, UPSC. He will render his serves till 7<sup>th</sup> of August, 2020, when he will be superannuated.
- Mr Saxena joined UPSC as a Member on 8<sup>th</sup> May, 2015, and has been performing duties of the post of Chairman, UPSC since 20<sup>th</sup> June 2018.
- UPSC is amongst the few institutions which function with both



autonomy and freedom, along with the country's higher judiciary and lately the Election Commission.

- The Commission consists of a chairman and other members appointed by The President of India. Commission consists of 9 to 11 members including the Chairman.
- Established on 1 October 1926, the commission is headquartered at Dholpur House, in New Delhi .

**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356010>

## Alyque Padmasee Passed Away

**Question: In which of the following field, Alyque Padmasee is known for his pioneering and groundbreaking work?**

**(a) Play writer (b) Scientist (c) Author (d) Ad filmmaker**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Alyque Padmasee, a famous ad filmmaker, actor, director has recently died at the age of 87 in Mumbai on 17<sup>th</sup> November, 2018.
- Alyque Padmasee was a man who played many roles, is known for his portrayal of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Richard Attenborough' Oscar-winning film Gandhi.
- He was a visionary of the stage, having acted and directed over 70 productions. He was also an outspoken activist and philanthropist.
- His biggest achievements have undoubtedly been in advertising, which he revolutionized during his 14 years as the chief executive of Lintas.
- He received Padmashri Award in 2000, Sangeet Natak Akademi Tagore Ratna in 2012.



**Links:**

<https://www.bloomberquint.com/opinion/indias-advertising-stalwarts-look-back-at-alyque-padamsees-legacy>

## Alenka Ermenc

**Question: Alenka Ermenc has been appointed as the head of its army, she belongs to-**

**(a) Romania (b) Serbia (c) Croatia (d) Slovenia**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27th November, 2018, Slovenia became first NATO member state appointing a female officer Major General Alenka Ermenc as the head of its army replacing Major Gen Alan Geder.
- Ermenc will now lead the country's 7,500 troops, which also include reserves. She was promoted to the rank of major general last week, making her the first woman to hold that position.
- Ermenc, educated in the United Kingdom was also deployed in Kosovo for six months as part of a peacekeeping mission in 2009. She started her military career as a member of the Territorial Forces that played a key role in winning Slovenia's independence from Yugoslavia in 1991.

**About Slovenia:**



- After World War II, Slovenia became a republic of the renewed Yugoslavia, which though communist, but distanced itself from Russian influence.
- Slovenia finally got independence from Yugoslavia in 1991. Since then, Slovenia has successfully integrated into the international community and is becoming a full member of the European Union and joined NATO.
- Slovenia, a small eastern European country of just over two million inhabitants is a republic with a parliamentary democracy and a multi-party system. The president is the head of state; he is elected by popular vote.

**Links:**

<https://www.euronews.com/2018/11/28/slovenia-is-first-nato-state-to-appoint-female-army-chief>

## New President of Interpol

**Question: Recently, who has been elected as the new President of Interpol?**

**(a) Kim Jong-yang (b) Meng Hongwei (c) Jackie Selebi (d) Jolly Bugarin**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Kim Jong Yang of South Korea has been elected Interpol President at the 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Agency in Dubai.
- Kim will hold the post of President for two years until 2020. While the President is usually elected for a period of four years, Mr Kim is completing the mandate of former President Meng Hongwei of China detained over corruption charges. Kim Jong Yang is Vice President of the organization since 2015.
- It is worth to note that it was the first time that General Assembly of Interpol was held in UAE.
- The Interpol General Assembly focused on the issues such as transnational organized crime, public security and safety as well as role of technology and artificial intelligence in the fight against terrorism.



**About Interpol:**

- INTERPOL is the world's largest international police organization that facilitates international police cooperation. It was founded in the year 1923. It has 194 countries as its member and it is headquartered at Lyon in France.
- It does so by facilitating high-tech infrastructure of technical and operational support to meet the growing challenges of fight against crime.

**Links:**

<https://www.interpol.int/News-and-media/News/2018/N2018-139>

## Binny Bansal resigns from Flipkart

**Question: Recently, which of the following co-founder and CEO has resigned from the giant e-commerce company Flipkart?**

**(a) Sachin Bansal (b) Jan Koum (c) Binny Bansal (d) Sanjiv Bansal**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 13<sup>th</sup> November 2018, Flipkart Group co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Binny Bansal has resigned after an investigation into an alleged "serious personal misconduct".





- Kalyan Krishnamurthy will head the Flipkart as the chief executive (CEO).
- Earlier in the month of April Sachin Bansal had resigned from the Flipkart during the time of its acquisition by Walmart.
- It is worth to note that an American multinational retail corporation Walmart has acquired a 77% controlling stake in Flipkart for \$16 billion USD in August this year.
- **Flipkart** is an Indian electronic commerce company Founded by Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal in 2007 with its headquarter in Bengaluru, India.

**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/Companies/FaAYjt9xkHNObVOiNAWfkN/Binny-Bansal-resigns-as-CEO-of-Flipkart-group.html>

## Hima Das becomes First Youth Ambassador of UNICEF India

**Question: Who has been appointed as the UNICEF India's first youth ambassador?**

**(a) Hima Das (b) Mary Kom (c) Vidya Balan (d) P V Sindhu**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14<sup>th</sup> November 2018 Asian games Gold medalist sprinter Hima Das has been appointed as the UNICEF India's first youth ambassador.
- It is worth to note that she has clinched a gold medal in Women's 4 x 400 m Relay event at the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta (Indonesia). She had also won a silver medal in Women's 400m Race event with a clock timing of 50.59 seconds.
- After bagging gold medal in a track event at the IAAF World U20 Championships in Tampere (Finland), she became the first Indian women to win gold in World Championship in athletics at any level.
- She hails from Dhing village in Nagaon district of Assam and is nicknamed as Dhing Express.
- She was conferred Arjuna Award by the President of India on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2018.



**Links:**

<https://www.news18.com/news/sports/hima-das-appointed-first-youth-ambassador-of-unicef-india-1939477.html>

## Union Minister Anant Kumar passed away

**Question: Union Minister Anant Kumar died after suffering with lung cancer. He was-**

- (a) Union Minister of Information and Broadcasting**  
**(b) Union Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises**  
**(c) Union Minister of Commerce and Industry**  
**(d) Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and prominent BJP leader, Anant Kumar passed away on 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, in Bengaluru battling with lung cancer. He was 59 years old.
- He joined the Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) in 1987. He was six time parliamentarian from Bengaluru South



constituency in Lok Sabha since 1996.

- During his representation as State President of BJP in 2004 Assembly elections, the party emerged as the single largest party in Karnataka for the first time.
- He held charge of two significant ministries in the Narendra Modi government – Chemicals and Fertilizers Ministry since May 2014 and Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs since July 2016.
- Prior to that, he was the youngest minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee's Cabinet and had held Civil Aviation; Tourism, Sports, Youth Affairs and Culture; Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation portfolios.
- In January 1998, Kumar became the first Indian politician to host his personal websites 'www.dataindia.com' and 'www.ananth.org'.

#### Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/union-minister-ananth-kumar-passes-away/articleshow/66583172.cms>

### S. S. Deswal appointed as DG, ITBP

**Question: Who has been appointed as the next Director General of ITBP?**

**(a)S. Deswal (b)Prashant Singh (c)R K Pachnanda (d)Rajni Kant Mishra**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Shri S. S. Deswal, a-1984 batch IPS officer of Haryana cadre, has been appointed as the **30<sup>th</sup> Director General (DG) of Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**, a paramilitary force mandated to guard the 3,488-km Sino-Indian border.
- He has replaced R K Pachnanda at this post.
- He will also hold the additional charge of the post of DG, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).



#### Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184514>

### Appointment of four new judges of the Supreme Court

**Question: The Judges of Supreme Court are appointed by which of the following?**

**(a)Prime Minister (b)Chief Justice of India (c)Lok Sabha (d)President**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Justice Hemant Gupta, R Subhash Reddy, M R Shah and Ajay Rastogi have been appointed as the judges of Supreme Court.
- With these appointments the strength of judges rises to 28 while the sanctioned number of post is 31.
- Justice **MR Shah**, is presently at the helm of the Patna High Court. Chief Justice **Hemant Gupta** is currently heading the Madhya Pradesh High Court. Justice **R Subhash Reddy** is serving as the Chief Justice of the Gujarat High Court. Justice **Ajay Rastogi** is currently the Chief Justice of Tripura High Court.
- Justice Ranjan Gogoi is the **46<sup>th</sup> Chief Justice of India**.



- It is worth to note that Honorable President of India appoints the judges of Supreme Court

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/four-new-supreme-court-judges-sworn-in/article25399939.ece>

## Awards & Honors

### Azim Premji to be honoured highest French civilian award

**Question: Azim Premji is owner of which of the following organization?**

**(a) WIPRO (b) Tata Consultancy Services (c) Sun Pharmaceuticals (d) HCL**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Wipro Chairman Azim Premji is to be honoured with the highest French civilian award **Chevalier del la Legion d'Honneur** (Knight of the Legion of Honour). French Ambassador to India Alexandre Ziegler will present the award.
- The Legion d'Honneur (Legion of Honour), instituted in 1802 by Napoleon Bonaparte, is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients.
- The award is in recognition of Premji's contribution to developing the IT (Information Technology) industry in India, his economic outreach in France and his contribution to society as a philanthropist through the Azim Premji Foundation and University.
- Azim Premji is the owner and Chairman of India's IT major WIPRO Limited. He is a billionaire with \$15.6 billion net worth and gave the fifth-highest amount (\$8 billion) to charity.



**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/magazines/panache/azim-premji-to-be-conferred-with-highest-french-civilian-award-chevalier-del-la-legion-dhonneur/articleshow/66840419.cms>

### Prime Minister Modi Awarded the 2018 Seoul Peace Prize

**Question: Who has been awarded with the Seoul Peace Prize 2018?**

**(a) Donald Trump ( US President) (b) Baba Ramdev (c) Prime Minister Narendra Modi (d) Angela Merkel**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been awarded the Seoul Peace Prize 2018 for his contribution to high economic growth in India and world through Modinomics, which is working for reducing social and economic disparity between the rich and the poor.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is the fourteenth recipient of this award. He will be presented with an award, plaque and honorarium of \$200,000.



- The award will be presented by the Seoul Peace Prize Foundation at a mutually convenient time.
- The Committee also credited Prime Minister for his contribution towards regional and global peace through a proactive foreign policy with countries around the world under the 'Modi Doctrine' and the 'Act East Policy.'
- **Background:-**
- The Seoul Peace Prize was established in 1990 to commemorate the success of the 24th Olympic Games held in Seoul, Republic of Korea and also to crystallize the Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean Peninsula and in the rest of the world.
- This Prize is given biennially to those individuals who have made their mark through contributions to the harmony of mankind, reconciliation between nations and to world peace.
- Past laureates include distinguished global personalities like former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and renowned international relief organizations like Doctors without Borders and Oxfam.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/pm-modi-awarded-2018-seoul-peace-prize-for-modinomics-furthering-democracy-in-india-5415509/>

## Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 announced

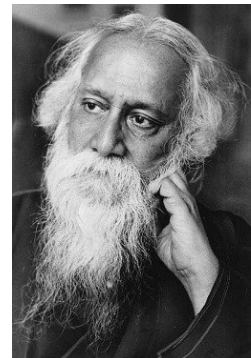
**Question: Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar, recipient of 2016 Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony, is a/an-**

- (a) Doyen of Manipuri Dance
- (b) Sculptor
- (c) Artist
- (d) Musician

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 was announced by the Jury under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and comprising of the Chief Justice of India, Justice Ranjan Gogoi and some other members.
  - This award for 2014 was given to doyen of Manipuri dance Sh. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; for 2015 it is conferred to Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and for 2016 recipient of this award is one of India's greatest sculptors, Sh. Ram Vanji Sutar.
- The Tagore Award:
- This award is given in commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of the Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941) for cultural harmony.
  - Established in 2011 by Government of India, it is given for outstanding achievement in fostering harmony and universalism and values of cultural harmony especially in conflict or extreme situations through innovative systems/strategies and which have an enduring and transformational impact.
  - This award carries an amount of Rupees One Crore, a Citation in a Scroll, a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom items.
  - The first award was given in 2012 to Pandit Ravi Shankar.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1550766>

## Infosys prize

**Question: Who among the following is not being awarded the prestigious Infosys prize?**

**(a)Nalini Ananthraman (b)K. Sathish (c)Roop Malik (d)Manjul Bhargava**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Six eminent professors have been award the Infosys prize 2018 across 6 different categories of science and research; it was announced on 13<sup>th</sup>
- The annual award includes a pure gold medal, a citation and a prize purse worth \$100,000.
- The Infosys prize seeks to honour the efforts of some of the brightest scientist and researchers and highlight the country's ongoing quest for science excellence.
- Manjul Bhargava is Indian-Canadian mathematician who have won the prestigious fields medal in 2014.



<b>Navakranta Bhat</b>	Engineering & Computer Sciences
<b>Kavita Singh</b>	Humanities
<b>Roop Malik</b>	Life Sciences
<b>Nalini Ananthraman</b>	Mathematical Sciences
<b>S K Sathish</b>	Physical Sciences
<b>Sendhil Mullainathan</b>	Social Sciences

**Links:**

<http://www.infosys-science-foundation.com/prize/jury/jury-2018.asp>

### Indian academic receives Mexico's highest honour

**Question: Which of the following Indians has been awarded the Mexico's highest honour Order of Aztec Eagle award?**

**(a) SP Ganguly (b) Prashant Singh (c) Aurbindo Bhattacharya (d) Rameshwar Pinnarai**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- **JNU's** well-known Hispanist **Shyama Prasad Ganguly** has been conferred **Mexico's Order of the Aztec Eagle** (Spanish: Orden Mexicana del Águila Azteca) at a ceremony in the India International Centre (IIC), New Delhi.
- He was awarded for disseminating Spanish language and Mexican culture to strengthen Mexico-India cultural relations. He is the **first Indian Academician to get this award.**



- Created in December 1933 by President Abelardo L. Rodríguez it is the *highest award given by the Government of Mexico to foreigners for their outstanding services rendered to the Mexican nation or to humanity.*

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mexico-s-highest-honour-for-indian-academic-118112000713\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/mexico-s-highest-honour-for-indian-academic-118112000713_1.html)

## Filmmaker Nandita Das to receive FIAPF Award

**Question:** 12<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) will be hosted by which of the following city?

**(a) Brisbane (b) Singapore (c) Dubai (d) Shanghai**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, Filmmaker Nandita Das will be conferred the International Federation of Film Producers Associations (FIAPF) Award at the 12th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane (Australia).
- It is worth to note that this award is bestowed to a film practitioner from the region whose career and actions contribute strongly to the development of the Asia Pacific film industry.
- Nandita Das has started her career as an actor in films like “1947 Earth”, “Fire” and “Hazaar Chaurasi Ki Maa” also made her directorial debut with the critically-acclaimed feature “Firaaq”.

**About Asia Pacific Screen Awards:**

- The Asia Pacific Screen Awards APSA is an international cultural program of Brisbane City Council, Australia that honors cinematic excellence from 70 countries and areas in the region, and recognize filmmaking that best reflect its cultural origins.
- APSA is endorsed by foundation partners Paris-based UNESCO and FIAPF- International Federation of Film Producers Associations.
- Staged for the first time in year 2007, it annually confers awards in various categories like a standard film academy awards.

