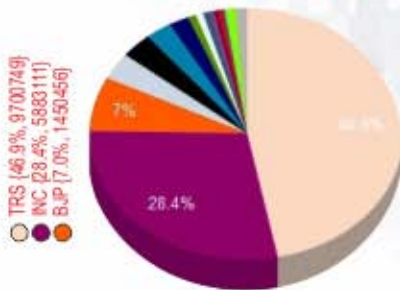


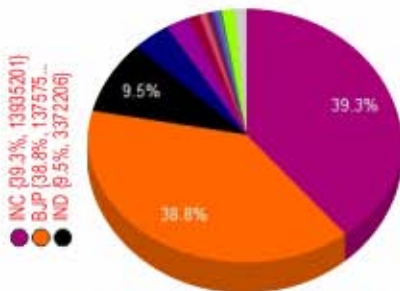
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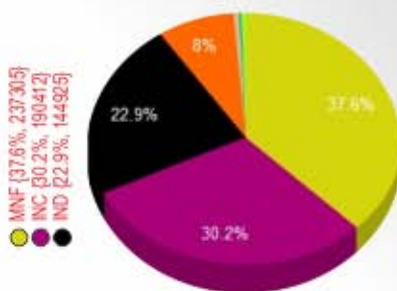
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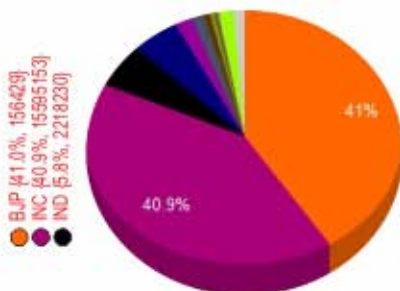
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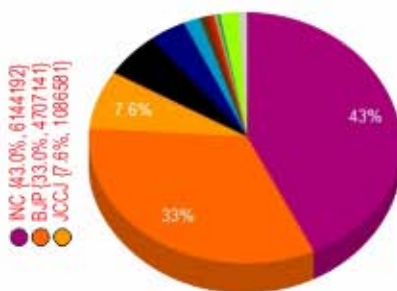
Mizoram



Madhya Pradesh



Chattisgarh



PM DEDICATES BOGIBEEL BRIDGE TO THE NATION

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 December to 31st December) 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

PM Inaugurates Bogibeel Bridge

Question: India's longest rail-cum-road bridge was inaugurated recently in which State of India?

(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Assam (c) Mizoram (d) Odisha

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 25th December, 2018, India's longest rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra River in Assam was inaugurated on the birth anniversary of former prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- The 4.9 kilometre long Double-decker Bridge is situated 17 km downstream of Dibrugarh and Dhemaji. The bridge connects Dhemaji and Dibrugarh districts of Assam.
- This is also Asia's 2nd longest rail-cum-road bridge having a serviceable period of around 120 years and is constructed at an estimated cost of Rs 5,900 crore.
- **Features:**
 - On the lower deck the bridge has two railway lines and a three-lane road on the upper, strong enough to withstand movement of heavy military tanks.
 - This bridge is based on the design of Oresund Bridge that joins Sweden and Finland across the Oresund strait.
 - It is India's first bridge to have fully welded steel-concrete support beams that can withstand earthquakes of magnitudes up to 7 Richter scale.
- **Background:**
 - The Bogibeel project was a part of the 1985 Assam Accord and was sanctioned in 1997-98. The foundation stone was laid by then Prime Minister HD Deve Gouda on January 22, 1997, but the commencement of work on the project was done by Vajpayee on April 21, 2002. It took 200 months to complete the project as heavy rainfall in the region being the main cause for the slow progress.
- **Importance of the Bridge:**
 - This bridge has significant social, cultural, economic and military importance as it augments feasibility and accessibility to resources in efficient way.
 - The road distance from Dibrugarh to Itanagar will be shortened by 150 km and the railway travel distance between these two points will shrink by 705 km while this bridge will provide an alternate and shorter route from Dibrugarh through north bank of Brahmaputra to Delhi and Kolkata via Rangiya.
 - The bridge over the Brahmaputra will boost defence logistics along the farthest point of India's border with China as it will facilitate easy movement of troops and supplies from southern to northern bank.
 - This bridge is a lifeline for crores of people in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh as it will facilitate connectivity between north and south banks of river Brahmaputra in the eastern region of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh and will boost the economy and improve trade.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=357095>

Assembly Election in 5 States

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Assembly Elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Telangana and Mizoram:

1. **Congress-I emerged as the largest party in Madhya Pradesh with 114 seats.**
2. **BJP with 78 seats was at second place in Rajasthan Assembly Election.**
3. **Zoramathanga is currently serving as the 5th Chief minister of Mizoram**

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 1 & 3 (c) Only 2 & 3 (d) Only 3