**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/Main-New s-Details.aspx?id=355729>

## Lionel Messi wins La Liga player of the Year Award

**Question:** Who has been awarded as the La Liga Player of the Year Award for the season 2017-18?

**(a) Lionel Messi (b) Cristiano Ronaldo (c) Luis Suarez (d) Kylian Mbappe**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Barcelona forward Lionel Messi has been declared as the La Liga Player of the year Award for the 87<sup>th</sup> season (2017-18). He has scored 34 goals in the season. He also received the Pichichi Trophy, an award given to the top scorer in La Liga each year.
- Real Madrid was the defending champions. Barcelona, won the league title on 29 April 2018 with four matches to spare.



- Jan Oblak, goalkeeper of Spanish club Atletico Madrid's was named the goalkeeper of the year.
- Lionel Messi an Argentine professional footballer who plays in forward position for both Spanish club Barcelona and the Argentina national team.

**Links:**

<https://inshorts.com/en/news/lionel-messi-wins-sixth-la-liga-player-of-the-year-award-1542123655225>

## US based Dalit writer Sujata Gidla Wins Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize

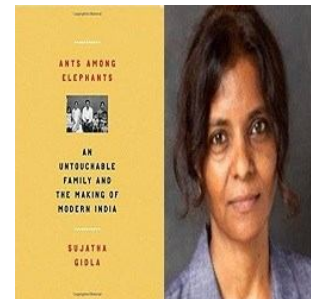
**Question: US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for which of the following book?**

**(a) We That Are Young (b) How to Travel Light (c) Remnants of a Separation (d) Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for her first book "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India". The book is published by HarperCollins India.
- Sujatha Gidla's debut book, presents scenario of four generations of her family, at the centre of which is her uncle and People's War Group co-founder K G Satyamurthy.
- Gidla was born in 1963 in Telangana's, Kazipet.
- "Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India" was selected as winner among the six shortlisted books because of its urgency, its revelations and its understated but seamless match of form with content.
- The jury panel for this year's Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize included writers likes Sampurna Chattarji, Raghu Karnad and Githa Hariharan.
- The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize is funded by the Shakti Bhatt Trust. It was set up in 2008 in memory of young writer Sthakti. It carries a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/us-based-dalit-writer-sujatha-gidla-wins-shakti-bhatt-prize-118102100180\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/us-based-dalit-writer-sujatha-gidla-wins-shakti-bhatt-prize-118102100180_1.html)

## Planning & Project

### MoU between India and Korea for Tourism

**Question: On 29<sup>th</sup>, October, 2018; The Union cabinet approved the signing of MoU for promotion of tourism between India and-**

**(a)Indonesia (b)Korea (c)South Africa (d)France**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 29<sup>th</sup> October 2018; The Union cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Korea for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism.

- The main objectives of the MoU is to increase Exchange of information and data related to tourism, to encourage cooperation between tourism stakeholders including Hotels and Tour Operators, to establish exchange programmes for cooperation in Human Resources Development, to encourage Investment in the Tourism and Hospitality sectors, to exchange visits of Tour Operators / Media / Opinion Makers for promotion of two-way tourism, to exchange experience in the areas of promotion, marketing destination development and management, to encourage participation in travel fairs/exhibitions in each other's country and promoting safe, honorable and sustainable tourism.
- India and Korea have enjoyed a strong diplomatic and long economic relationship. Signing of the MoU with Korea will be instrumental in increasing arrival from this source market as Korea is one of the leading tourist generating markets for India from East Asia.



#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1551458>

## Creation of Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)

**Question: What target has been set by the Central Government for fish production by the year 2020?**

**(a)15 million tone (b)20 million tone (c)17 million tone (d)14 million tonne**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Union Government came forward for the creation of special **Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF)** to augment fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by the year 2020 set under the **Blue Revolution**.
- The **Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs** chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for creation of special Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).
- The approval entails an estimated fund size of Rs.7,522 crore, comprising Rs.5,266.40 crore to be raised by the **Nodal Loaning Entities (NLEs)**, Rs. 1,316.6 crore **beneficiaries contribution** and Rs.939.48 crore **budgetary support** from the Government of India.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), National Cooperatives Development Corporation (NCDC)** and all **Scheduled Banks** shall be the Nodal Loaning Entities.
- FIDF would provide concessional finance to State Governments / UTs and State entities, cooperatives, individuals and entrepreneurs etc., for taking up of the identified investment activities of fisheries development.
- Under FIDF, loan lending will be over a period of five years from 2018-19 to 2022-23 and maximum repayment will be over a period of 12 years inclusive of moratorium of two years on repayment of principal.
- **Objectives of FIDF:**
- Creation of fisheries infrastructure facilities both in Marine and Inland fisheries sectors.





- To enhance fish production to achieve its target of 15 million tonne by 2020 set under the Blue Revolution; and to achieve a sustainable growth of 8% -9% thereafter to reach the fish production to the level of about 20 MMT by 2022-23.
- Employment opportunities to over 9.40 lakh fishers/fishermen/fisherfolk and other entrepreneurs in fishing and allied activities.
- To attract private investment in creation and management of fisheries infrastructure facilities and adoption of new technologies.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184343>

## Implementation of Agmark online system

Question: Who is the Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (Central)?

(a) Mr. Arun Jetley (b) Mr. Raj Nath Singh (c) Mrs. Nirmla Sitaraman  
(d) Mr. Radha Mohan Singh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare **Radha Mohan Singh** launched the online software for Agmark on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2018.
- Through the Agmark online system, certificate of authorisation (domestic), permission of printing press, permission of laboratories (domestic) and services related to laboratory information management system will be provided online.
- In the new online application system, there are provisions for online receipt of fees from the applicants. Payment will be received in digital mode through **gov.in** website.
- Application processes related to Agmark certification will be done online by the Directorate of Marketing & Inspection (DMI). The process of application will be simple, quick, transparent and 24x7.
- **AGMARK** is a certification mark employed on agricultural products in India, assuring that they conform to a set of standards approved by the **Directorate of Marketing and Inspection** an attached Office of the **Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare under Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare**.
- The **AGMARK** Head Office at Faridabad (**Haryana**) is legally enforced in India by the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act of 1937 (and amended in 1986).
- The present **AGMARK** standards cover quality guidelines for 222 different commodities spanning a variety of pulses, cereals, essential oils, vegetable oils, fruits, meats and vegetables and semi-processed products like vermicelli.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183738>

## Conference

### 1st Annual Senior Care Conclave

Question: The National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly (NPHCE) launched in the year?