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- General Elections Results to the State Legislative Assemblies of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Rajasthan and Telangana, 2018 were announced by Election Commission of India on 11th December, 2018.
- The Assembly Elections in these states were held between November 12 and December 7, 2018.
- 2018 Assembly Elections in Chhattisgarh:
 - The Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly elections for a total of 90 Assembly seats were held in two phases: the first phase of elections for 18 seats in South Chhattisgarh took place on 12 November, 2018, and the second phase of elections for the remaining 72 held on 20 November 2018.
 - The Indian National Congress by winning 68 seats emerged as the largest party while its opponent Bhartiya Janata Party secured 15 seats. Janta Congress Chhattisgarh (J) and Bahujan Samaj Party won 5 and 2 seats respectively.
 - On 17th December 2018 Bhupesh Baghel sworn in as the 3rd Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh in the state capital Raipur.
- 2018 Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections:
 - The Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly elections for a total of 230 Assembly seats were held on 28th November, 2018.
 - The Congress-I emerged as the largest party by winning 114 seats while its opponent BJP won 109 seats. Bahujan Samaj Party, Samajwadi Party and Independents secured 2, 1 and 4 seats respectively.
 - On 17th December, 2018, Kamal Nath was sworn in as the 18th Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh in the state capital Bhopal.
- 2018 Assembly Elections in Rajasthan:
 - The Rajasthan Legislative Assembly elections for a total of 200 Assembly Seats were held in single phase on 7th December, 2018.
 - The Congress-I emerged as the largest party by winning 99 seats while its opponent BJP won 73 seats. Bahujan Samaj Party, Rashtriya Loktantrik Party and Independents secured 6, 3 and 13 seats respectively. Communist Party of India (Marxist) and Bhartiya Tribal Party won 2 seats each while Rashtriya Lok Dal won 1 seat.
 - On 17th December, 2018, Ashok Gehlot sworn in as the 12th Chief Minister of Rajasthan in the state capital Jaipur.
- 2018 Mizoram Pradesh Legislative Assembly Elections:
 - The Mizoram Legislative Assembly elections for a total of 40 Assembly seats were held in on 28th November, 2018.
 - Mizo National Front emerged as the largest party by winning 26 seats while its opponent Congress-I won 5 seats.
 - Bharatiya Janata Party and Independent secured 1 and 8 seats respectively.



- On 15th December, 2018, Zoramathanga was sworn in as the 5th Chief Minister of Mizoram in the state capital Aizawl. Prior to this, he had served as the Chief Minister of Mizoram from December 1998 to December 2008, for two consecutive terms.
- 2018 Assembly Elections in Telangana:
- The Telangana Legislative Assembly elections for a total of 119 Assembly Seats was held on 7th December, 2018 to constitute the second Legislative Assembly since the formation of the State in 2014.
- Telangana Rashtra Samithi by winning 88 seats emerged as the largest party while its opponent Congress-I secured 19 seats All India Majlis-E-Ittehadul Muslimeen and Telugu Desam won 7 and 2 seats respectively. Bharatiya Janata Party, All India Forward Bloc and Independent secured 1 seat each.
- Kalvakuntla Chandrashekar Rao (abbreviated as K.C.R.) founder of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi, the previous Chief Minister of Telangana was re-elected as the Chief Minister.

Links:

<http://eciresults.nic.in/>

Year End Review 2018: Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Question: What is the budget allocation of the Ministry of Tribal affairs in the year 2018-19?

(a) Rs. 5329.32 Crore (b) Rs. 5957.18 Crore (c) Rs. 6500.00 Crore (d) None of the above

Answer :(b)

Related facts:

- On 20th December, 2018 Ministry of Tribal Affairs released Year end review 2018.
- Scheduled Tribes component across all Ministries witnesses a substantial increase from Rs. 31,920.00 Cr. In the year 2017-18 to Rs. 37,802.94 Cr in 2018-19.
- The scheduled Tribes comprise about 8.6% of India's population (according to the 2011 census).
- Budget allocation of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs has gone up from Rs. 5329.32 Crore in the year 2017-18 to Rs. 5957.18 Cr in 2018-19.
- There are 37 central Ministries and Departments having STC (Scheduled Tribes Component) Funds catering to specific tribal development in various sectors through 299 different schemes.
- With the efforts of Ministry of Tribal Affairs, the STC expenditure has gone up from 85% of total allocation at revised estimates stage in 2016-17 to 96% in 2017-18.
- Vigorous efforts of MoTA, saw TSP funds 98% increase in expenditure of State Tribal Sub-Plan funds by States during the years block of 2010-13 (wherein a total of Rs. 1,65,691.00 crore was expended) to 2014-17 (wherein a total of Rs. 3,27,574.00 crore were expended).
- **Schemes**
- Eklavya Model Residential School is an excellent approach for imparting quality education to ST children.
- A total of 284 EMRSs have been sanctioned as on date, out of which 219 have been reported functional, with about 65,231 students enrolled therein.
- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an Eklavya Model Residential School.



- Government has conceptualized and planned setting up of permanent museums in States where Tribals lived, struggled against the Britisher's, refused to bow down to alien rule and were far ahead in making sacrifices.
- Ministry has decided to construct a state-of-the-art Museum for Tribal freedom fighters of national importance in Gujarat with a total outlay of Rs. 108.55 crore and MoTA's contribution of Rs. 50.00 crore.
- The second national level museum is to come-up in Jharkhand with an outlay of Rs. 36.66 crore and MoTA's contribution OR Rs. 25.00 Crore.
- National fellowship and Scholarship scheme for higher education of ST students – Financial assistance in the scheme for 2018-19 is Rs. 100.00crores

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186633>

Ministry of Commerce & Industry to setup trade promotion bodies in 15 countries

Question: Ministry of Commerce & industry is examining the proposal to set up trade promotion bodies in how many countries?

(a) 15 (b)20 (c)25 (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Suresh Prabhu informed the participants of the 15th Global SME Business Summit (19th December, 2018) about the commitment of the Ministry of commerce & industry towards the growth of the SMEs.
- The concept of trade has been changing where larger enterprises increasingly rely on outsourcing the manufacturing activities. This practice has proved quite advantageous to the MSMEs where they can participate in the exports through manufacturing of intermediate products.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry is examining the proposal to setup trade promotion bodies in 15 countries.
- Ministry is also working on a comprehensive strategy to boost the MSME sector by granting new patents in record time. New Intellectual Property regime is being launched to strengthen the IPRs of Indian MSMEs as well as protecting IPRs of the other countries.
- The 2018-19 Budgets has given a big thrust to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) sector to boost employment and economic growth. The budgetary allocation has gone up from Rs. 6481.96 crore in 2017-18 to Rs.6552.61 crore in 2018-19.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1556657#>

National Medical Devices Promotion Council

Question: Although the Medical Devices Industry (MDI) has been growing in double digits but is predominantly import-driven with imports accounting for over ___ of the domestic market.

(a) 65 Percent (b) 85 Percent (c) 45 Percent (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- 4th WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices was organized on 14th December 2018 at Andhra Pradesh Medtech Zone, in Vishakhapatnam.
- To give a fillip to the medical device sector, a National Medical Devices Promotion Council under the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce & Industry is been proposed.
- Although the industry has been growing in double digits but is predominantly import-driven with imports accounting for over 65% of the domestic market.

Objectives:

- Medical devices industry (MDI) plays a critical role in the healthcare ecosystem and is indispensable to achieve the goal of health for all citizens of the country.
- The setting-up of the council will spur domestic manufacturing in this sector, attract investment and to promote exports in this fast growing sector.
- The council will be headed by Secretary, DIPP, and it will have representatives from health care industry and quality control institutions.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186385>

National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) Project

Question: NeVA aims to bring all the _ of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a __ without having the complexity of multiple applications.

- (a) Legislatures, massive data depository (b) high court, huge network
 (c) district courts, metropolitan area network (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Ministry of Parliamentary affairs gave details on the status of implementation of National e-Vidhan application (NeVA) Project on 18 December, 2018.
- Paperless assembly or e-Assembly is a concept involving of electronic means to facilitate the work of assembly. NeVA aims to bring all the legislatures of the country together, in one platform thereby creating a massive data depository without having the complexity of multiple applications.
- NeVA will completely eliminate the process of sending out a notice/request for collection of data.
- E-Vidhan is a Mission Mode Project (MMP) included in Digital India Programme and Ministry of Parliamentary affairs (MoPA) is the 'Nodal Ministry' for its implementation in all the 31 states/UTs with Legislatures.
- The total project cost of the project is over 738 crores and funding of NeVA is on the pattern of central sponsored scheme i.e. 60:40; and 90:10 for North East & hilly states and 100% for UTs.
- The funding for e-Vidhan is provided by the MoPA and technical support by Ministry of electronics and information technology (MeitY).



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186569>

Multi-Disciplinary Training Centre

Question: Ministry of MSME inaugurated a Multi-Disciplinary Training centre of Khadi and Village Industries Commission In which city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Kanpur (d) Surat

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- A Multi-Disciplinary Training Centre of 'Khadi and Village industries commission' was inaugurated on 13th December 2018.
- Delhi based training centre 'Samadhan' is an industrial training institute set up on PPP mode with the MSME Ministry, to provide comprehensive industry and business related guidance and quality knowledge to entrepreneurs, industries, corporate and institutions.
- The MSME ministry also inaugurated a mustard-oil manufacturing unit at KVIC office at Gandhi Darshan Rajghat.
- MSME Minister, Giriraj Singh also planted 'Moringa saplings' in the premises of the mustard oil Manufacturing unit at the Multi-disciplinary Training Centre (MTDC).