(a)2009- 10 (b)2010-11 (c)2008-09 (d)2014-15

88

<http://www.edristi.in/>



**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018; Smt Anupriya Patel made the key note address at the ‘1<sup>st</sup>Annual Senior Care Conclave – Igniting Industry for India’s Ageing Sector’.
- She stated that corporate leaders across all sectors should explore opportunities of investment in the emerging field of senior care.
- It is to be noted that the **National Programme for Healthcare of the Elderly(NPHCE)** launched in the year 2010-11, it identified 100 districts of 21 States and Eight Regional Geriatrics Centres in selected medical colleges as referral units during the 11th Plan period. As on March 2018, 520 districts in 34 states and UT’s had been sanctioned for provision of geriatric care services. “19 regional geriatric centres in government medical colleges of 18 states sanctioned for specialized care and training purpose.
- The programme is State oriented and basic thrust of the programme is to provide dedicated health care facilities to the senior citizens (>60 year of age) at various level.
- Smt Anupriya Patel also released a CII Report “Igniting Potential in Senior Care Services” and inaugurated an exhibition at the event.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184556>

## 8th National Conference of Women in Police begins tomorrow in Ranchi

**Question: The 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) began at which of the following place-**

(a) Ranchi (b) Patna (c) New Delhi (d) Jabalpur

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19th November, 2018; the 8th National Conference of Women in Police (NCWP) began in Ranchi, Jharkhand. The two-day conference is being organized by Bureau of Police Research & Development in collaboration with Jharkhand Police.
- This is the only national level platform to address the issues of Women in uniform and create an enabling atmosphere for them to maximize and optimize their professional potential.
- During the Conference topics like role of Women Police in Smart Cities, Women in Community Oriented policing, Special Training Needs for Women personnel discussed and other related matters were.
- These topics as Unheard voices of Women in CAPF/Force – Gender neutral working places, technology for skills enhancement and for conducive work environment need of empowered work space were also discussed in the conference.
- Eminent speakers like Justice Gyansudha Mishra, Former Judge, Supreme Court, Dr G K Goswami, Mrs Rekha Sharma, Chairperson, National Women Commission and others took part in the deliberations during the conference.
- It is to be noted that the 1st edition of NCWP was organized in 2002 at New Delhi by BPR&D in collaboration with Delhi Police.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184816>

## RRM inaugurates 48th AISS Principals' Conference

**Question: Who is the founding father of Sainik School?**

**(a)V K Krishna Menon (b)Indira Gandhi (c)V P Singh (d)Kailash Nath Katju**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 25<sup>th</sup> October 2018, the 48<sup>th</sup> edition of the All India Sainik School (AISS) Principals' conference was inaugurated by Raksha Rajya Mantri Dr. Subhash Bhamre in Karnal district of Haryana.
- Effort of principals was applauded and the establishment of two new Sainik Schools at Jhunjhunu (Rajasthan) and East Siang (Arunachal Pradesh) in the current financial year was informed.
- The Minister presented the prestigious **Raksha Mantri Trophy** to the Principal of Sainik School Sujanpura Tira in Himachal Pradesh for sending maximum number of cadets to NDA in 2017 and 2018.
- The government has taken revolutionary decision to induct the girls in the Sainik Schools and open the doors of quality training; a historic step towards the empowerment of girls.



**About Sainik School:**

- The concept of the Sainik School originated in the year 1961 in visionary mind of late V K Krishna Menon, who was Defence Minister in the early sixties.
- The **Sainik Schools** are a system of schools in India established and managed by the Sainik Schools Society under Ministry of Defence. There are 26 such schools covering all the states of the country.
- The scheme to establish Sainik Schools originated in order to serve as an ideal residential educational institution to rectify the imbalance caused by religion, class, and creed among the Officer cadre of the Indian Military and to prepare students for entry into the National Defence Academy (NDA) and the Indian Naval Academy (INA).

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184368>

## Conference on Cyber Security – Challenges and Innovations

**Question: Which of the following recently organized a Conference on Cyber Security – Challenges and Innovations?**

**(a)DRDO (b)ISRO (c)CISR (d)ECI**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Cyber Peace Foundation and Veermata Jijabai Technological Institute (VJTI) organised a conference on Cyber Security – Challenges and Innovations at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi.
- It was inaugurated by former DRDO chief & Chief Scientific Advisor to Minister of Defence and current Member of Niti Aayog, Dr. V K Saraswat.
- The conference brought the stakeholders working in the area to showcase their innovations, current challenges and future aspects.



- India ranks 3rd in terms of the highest number of internet users in the world after the USA and China, the number has grown 6-fold during 2012-2017 with a compound annual growth rate of 44%. India is among the top 10 spam-sending countries in the world.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184456>

## Women of India Organic Festival

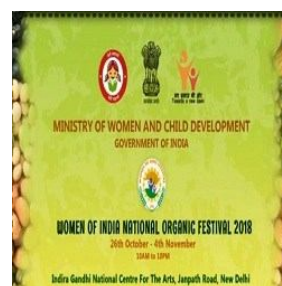
**Question: The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Women of India Organic Festival which is being organized at New Delhi aims to –**

- (a) Increase production of pulses through women only
- (b) Boost organic culture and promote Women Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs
- (c) Boost production of skin care products by women entrepreneurs
- (d) Boost fabric, jewellery creation by women

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- From 26<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of **Women of India Organic Festival** is being organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.
- This event is organized on an annual basis by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development since 2015.
- Women being the torch-bearers of the nation's organic movement, this festival aims to boost **organic culture** and promote **Women Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs**.
- Over **500** women entrepreneurs are coming together from across the country with their organic products such as cereals, rice, pulses, skin-care products, fabric, jewellery, etc.
- This festival will showcase the revolution and thus making women self-reliant.
- For the first time, 'The Vegan Project' and Food Court with cooked-on-site delicacies will also be available.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

## Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan

**Question: Recently the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan. At which place this Sammelan was organised?**

- (a) Nasik (b) Nagpur (c) Mumbai (d) Pune

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 22, 2018; The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan at Mangi Tungi, about 125 kilometers from Nasik, Maharashtra. The event was organized by the **Bhagwan Shri Rishabhdev 108 Feet Vishalkai Digambar Jain Murti Nirman Committee**.
- President speaking on the occasion said, in the Jain tradition, the principle of 'Ahimsa Paramodharma' is distinguished for human welfare and compassion – not just for the absence of physical



violence.

- The President said that Bhagwan Mahavir gave special importance to 'Apirigraha' – not taking what is more than essential to live.
- The first international **Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award** was presented to **Teerthanker Mahaveer University**, based in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.

**Lnk:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184303>

## Associations & Organizations

### Microsoft acquires conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Bot Development Company

**Question: Microsoft has acquired which of the following conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Bot Development Company?**

**(a) Iris AI (b) XOXCO (c) CloudMinds (d) IBM**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- In view of upgrading efficiency, Microsoft notified to acquire a conversational Artificial Intelligence (AI) and bot development company XOXCO.
- XOXCO is a Texas based software product design and development studio founded in 2008 by Ben Brown and Katie Spence.
- XOXCO has been working on conversational Artificial Intelligence development since 2013.
- After completion of acquisition, XOXCO will be the fourth AI-focused company to join Microsoft. Others include Semantic Machines, Bonsai, and Lobe.



**About Artificial Intelligence (AI) and bot development:**

- Bot is a computer program which conducts a conversation via auditory or textual methods with humans.
- Specifically, a bot is an application that performs an automated task, such as setting an alarm, telling you the weather or searching online. Bots can help us order food, shop for clothes, save money and find restaurants for the sake of human convenience.
- Chatbots are typically used in dialog systems (computer system to converse with human) for various practical purposes including customer service or information acquisition.
- Siri, Cortana, Tay, Microsoft's Clippy and AOL Instant Messenger's Smarter Child are such types of bots.

**Links:**

<https://blogs.microsoft.com/blog/2018/11/14/microsoft-to-acquire-xoxco-bringing-together-leading-bot-development-communities-to-help-advance-conversational-ai/>

## Law & Justice

### Adultery is no more a crime: Supreme Court

92

<http://www.edristi.in/>

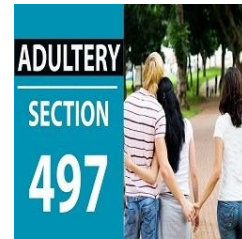
**Question: In which year Indian Penal code came into existence?**

**(a) 1960 (b) 1860 (c) 1870 (d) 1890**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- A five-judge bench of the Supreme Court Supreme Court has ruled that adultery is no longer a crime, declaring this law unconstitutional and discriminatory against women.
- In an affidavit filed by the Centre Government demanded the dismissal of the petition, and asserting that Section 497 “supports safeguards and protects the institution of marriage”.
- The Court unanimously ruled that the criminal offence of having a sexual relationship with a woman without her husband’s consent was archaic and deprived women of agency.
- It is submitted that striking down section 497 of IPC and Section 497 of IPC and Section 198(2) Cr.P.C. will prove to be detrimental to the intrinsic Indian ethos which gives paramount importance to the institution and sanctity of marriage.
- It is submitted that the final Report of Law Commission is awaited regarding the amendment of Section 497 IPC. The Malimath Committee in its report has held that the object of this section is to preserve the sanctity of the marriage.