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1555863>

Ministry of Steel initiative of Make in Steel – Make in India

Question: A contest was conducted to popularized steel and inviting ideas by the Ministry of Steel is:

(a) #myLOVESTEEELIdeas (b) # myAFFECTIONSTEELIdeas (c) # myCUTESTEELIdeas
(d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- A contest was conducted to popularize use of steel and inviting ideas in steel sector called #myLOVESTEEELIdeas.
- The per capita consumption has risen from 59 kg in 2013-14 to 69 kg in 2017-18. India has produced 103 Million Tonnes of steel in 2017-18.
- The capacity of steel production has increased from 97 Million Tonnes in 2012-13 to 138 Million Tonnes in 2017-18.
- The Ministry of Steel utilized MyGov platform to crowd source ideas for increasing steel consumption in India. A contest was conducted inviting ideas in steel sector called #myLOVESTEEELIdeas:
- Flagship programmes like 100 Smart Cities Mission, Housing for all Mission, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation and high-speed bullet trains and metro trains all will hugely contribute in increasing steel demand in our country.
- In 2018, the scrapping policy of Ministry of steel is being finalized.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186572>

Indian National Centre for Ocean Information (INCOIS)

Question: What is the full form of 'ITC Ocean'?

(a) International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography



- (b) International Training Council for Operational Oceanography
(c) Indian Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Union Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated and dedicated, the newly constructed International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography Centre in the INCOIS campus to the former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, at Hyderabad on 22nd December, 2018.
- The UNESCO category 2 centers established as a training facility at INCOIS will give an opportunity to the South Asian and African states bordering the Indian Ocean and the small island nations in the Pacific to benefit from the expertise and experience of INCOIS in the areas of ocean science and management.
- To scale up the activities of ITCOcean, a full-fledged facility consisting of an Academic building and International Guest House has been constructed on the INCOIS campus.
- INCOIS is a leading operational oceanography institute in the region. Tsunami early warnings from the institute are delivered to 25 countries on the Indian Ocean Rim on real-time basis.
- Under the aegis of Regional Integrated Multi-hazard Early warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), INCOIS is also providing ocean state forecast and other related warnings to 5 countries (Sri Lanka, Maldives, Seychelles, Madagascar and Cameroon).

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356989>

India's First Water Metro

Question: In which of the following cities The Water Metro, an integrated water-transport project has started?

(a) Kochi City (b) Kozhikode (c) Kollam (d) Thiruvananthapuram

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India's first and German-Government backed Water Metro, an integrated water-transport project connecting 10 islands near the Kochi city, spread across 76 km, finally started.
- The Water Metro, being developed as one of the fastest means of transport, will help people commute easily to hubs which generate employment. The project is expected to be completed in four years.
- During the Phase I, it is proposed to operate 7 routes with a fleet requirement of 43 boats. The entire water transport project will be fully operational by 2019. In Phase II, it is proposed to operate 9 routes with a total of 16 routes and a fleet requirement of 78 boats.
- The total cost of the Water Metro project is Rs 820 crore. The KfW Development Bank will be providing EUR 85 million as long term soft loan and the State Government of Kerala will be contributing Rs 102 crore.
- Total cost of the project is estimated at Rs 747 crore; it excludes Rs 72 crore, which would be required for land acquisition. The Indo-German Bilateral Cooperation, under the 'Climate Friendly Urban Mobility Plan', will finance the project



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/education-today/gk-current-affairs/story/water-metro-project-331174-2016-07-25>

SDG India Index 2018

Question: Which of the following statement/s is/are correct regarding SDG India Index, 2018?

- (1) It is published by NITI Aayog.
 - (2) It includes the performance of Indian states on various SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals).
 - (3) The report measures the progress of Union and its States towards SDGs of 2020.
 - (4) The index will help the States/UT (Union Territories) to assess their progress against national targets and identify their priority areas. Correct option
- (a) 1 and 3. (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 3 and 4. (d) 1, 2 and 4.

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 21 December 2018, NITI Aayog released the Baseline Report of the *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index*, which comprehensively documents the progress made by India's States and Union Territories towards implementing the 2030 SDG targets.
- NITI Aayog has to oversee the implementation of SDGs in the country, and also promote Competitive and Cooperative Federalism among States and UTs.
- The SDG India Index tracks progress of all States and UTs on 62 Priority Indicators selected by NITI Aayog, which in turn is guided by MoSPI's National Indicator Framework comprising 306 indicators and based on multiple-round consultations with Union Ministries/Departments and States/UTs.
- The *SDG India Index* is available via an interactive dashboard which has cross-sectional relevance across policy, civil society, business and academia.
- SDGs are commitment by world leaders and are adopted by **193 countries in UN General Assembly Summit** to eradicate poverty and hunger, to embrace wellbeing of society in economic, environmental and social aspect.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186701>

President Rule

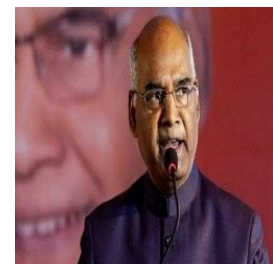
Question: Which of the following state came under President Rule recently?

- (a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Jharkhand

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- **Jammu & Kashmir** came under **President Rule** on 19th December, 2018 after President Ram Nath Kovind signed the proclamation. It came after **Governor's Rule** in the state expired after 6 months on 19th December. President Rule is the power vested under **Article 365** of constitution transferring the powers of state assembly.
- The state of Jammu & Kashmir came under Governor Rule on **June 20** after the **withdrawal of support by BJP**.
- As the state has its separate constitution which **binds for governor rule of 6 months under Article 92** which transfers the legislative power to Governor.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356864>

Ujjawala Yojana extended to all poor households

Question: Which of the following Yojana of Central Government is extended to all poor households?

- (a) Ayushman Bharat Yojana (b) Ujjawala Yojana (c) Skill India Mission
(d) Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 17th December 2018, CCEA (Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs) approved expansion of Ujjawala Yojana to cover the poor families who does not have the LPG connection and are not covered under the existing beneficiary categories.
- Prior to this, the connections were given based on the 2011 Socio-Economic Caste Census (SECC), the list was later expanded to include providing free cooking gas connection to all SC/ST households, forest dwellers, most backward classes, inhabitants of islands, nomadic tribes, tea estates and beneficiaries of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and Antyodaya Yojana.
- Ujjawala Yojana was launched on 1st May 2016 in Ballia by Prime Minister Narendra Modi; this scheme targeted of giving LPG connections mostly to rural women members of Below Poverty Level (BPL) category with a support of Rs.1600 per connection in the next 3 years. Till now, this scheme has delivered around 5.85 crore connections.
- This step of expansion will ensure the LPG connection to almost 100% households.



Links:

<http://www.pmujiwalayojana.com/>

NITI Aayog Document

Question: Which of the following document is unveiled by Niti Aayog having future goals for Indian Economy?

- (a) Strategy for Modern India (b) New India Mission (c) Shreshth Bharat Strategy
(d) Strategy for New India @75

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The NITI Aayog (National Institute for Transforming India), named 'Strategy for New India @ 75' constituting the goals and aims to be taken up for the future of Economy till 2022-23. This has the objective for the establishment of the Prime minister's envisioned New India by 2022 i.e. 75 years of independence.
- Over 800 stakeholders from within the government – central, state and district levels – and about 550 external experts were consulted during the preparation of the document. It aimed to accelerate growth rate to achieve 8% growth of economy over the period 2018-23 turning India into a \$4- trillion economy by 2022-23. This will further be expanded to \$5-trillion by 2030.
- This aims to raise the investment rate to 36% of GDP, increasing tax-GDP ratio to 22% of GDP. Emphasis on expansion of e-NAM (National Agricultural Markets) and formulation of Agricultural Produce and Livestock Marketing (APLM) Act.



- This also aims to connect around 2,50,000 gram Panchayats digitally under BharatNet programme, doubling farmer's income by 2022, pushing towards Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) to reduce costs and improve land quality.
- Housing for all by 2022, a pucca house with water, toilet and 24*7 electricity supply. Fully codify central labor laws; enhancing female labor force participation to 30%. Achieving a position among top 50 countries in Global Innovation Index.
- This also aims to double the export to \$800 billion by 2022-23. It also asks for the liberalizing FDI limits across all sectors and industries. More emphasis on renewable source of energy.
- These reforms, if implemented efficiently would help to achieve the targeted growth for the economy with greater inclusiveness and prosperity for general.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/niti-aayog-unveils-strategy-document-to-make-india-5-tn-economy-by-2030/article25780746.ece>

Multilingual Exposure to Students

Question: Which of the following program is launched to provide multilingual exposure to students in Indian Language?

(a) BHASHA GYAAN (b) BHASHA SAMAGAM (c) BHASHA DHAN (d) BHASHA SANGAM

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- 'Bhasha Sangam' a Celebration of Linguistic Diversity which marks the appreciation of the unique symphony of languages of our country is initiated by The Department of School Education & Literacy, from 20th November to 21st December.
- Bhasha Sangam provides an opportunity of multilingual exposure of Indian Languages to students of Schools and educational institutions (School Boards, Directorates of School Education, etc.) with the objective to familiarize every child to dialogue and understand simple usage of all 22 languages coming under Schedule VIII Indian Constitution.
- The Bhasha Sangam is an initiative under the Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat Mission which aims to increase awareness among students about the unique cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of our country. It will be done to promote national integration by enhancing lingual tolerance.
- This scheme has been supported by its wider acceptance from states and Union Territories in a positive way. Since Education comes in Concurrent List allowing states to decide the medium of instruction in schools.
- The National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005 stated that the 'Three Language Formula' would tackle the linguistic problems as under this the first language studied must be the mother tongue or a regional language. In non Hindi – speaking States, children learn Hindi. In the case of Hindi speaking States, children learn a language not spoken in their area. This may include study of Sanskrit as a modern language in addition.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186496>