**Case Reference**

**Joseph Shine vs. Union of India (Writ Petition (Crl). No. 194 of 2018)**

**Links:**

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2018/sep/27/adultery-is-not-a-crime-india-top-court-rules>

## **Year, Day & Week** **WORLD TOILET DAY**

**Question: World Toilet Day is celebrated every year on?**

**(a)12<sup>th</sup> November (b)13<sup>th</sup> November (c)15<sup>th</sup> November (d)19<sup>th</sup> November**

**Answer:(d)**

**Related facts:**

- World Toilet Day is a yearly event observed on 19<sup>th</sup> of November. The theme for this year is ‘When nature calls’.
- This day is an opportunity to remind ourselves of the urgent actions needed to achieve adequate and equitable sanitation for all by 2030.
- World Toilet Organization established in 2001 is an international non-profit entity, which is committed to improve the sanitation and toilet conditions around the world. Presently it has 151 members from 53 countries.
- In India Grameen Swachh Bharat Mission is celebrating the day by organizing mass awareness and mobilization activities in villages across the country. State Governments are celebrating the day by organizing ‘Swachh Bharat Toilet Day Contest’ among districts, blocks and gram panchayat teams.



**Links:**

<http://www.edristi.in/>

## International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

**Question: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on-**

**(a) 25<sup>th</sup> November (b) 14<sup>th</sup> November (c) 20<sup>th</sup> November (d) 12<sup>th</sup> November**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on 25<sup>th</sup> November every year the date marks the launch of 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2018, International Human Rights Day.
- Violence against women is “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”- UN General Assembly Declaration.
- “Orange the World: #HearMeToo”. Coming on the heels of global movements and grassroots campaigns such as ‘#MeToo’, “#TimesUp”, “#BalanceTonPorc” “#NiUnaMenos”, #MeTooIndia and “HollaBack!”,
- On 7<sup>th</sup> February 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/134, officially designating 25<sup>th</sup> November as the International day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/endviolenceday/index.shtml>

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas

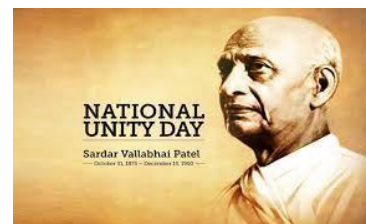
**Question: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of-**

**(a) Indira Gandhi (b) Rajeev Gandhi (c) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (d) Swami Vivekananda**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 31 October 2018; Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) was organised by Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs.
- This event was introduced by Government of India in 2014 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India.
- It is to be noted that Shri Vallabhbhai Patel came to be known as ‘Sardar’, for his extraordinary leadership during Bardoli Satyagraha. Role of Sardar Patel in unifying India and his philosophy about Unity and Integrity of the country was highlighted.
- Specifically on the occasion of National Unity Day (on 31st October 2018) Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi unveiled the Statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (182 meters high statue made of soil and metal from all the parts of the country) in Gujarat. It is named as Statue of Unity.



- The Statue of Unity or SOU is situated in the Narmada district of Gujarat, India. It is the world's tallest statue, with a height of 182 metres. The statue is on a river-island facing the Narmada Dam (also called the Sardar Sarovar dam) near Rajpipla, 100 kilometres southeast of the city of Vadodara.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1551303>

## World Television Day

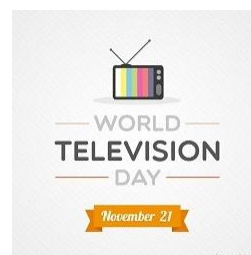
**Question: World Television Day is observed on-**

**(a) 14 November (b) 21 November (c) 12 December (d) 24 November**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Television Day is observed annually on 21st November.
- This day is celebrated to recognize growing significance of television in today's changing world and to consider how they might enhance their mutual cooperation.
- The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 21st November as World Television Day on 17<sup>th</sup> December 1996.
- It is worth to note that John Logie Baird is credited for the invention of colour Television though first all-electronic television set demonstration was carried by Philo Farnsworth.
- Television is acknowledged as a major tool in informing, channeling and affecting public opinion.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/televisionday/background.shtml>

## Universal Children's Day

**Question: Universal Children's Day is observed on-**

**(a) 14 November (b) 20 November (c) 12 December (d) 24 November**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Universal Children's Day is observed on 20<sup>th</sup> November since its establishment in the year 1954.
- This day is celebrated to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.
- The theme for the day in year 2018 was "Children are taking over and turning the world blue".
- On this very day in the year 1959, UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.
- Since 1990, Universal Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the declaration and the convention on Children's Rights.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/childrenday/>



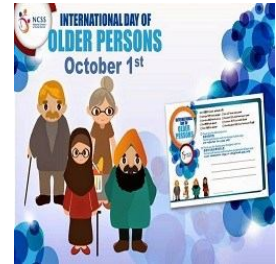
## International Day of Older Persons

**Question: International Day of Older Persons is observed on-**  
**(a) 24 October (b) 1 October (c) 30 October (d) 28 October**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, **International Day of Older Persons** was celebrated all over the world.
- This day is celebrated to raise awareness about issues affecting elderly and to appreciate contributions made by older people to society.
- This year the theme for the day was “Celebrating Older Human Rights Champions”.
- On 14<sup>th</sup> December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated 1<sup>st</sup>October the International Day of Older Persons as recorded in Resolution 45/106.
- In India, the **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** observed the IDOP and acknowledged the contribution of senior citizens to the society.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/olderpersonsday/>

## Africa Industrialization Day

**Question: Africa Industrialization Day is observed on-**  
**(a) 23 November (b) 20 November (c) 15 November (d) 18 November**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- **Africa Industrialization Day** is observed on 20<sup>th</sup> **November annually**.
- Within the framework of the Second Industrial Development Decade for Africa (1991-2000), the United Nations General Assembly declared the establishment of this day in the year 1989.
- The day is intended to mobilize the commitment of the international community to the industrialization of Africa. It also serves as a reminder that more than 30 of the world's 48 least developed countries are located in Africa.
- The theme of the year 2018 was “Promoting Regional Value Chains in Africa: A pathway for accelerating Africa's structural transformation, industrialization and pharmaceutical production”.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/africaday/>

## World Diabetes Day

**Question: World Diabetes Day is observed on-**  
**(a) 5 November (b) 10 November (c) 8 November (d) 14 November**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- World Diabetes Day was established in year 1991 by the International Diabetes Foundation (IDF) and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- In 2007 UN General Assembly adopted resolution designating 14<sup>th</sup> November as World Diabetes Day.
- This year theme for the day is **The Family and Diabetes** – diabetes concerns every family.
- Diabetes is a chronic disease, which occurs when the pancreas does not produce enough insulin, or when the body cannot effectively use the insulin it produces. This leads to an increased concentration of glucose in the blood (hyperglycaemia).
- This day marks the birthday of Frederick Banting who, along with Charles Best led the discovery of insulin in 1922.



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/diabetesday/index.shtml>

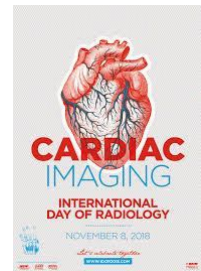
## International Day of Radiology

**Question: International Day of Radiology is observed on –**  
**(a) November, 5<sup>th</sup> (b) November, 10<sup>th</sup> (c) November, 8<sup>th</sup> (d) November, 11<sup>th</sup>**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- International Day of Radiology is observed on 8<sup>th</sup> November every year since its inception in 2012.
- This year theme for the day was “Cardiac Imaging”.
- This day is also celebrated as “World Radiography day” by the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists.
- This day is recognized as the anniversary of discovery of X-ray by Wilhelm Conrad Rontgen in 1895.



**Links:**

<https://www.internationaldayofradiology.com/theme/#>

## World Rabies Day

**Question: World Food Day is observed on-**  
**(a)16 October (b)8 October (c)15 October (d)12 October**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Food Day is observed on 16 October every year since 1981.
- World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger.
- This day is celebrated to mark foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.



- This year theme for the day was ‘**Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible**’.

Links:

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

## World Food Day

**Question: World Food Day is observed on-**  
**(a)16 October (b)8 October (c)15 October (d)12 October**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Food Day is observed on 16 October every year since 1981.
- World Food Day is a day of action dedicated to tackling global hunger.
- This day is celebrated to mark foundation of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations in 1945.
- This year theme for the day was ‘**Our actions are our future – A zero hunger world by 2030 is possible**’.

Links:

<http://www.fao.org/world-food-day>

## World Day for Audiovisual Heritage

**Question: World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on-**  
**(a)21 October (b) 23October (c) 25October (d) 27 October**

**Answer :(d)**

**Related facts:**

- World Day for Audiovisual Heritage is observed on 27 October every year.
- This day provides an occasion to raise general awareness of the need to take urgent measures and to acknowledge the importance of audiovisual documents (films, sound and video recordings, radio and television programmes).
- This year theme for the day is “**Your Story is Moving**”.



Links:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/audiovisuallday/index.shtml>

## International Day of Rural women

**Question: International Day of Rural women is observed on-**  
**(a)21 October (b)8 October (c)15 October (d)12 October**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- International Day of Rural women is observed on 15 October every year since 2008.



- This day recognizes the critical role and contribution of rural women, including indigenous women, in augmenting agricultural and rural development, enhancing food security and eradicating rural poverty.
- This year theme for the day was “Sustainable infrastructure, services and social protection for gender equality and the empowerment of rural women and girls”.
- Despite progress on some fronts, gender inequalities remain pervasive in every dimension of sustainable development; and in many areas, progress is too slow to achieve the SDGs by 2030.

**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/ruralwomenday/>

## World Mental Health Day

**Question: World Mental Health Day is observed on-**

(a) 8 October (b) 10 October (c) 4 October (d) 12 October

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year.
- The objective of the day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.
- This year the theme for the day was “**Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World**”.



**Links:**

[http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/world-mental-health-day/2018/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/2018/en/)

## World Habitat Day

**Question: The theme of the 2018 World Habitat Day was-**

(a) Municipal Solid Waste Management (b) “Housing Policies: Affordable Homes  
(c) Housing at the Centre (d) Public Spaces for All

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Habitat Day is observed on the first Monday of October of every year since 1986.
- This day is celebrated to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.
- This year the theme for the day was “**Municipal Solid Waste Management**” while the slogan was **Waste-wise cities**.



**Link:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/habitatday/>

## World Cities Day

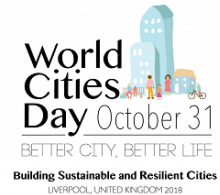
**Question: World Cities Day is observed on-**

(a)20 October (b)31 October (c)4 October (d)12 October

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Cities Day is observed on 31 October every year.
- This Day is celebrated to greatly promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
- This year the theme for the day is "**Better City, Better Life**".



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/citiesday/background.shtml>

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

**Question: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on-**

(a) 17 October (b) 12 October (c) 10 October (d) 15 October

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year.
- This day seeks to promote people awareness about the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide.
- This day was formally declared by the General Assembly on 22 December 1992.
- This year the theme for the day was "Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity".



**Links:**

<http://www.un.org/en/events/povertyday/index.shtml>

## Books

### Book- Making of New India

**Question: Which of the following author is not associated with the recently released book "Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government"?**

(a)Dr Bibek Debroy (b)Dr Anirban Ganguly (c)Shri Kishore Desai (d)V. Kamath

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, received the first copy of the book “Making of New India: Transformation under Modi Government”, from Shri Arun Jaitley on November 27<sup>th</sup>
- This book, edited by Dr Bibek Debroy, Dr Anirban Ganguly and Shri Kishore Desai, contains 51 essays on themes ranging from economy to diplomacy, education to public health.
- This Book has highlighted the efforts of the government which has initiated programmes and moved forward with determined efforts to alleviate poverty and improve the standard of life of the millions who deserved.
- The Book endeavors at weaving together an assessment of various policies and programmes, and provides its readers a multidimensional view of the national development journey.



#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185985>

### Book “Kedarnath se Sakshatkar”

**Question: Who is the author of book “Kedarnath se Sakshatkar”?**

**(a) Narasimha Bhandari (b) Manjeet Negi (c) Ajit Kandpal (d) Vijay Bahuguna**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, during the Uttarakhand Investor Summit, Union Home Minister Mr. Rajnath Singh and Chief Minister Mr. Trivendra Singh Rawat released the book “Kedarnath se Sakshatkar”.
- The author of this book is Manjeet Negi.
- In this book, the author has mentioned about the glory of Kedarnath Dham. Kedarnath Temple is located in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. This temple is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, the holiest Hindu shrines of Shiva.



#### Links:

<https://liveuttarakhand.com/132854/kedarnath-ke-sakshatkar-book-will-tell-the-story-of-new-developed-kedarnath-shrine/>

### Book “HEALED”

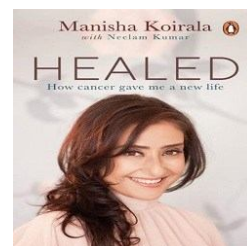
**Question: Who is the author of book ‘HEALED’?**

**(a) Manisha Koirala (b) Sonali Bendre (c) Diana Hayden (d) Lisa Ray**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, actress Manisha Koirala unveiled her book ‘HEALED’.
- This book has a subtitle ‘How Cancer Gave me a New Life’.
- This book is a memoir figuring her story against the ovarian cancer.
- This book has been written by Manisha Koirala and co-authored by Neelam Kumar.



#### Links:

<http://www.edristi.in/>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/life-style/books/features/manisha-koirala-unveils-cover-of-upcoming-book-healed-which-chronicles-her-battle-with-cancer/articleshow/66575829.cms><https://www.thehindu.com/books/manisha-koirala-unveils-her-new-book/article25464503.ece>

## Book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'

**Question: Who is the author of the book 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War'?**

**(a) Jitendra Singh (b) Reema Hooja (c) Shobha De (d) Rajesh Bhat**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, a book titled 'Radio Kashmir – In Times of Peace & War' written by Dr Rajesh Bhat was released by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Development of North Eastern Region.
- This book recognizes role of **Radio** in Jammu and Kashmir. Also, this book underlines significant role played by the media in safeguarding the strategic interest of the Government and the masses by addressing the core issues concerning the welfare, security and other important issues of a nation.
- The minister notified that 10 KW FM transmitter of All India Radio inaugurated at Patnitop in Ramban District of J&K will provide services to people living in a radius of around 60 km (aerial) in various districts. It will be available in the frequency of 101 MHz.
- The author Dr Rajesh Bhat is currently posted in the Policy Division of Directorate General, All India Radio, New Delhi.