Vision of a New India – USD 5 Trillion Economy

Question: Vision of a New India is an action-oriented plan for making India a-

(a) 5 Trillion dollar economy (b) 7 Trillion dollar economy (c) 8 Trillion dollar economy



(d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Commerce & Industry is creating an action-oriented plan which will highlight specific sector level interventions to bolster India's march towards becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy before 2025.
- The Ministry has created a corpus of USD 1 billion to boost 12 identified Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development, and realizing their potential. These include Information Technology & Information Technology enabled Services, Tourism and Hospitality Services, Medical Value Travel, Transport and Logistics Services, Accounting and Finance Services, Audio Visual Services, Legal Services, Communication Services, Construction and Related Engineering Services, Environmental Services, Financial Services and Education Services.
- India's first ever Agricultural Export Policy with a focused plan to boost India's agricultural exports to USD 60 billion by 2022 thereby assisting the Agriculture Ministry in achieving its target of USD 100 billion and to integrate Indian farmers and the high quality agricultural products with global value chains and to double India's share in world agriculture.
- Commerce Ministry is working closely with the Finance Ministry to ease credit flow to the export sector, especially small exporters to ensure adequate availability of funds to them.
- 15 strategic overseas locations where the Trade Promotion Organizations (TPOs) are proposed to be created include countries – Kazakhstan, China, South Africa, UAE, Germany, Vietnam, Indonesia, Peru, U.K., Australia, Mexico, Russia, USA, Brazil and Japan.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=155538>

India offers Financial Aid to Maldives

Question: Which of the following country is offered financial aid worth \$1.4 billion from India?

(a) Tanzania (b) Estonia (c) Maldives (d) Nepal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- During the State Visit of President of the Republic of Maldives Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to India (16-18 December 2018), in a formal announcement India notified to give financial aid worth \$1.4 billion to Maldives.
- Acting on Neighbourhood First policy, India will provide all kinds of support and help to the neighbouring country. This comes in the wake of loans from China equating to 70% of total Maldives national debt which is estimated to be between \$1.5 to 3 billion.
- Maldives is a small island nation located in Indian Ocean south to India. It has been a close ally to India which suffered turmoil when ex-President Yameen turned hostile to India increasing its relation to China. The present government led by Solih worked to restart its close relations with India.
- Both the nations signed four agreements and promised to maintain security and peace in Indian Ocean. Maldivian President also announced its support for permanent membership of India in United Nations.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-offers-1-4-billion-aid-to-maldives-5498261/>

Year end Review 2018 – MNRE

Question: How much units of power were generated in the country during the year 2017-18 from renewable energy sources?

(a) 101.83 Billion (b) 109.56 Billion (c) 135.00 Billion (d) 150.00 Billion

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In order to fructify Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's dream of a clean energy future for the 'New India', Government of India has implemented major programmes/ schemes and is offering various incentives for installation of renewable energy capacity in country.

Target:

- The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. This includes 60 GW from wind power, 100 GW from solar power, 10 GW from biomass power and 5 GW from small hydro power.



Achievements:

- According to the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (year end review, 2018) India attains global 4th and 5th position in wind and solar power installed capacities.
- India is now at 5th global position for overall installed renewable energy capacity.
- The overall installed capacity in the country as on 31.10.2018 was 347.37GW in which energy through thermal sources contributed major(63.84%), Renewable energy contribution was 21.12%, 13.09% of energy installation through hydro source and 1.95% by nuclear source.

Status of Renewable Energy Installation:

- A total of 101.83 Billion units (73.35GW) of power were generated in the country during the year 2017-18 from renewable energy.
- The overall installed renewable energy capacity in the country as on 31.10.2018 was 73.35 GW in which energy through wind power contributed major(34.98 GW), Solar Power Sector contribution was 24.33 GW, 9.54 GW of energy installation through Bio Energy Sector and 4.5 GW of energy was installed by small hydro sector.
- The cumulative renewable energy installed capacity has increased from 35.51 GW as on 31.03.2014 to 73.35 GW as on 31.10.2018 (increase of around 106% during last four & a half years).

Way Forward:

- The Government has declared the trajectory of bidding 60 GW capacity of solar energy and 20 GW capacity of wind energy by March 2020, leaving two years' time for execution of projects.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1555373>

Cloud-Based New Generation Technology: PCS 1x

Question: Under the guidance of the Ministry Of Shipping, Indian Ports Association has launched which of the following port community system?