**Links:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1553300>

## Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior

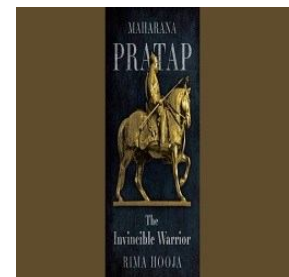
**Question: Who is the author of the book "Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior"?**

**(a) Rima Hooja (b) Shobha De (c) Arundhati Roy (d) Vikram Seth**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- In October, 2018 a new book on Maharana Pratap titled as "Maharana Pratap: Invincible Warrior" was released.
- The book is written by the noted historian Rima Hooja.
- This book mentions the life of legendary Rajput warrior Maharana Pratap Singh and revisits the famous battle of Haldighati remarking it to be inconclusive since at the end of the battle, both sides claimed victory.
- The book describes in detail how Maharana Pratap managed to elude capture by the mighty Mughal army for so long and never bowed down to
- It is worth to note that the famous battle of Haldighati was fought between the Mughal emperor Akbar and Rana of Mewar Maharana Pratap in 1576 AD.



**Links:**

<http://www.edristi.in/>

<https://www.thestatesman.com/exclusive-interviews/maharana-prataps-final-victory-was-in-akbars-reaction-to-news-of-his-death-says-dr-rima-hooja-1502700853.html>

## Miscellaneous

### Pink Legacy Diamond

**Question:** Recently Pink Legacy diamond auctioned in Geneva for world record price of about-

(a)\$50million (b)\$15million (c)\$35million (d)\$20million

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- Pink Legacy Diamond auctioned in Geneva for world record price of \$50million (about Rs 360 crore). It was bought by US brand Harry Winston at auction in Geneva, Switzerland.
- This rectangular-cut Pink Legacy Diamond weighing about 19 carats was found in a South African mine around 100 years ago and has likely not been altered since it was first cut in 1920.
- The price of around \$2.6m per carat marked a world record for a pink diamond, according to the Europe head of auction house Christie's. The diamond's new owners have rechristened it the Winston Pink Legacy.
- Once owned by the Oppenheimer family, who formerly ran the De Beers mining company.
- The diamond was referred to as "one of the world's greatest diamonds" by Christie's international head of jewellery, Rahul Kadakia



**Links:**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-46203283>

## PaiSA

**Question:** Consider the following regarding PaiSA:

1. It is a portal for Affordable credit and interest subvention access.
2. It is developed by Andhra Bank.

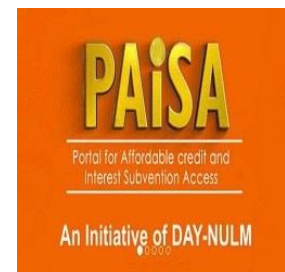
**Choose the correct options of the following:**

(a)1 only (b)2 only (c)Both 1 and 2 (d)Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- **PaiSA** is a "portal for affordable credit and interest subvention access" launched on 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2018. It is a centralized electronic platform for processing interest subvention on bank loans to beneficiaries under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojna- National Urban Livelihoods Mission (**DAY-NULM**).
- It has been designed and developed by Allahabad bank which is the nodal bank. Ministry Of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is responsible for launching this portal.
- It is an effort by the government to connect directly with the beneficiaries, ensuring that there is greater transparency and efficiency in delivery of services.





- DBT of subvention on monthly basis under DAY-NULM will give the necessary financial support to small entrepreneurs in timely manner.
- All 35 states/UTs & all Scheduled commercial banks are expected to be on board the PaiSA portal the year end.
- More than 300 delegates comprising officers from the States, Urban Local Bodies, and Town Planning Offices across the country and Banks participated in the workshop.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185954>

## Largest Brain-Mimicking Supercomputer

**Question: What is SpiNNaker?**

**(a) Sniper Gun (b) Communication Satellite (c) Spy Plane (d) Supercomputer**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The world's largest brain mimicking supercomputer (SpiNNaker) Spiking Neural Network Architecture Machine has been switched on recently at University of Manchester in the United Kingdom, it has been designed to work same way as human brain.
- It can model very large number of biological neurons comparison to any other machine at present in the world. It contains 100 million transistors per chip and therefore capable of doing more than 200 million actions per second.
- Neuroscientists can now use SpiNNaker to help unlock some of the secrets of how the human brain works by running large scale simulations.
- It works as real time neural simulator that allows Roboticists now can design large scale neural networks into mobile robots with the help of this supercomputer as this machine also works as real-time neural simulator.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/worlds-largest-brain-like-supercomputer-switched-on-for-first-time/article25468554.ece>

## Mrs. Asia International Pageant

**Question: Mrs. Asia International All Nation has been crowned to which of the following personality?**

**(a) Vickneswari Batu (b) Anupama Soni (c) Asuka Naitoh (d) Soniya Swarnkar**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- A versatile talented dentist from Jaipur, Dr Anupama Soni bagged the Mrs Asia International (All Nation) 2018 and subtitle Mrs Photogenic. She won the title of Mrs. India in August this year.
- This beauty pageant was held in Rayong, Thailand from 8-15 November 2018.
- The pageant was presented and organized by **ERM Marketing Sdn. Bhd.**



- Asia International Worldpeace 2018 was bagged by another Indian Soniya Swarnkar in the Classic Category.

**Links:**

<https://mrsasiainternational2012.wordpress.com/>

## Tech Mahindra, Rakuten Mobile Network Inc to set up 4G & 5G labs

**Question: Software major Tech Mahindra recently signed a MoU with the Electronics Company of which country for setting up 4G & 5G software-defined network laboratories?**

(a) Japan (b) USA (c) S Korea (d) Russia

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 29th October 2018; Software major Tech Mahindra on Monday signed (MoU) with Japanese electronics company Rakuten Mobile Network Inc. the mobile network subsidiary of Rakuten Group.
- The purpose of this MoU is to construct next-generation 4G and 5G software-defined network laboratories in Bengaluru and Tokyo.
- CP Gurnani, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Tech Mahindra, said it in a statement. Mickey Mikitani is Chairman, President and CEO of Rakuten, Inc..
- With this collaboration, Rakuten and Tech Mahindra aim to build a world-class 5G ready network lab which will be one of its kind in the industry. With Tech Mahindra's capabilities in the 5G domain – Mobile Networks, IT, Cloud and Enterprise Applications, and Rakuten's vision to create a resilient fully automated 5G ready network in Japan and beyond, the labs in Tokyo and Bengaluru will focus on fostering innovation in the telecom space. Tech Mahindra will also provide network integration capabilities to add value to the lab operations.
- Rakuten, Inc. (TSE: 4755) is a global leader in internet services that empower individuals, communities, businesses and society. Founded in Tokyo in 1997 as an online marketplace
- Tech Mahindra is USD 4.9 billion company with 118,390+ professionals across 90 countries. It is the highest ranked Non-U.S. company in the Forbes Global Digital 100 list (2018) and in the Forbes Fab 50 companies in Asia (2018).



**Links:**

[https://www.techmahindra.com/media/press\\_releases/World-Class-5G-Labs-in-Tokyo-and-Bengaluru.aspx](https://www.techmahindra.com/media/press_releases/World-Class-5G-Labs-in-Tokyo-and-Bengaluru.aspx)

## ICMR New Branding Guidelines

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding ICMR new branding guidelines:**

1. ICMR will be written in Devnagari script only.
2. ICMR, the apex body for Health Research in India, is 107 year old.

**Choose the correct of the following:**

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), has released its new logo and branding guidelines; involving script along the exterior



of the existing Logo. Along with ICMR headquarters all its institutes will have a similar brand identity change.

- New logo of this 107 year old institution's will now have a dot and the Devnagari script. In the new round and softer lettering depicts care and solidarity with science, and the straight line is for strength, professionalism and efficiency. The institution has tried multiple evolutions their logo.
- The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), New Delhi, is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research, is one of the oldest medical research bodies in the world. ICMR has 26 institutes and regional medical research centers, laboratories and field stations across India.

**Links:**

[https://www.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/press\\_realease\\_files/Press\\_Release\\_0.pdf](https://www.icmr.nic.in/sites/default/files/press_realease_files/Press_Release_0.pdf)

## Guru Nanak Birth Anniversary

**Question: Consider the following statement regarding Guru Nanak:**

1. Guru Nanak was born in Talwandi , Nanakana Sahib (now in Pakistan)
2. Guru Nanak's 550th birth anniversary is being celebrated this year.

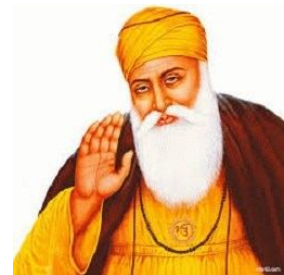
**Choose the correct options of the following:**

- a) Only 1 b) Only 2 c) Both 1 and 2 d) Neither 1 nor 2

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- 549th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak is being celebrated this year. He was born in Talwandi, Nanakana Sahib (now in Pakistan).
- Guru Nanak is the Founder of Sikhism and the first of the ten Sikh gurus. His birth anniversary is celebrated as Gurupurab on Kartik Pooranmashi all over India.
- Thousands of pilgrims all over the world will gather at Gurdwara Punja Sahib (in Pakistan) to perform their rituals which include 'Akhand Path', 'Ashnan', 'Matha Tek' and 'Kirtan'.
- Guru Nanak's words are registered in the form of 974 poetic hymns in the holy text of Sikhism, the Guru Granth sahib, as a collection of verses recorded in Gurumukhi.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sikhs-gather-in-pak-s-gurdwara-panja-sahib-to-mark-guru-nanak-s-birthday-118112600193\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/sikhs-gather-in-pak-s-gurdwara-panja-sahib-to-mark-guru-nanak-s-birthday-118112600193_1.html)

## Rs 75 coin will be released to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Tricolour hoisting by Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose

**Question: The government will release Rs 75 coin to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at-**

- (a)Delhi (b)Kolkata (c)Chennai (d)Port Blair**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The government will release Rs 75 coin to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hoisting the Tricolour for the first time at Port Blair.
- It will be a coin of 35 grams made out of 50 per cent silver, 40 per cent copper, and 5 per cent each of nickel and zinc.

- Portrait of 'Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose' saluting the flag on the background of Cellular Jail in Port Blair will be inscribed upon this coin. A numeral **75<sup>th</sup>** with inscription **anniversary** also inscription saying **First Flag Hoisting Day** in both Devnagari script and English will be depicted.
- It is to be noted that on October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort and unveiled the plaque to commemorate the **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Formation of Azad Hind Provisional Government**, formed by Subhash Chandra



**Links:**

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/govt-to-issue-rs-75-coin-to-mark-75th-anniversary-of-tricolour-hoisting-by-netaji-subhash-chandra-bose/story/290735.html>

## Mobile App AirSewa 2.0 web portal launched

**Question: A digital platform provided recently by the Union Government for safe and comfortable digital experience to flyers is known as-**  
**(a)AirSewa 2.0 (b)AirSewa 1.4 (c)AirSewa 3.0 (d)AirSewa 555**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, upgraded version of **AirSewa 2.0 web portal** and mobile app was launched by Union Minister of Civil Aviation and Commerce & Industry, Suresh Prabhu, and Minister of State for Civil Aviation, Jayant Sinha in New Delhi.
- AirSewa 2.0 web portal includes features such as secure sign-up and log-in with social media, chatbot for travelers support. It also has the improved grievance management including social media grievances, real-time flight status and details flight schedule.
- The upgrade and improved version of AirSewa 2.0 operates through an interactive web portal as well as through a mobile app for both android and iOS platforms.
- It will offer passengers a convenient and hassle-free air travel experience. The web portal and application will help to capture air travelers' feedback for policy interventions.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1553163>

## Clara Sosa Won Miss Grand International 2018

**Question: Which of the following city hosted Miss Grand International 2018?**  
**(a)Myanmar (b)Malaysia (c)Singapore (d)Thailand**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Miss Grand Paraguay Clara Sosa won the Miss Grand International 2018.
- This title marked the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the beauty pageant held in Yangon, Myanmar.
- It is notable that Clara Sosa succeeds Miss Grand International 2017 Maria Jose Lora of Peru.



- Miss Grand India Meenakshi Chaudhary was named 1st runner-up.

**Links:**

<https://www.dailystar.co.uk/news/world-news/738964/clara-sosa-instagram-collapses-miss-grand-international-2018-beauty-queen>

## Birth of Lioness cub through artificial insemination

**Question: In which of the following countries the lioness has given birth to two cubs through Assisted Reproductive Technology?**

**(a) India (b) China (c) Nepal (d) South Africa**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- **Assisted reproductive technology (ART)** is the technology used to achieve pregnancy. It is also known as **fertility treatment**.
- The scientists of Pretoria university, South Africa has got success in giving birth of two cubs (1 male and 1 female), born on 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2018, from lioness through the Assisted Reproductive Technology.
- According to the information given by Andre Goswindt (Director of Pretoria Mammals Institute) these cubs are healthy & normal.
- The scientists have collected the sperm from a healthy lion & transfer it into to uterus of lioness through artificial technique. This technique is helpful to save the species of animals which may be extinct in near future.
- According to International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), in 26 African countries the species of lions are extinct and in previous two decades there population has been decreased by 43%. Presently only 20,000 lions are left and efforts are on to save lions.



**Links:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assisted\\_reproductive\\_technology](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assisted_reproductive_technology)

## 20th Anniversary Celebration of Google

**Question: Who is the founder of Google?**

**(a) Larry Page and Sergey Brin. (b) Larry Page and Jan Koum.**

**(c) Larry Page and Brian Acton (d) Jan Koum and Brian Acton**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Google was founded on September 4, 1998 by Larry Page and Sergey Brin.
- An initial public offering (IPO) took place on August 19, 2004, and Google moved to its headquarters in Mountain View, California, nicknamed the Googleplex.
- **Google LLC** is an American multinational technology company that specializes in Internet-related services and products, which include online advertising technologies, search engine, cloud computing, software, and hardware.



- Google offers Gmail, Google Calendar, Google Maps, Google Drive, Google Docs Sheets and Slides, Google Photos, Google Keep, Google Translate, YouTube, Google+, Allo, and Duo are Web based services.
- It also provides Software, Hardware and Internet Services; currently it is working on development of artificial intelligence.
- Its present CEO is Sunder Pichai. Its Parent Organisation is **Alphabet Inc.**

**Links:**

<https://www.google.co.in/search?q=On+which+date%2Fyear+Google+was+founded&og=On+which+date%2Fyear+Google+was+founded&ags=chrome..69i57.1325j0j7&sourceid=chrome&ie=UTF-8>

## Paytm to launch ‘PayPay’ in Japan

**Question: Paytm has recently launched a barcode-based Smartphone payment service ‘PayPay’, in which of the following country?**

**(a)Singapore (b)Philippines (c)Japan (d)Indonesia**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- It is noticeable that Paytm is an Indian e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, based out of NOIDA SEZ, India run by One 97 Communications Ltd.
- PayPay which has been incorporated in October 2018, allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet and aims to promote the use of cashless payment in Japan. PayPay will give electronic money equivalent to ¥500 to each customer downloading the application and authenticating it with a valid Japanese mobile number.
- With the launch of “PayPay,” Yahoo Japan will terminate Yahoo! Wallet its current Smartphone settlement function.
- PayPay is build around the QR (quick-response) code technology that Paytm set up in 2015, which currently offers mobile payments to more than 350 million customers and over 9.5 million merchants.
- A QR code is a machine-readable label that contains information and after scanning the code, buyers can enter the payment amount and approve the payment.



**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/paypay-in-japan-with-paytms-qr-tech/articleshow/66310108.cms>