(a) PCS 1x (b) IAS 1x (c) PKP 1x (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 11 December 2018 Indian Ports Association launched a port community system PCS 1x. In that context, the URL www.indianpcs.gov.in was launched by Sanjay Bhatia, Chairman IPA in the Presence of Various Stakeholders from Mumbai.
- PCS 1x is a cloud-based new generation technology, with a user-friendly interface. The platform offers value added services such as notification engine, workflow, mobile application, track and trace, better user interface, better security features, improved inclusion by offering dashboard for those with no IT capability.
- A unique feature of 'PCS1x' is that it can latch on to third party software which provides services to the maritime industry thereby enabling the stakeholders to access wide network of services.
- It captures and stores data on its first occurrence thereby reducing manual intervention, the need to enter transaction data at various points and thereby reducing errors in the process.
- 'PCS 1x' seamlessly integrates 8 New stakeholders besides the 19 existing stakeholders form the maritime trade on a single platform.
- A major training and outreach program is underway to educate the stakeholders about the uses and benefits of 'PCS 1x'.
- The web-based platform has been developed indigenously and is a part of the Make in India and Digital India initiative.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1555546>

India Water Impact Summit-2018

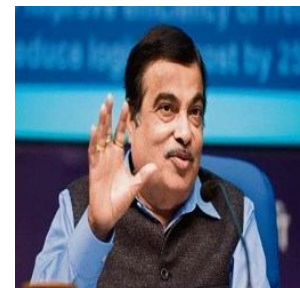
Question: Third edition of India Water Impact Summit 2018 was held in which of the following city?

(a) Kolkata (b) Varanasi (c) New Delhi (d) Kanpur

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- **Third edition of India Water Impact Summit 2018** organised from 5-7 December 2018 was inaugurated by Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
- Three day summit is jointly organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and the Centre for Ganga River Basin management and Studies (cGanga).
- Nearly 200 domestic and international participants from nearly 15 countries and more than 50 Central, State and Municipal Government representatives are likely to participate in the summit.
- The summit focuses on three key aspects: (1) Spotlight on 5 states: Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Delhi and Bihar, (2) Ganga Financing Forum: it will bring together financial institutions and investors interested in Namami Gange programme and (3) Technology and innovation: implementation of the pilot programme known as the environment technology verification (ETV) process.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356307>

Clean Sea-2018

Question: Clean Sea-2018 was conducted at which of the following place?

(a) Vishakhapatnam (b) Kolkata (c) Mangalore (d) Port Blair

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- A Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise titled Clean Sea-2018 started in Port Blair on December 6, 2018. It is conducted by Indian Coast Guard.
- This exercise was conducted to ascertain preparedness of all the agencies under Inspector General Maneesh V Pathak and Commander Coast Guard Region (Andaman and Nicobar Island) as observer and overseen by Chief Secretary of Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administrations Shri Chetan B Sanghi.
- Coast Guard ships Vijith, Vishwasth, Rajveer and Rajshri participated in the exercise. Four interceptor boats and its assets Dornier and Chetak helicopter also took part in the exercise.
- Indian Coast Guard (ICG) is an organisation with multi mission conducting multiple sea operations round the year for protection of India's maritime interests. Its headquarter is in New Delhi.



Links:

<http://joinindiancoastguard.gov.in/organisation.html>

Startup India Venture Capital Summit 2018

Question: Government of which of the following state participated in annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit, 2018?

(a) Gujarat (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Goa (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 7 December 2018 the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government of Goa, hosted the annual Startup India Venture Capital Summit in Goa.
- The theme of the Summit was '**Mobilizing Global Capital for Innovation in India**' with an aim to attract more global capital into India.
- The event enables a dialogue between Government and experienced Venture Capital fund managers on ways to further promote the startup ecosystem in India. It will also focus on the huge return-generating potential of India's vast and diverse market monetized through cutting-edge technologies and supported by investor-friendly regulations and ease of doing business.
- This event marks gathering of 150 participants including government officials, domestic and international startups, global fund managers, India's vibrant entrepreneurial community and participants from United States of America, China, Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore under one platform.
- India has the world's third largest startup base with more than 14,000 recognized Startups. More than 8,200 startups are recognized by DIPP in 2018.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186135>

PRASAD SCHEME

Question: Which of the following sites have been recently included under PRASAD scheme?

(1) Gangotri, Uttarakhand (2) Amarkantak, Madhya Pradesh (3) Yamunotri, Uttarakhand (4) Parasnath, Jharkhand

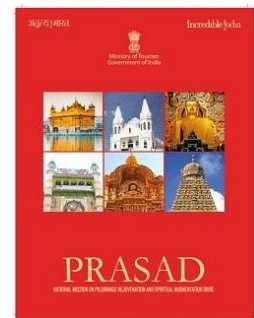
Option:

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1, 3 and 4 (c) 2 only (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 5 December 2018 Central Government has included Gangotri, Yamunotri from Uttarakhand, Parasnath from Jharkhand and Amarkantak from Madhya Pradesh under PRASAD scheme. The total number of sites included in PRASAD scheme has increased to 41 in 25 states.
- PRASAD (Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive) is a Central Government Scheme launched in 2014-15 by Ministry of Tourism to develop pilgrimage and heritage destinations in the country.
- It was launched to develop the pilgrimage destinations as a place of tourist attraction with the concept of religious tourism experience. This will also lead to economic development and employment generation.
- The scheme focuses on basic infrastructural development in the form of road rail and water connectivity alongwith facilities for basic tourism such as Information Centers, ATM/ money exchange centers. It also focuses on development of eco-friendly modes of transport, lighting and illumination with renewable sources of energy for sustainable development.



Links:

<https://www.financialexpress.com/india-news/gangotri-yamunotri-included-under-prasad-scheme-tourism-ministry/1403466/>

PEETHA scheme

Question: Which of the following state has launched the PEETHA Scheme?

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Odisha Government on Monday launched an initiative, People's Empowerment- Enabling Transparency and Accountability of Odisha initiative (PEETHA).
- PEETHA is a part of is a sub scheme of Ama Gaon Bikas Yojana, this is a part of 3T initiative of Technology, Transparency and Team Work model.
- The scheme is aimed at creating awareness about various schemes and improving transparency in distribution of individual and social benefits.



- As per the new initiative, camps will be organized at Gram Panchayat Level from 15th to 20th of every month for awareness and distribution of AMA LED, Mission Shakti, social security assistance like Madhu Babu Pension Yojna and Artist pension, Nirman Yojna and other individual benefit as per local requirements will be taken up.
- Every month the best panchayat in each Block will be awarded Rs. 5 lakh for organizing PEETHA, the best panchayat in each district will be awarded at the district level. Similarly, Panchayats, Blocks and Best Districts will be awarded with special funds at state level.

Links:

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2018/dec/04/peetha-to-reinforce-brand-naveen-1907042.html>

Kartarpur Corridor

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Kartarpur Corridor:

1. **Pakistan Prime minister laid the foundation stone of the corridor linking Gurdaspur to Kartarpur.**
 2. **Kartarpur in Pakistan is located across the Indus River.**
- 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:

- On 28 November 2018, Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan laid the foundation stone of the Kartarpur corridor linking historic Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur (Pakistan) to Dera Baba Nanak shrine in Gurdaspur district, Punjab (India).
- The length of the corridor is about 4 km, 2 km on either side of the international border.
- This corridor will facilitate the visa-free travel of Indian Sikh pilgrims to the holy site Gurdwara Darbar Sahib in Kartarpur.
- Prior to this, on 26th November 2018, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu and Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh laid the foundation stone for construction of Kartarpur Sahib Corridor on Indian side at Mann village in Gurdaspur district, Punjab.
- The construction of corridor will be completed before the 550th birth anniversary of Guru Nanak Dev.
- Established by the first Sikh guru Guru Nanak Dev in 1522 this divine site is located on the bank of river Ravi in Pakistan. At this place he lived 18 years of life until death.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/pakistan-pm-to-lay-foundation-stone-for-kartarpur-corridor-on-wednesday/articleshow/66840052.cms>

HAUSLA-2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding HAUSLA-2018:

1. **The Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched the National Festival for Children of Child Care Institutions (CCIs), HAUSLA 2018.**
 2. **It was inaugurated by chief minister of Delhi, Mr. Arvind Kejriwal.**
 3. **The theme for the event was Child Safety.**
 4. **The team from Orissa won the Rolling Trophy.**
- Of the above, the correct statement is/are**



(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above.

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- A 4 day Carnival from 26th to 29th November 2018, HAUSALA-2018 was organised by Ministry of Women and Child Development(MWCD) in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by Secretary Shri Rakesh Srivastava(MWCD) .
- This is an inter-Child Care Institution festival organized to showcase the hidden talent they possess by providing a platform. The theme of the event was “Child Safety”.
- This festival drew more than 600 children from 18 States for the various events like painting competition, athletics meet, football, chess competition and speech writing as part of the Festival.
- Best State Team Award based on performance during Hausla 2018 was conferred to Orissa and team of Chhattisgarh finished second.
- A Child Care Institution is defined under JJ (Juvenile Justice)Act, 2015 which means Children Home, Special Home, Place of Safety, Open Shelter, Open Adoption Agency and a Fit Facility providing protection and residential care to children in need.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=185955>

NITI Aayog organizes South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure

Question: South Asian Regional Conference on Urban Infrastructure organised by NITI Aayog was hosted by which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Bengaluru (c) Lucknow (d) Vadodara

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- NITI Aayog partnered with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) organized a South Asian regional conference at Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra in New Delhi on 15-16 November 2018.
- The two day conference was inaugurated by CEO, NITI Aayog, Amitabh Kant and Subhash Chandra Garg, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.
- This was a first of its kind conference which aimed to review “Urban Infrastructure: New Approaches to Public & Private Partnerships and Municipal Finance Innovations” in South Asia, specifically India, while broadening the knowledge base and engaging on international best practices.



Need for equitable urbanization:

- To scale down the disproportionate deprivation of access to basic services and infrastructure there is urgent need to focus on newer means of implementing and financing urban infrastructure in order to attain the growth in equitable and in an environmentally responsible way. The future areas of growth & development are infrastructure & digitalized delivery of goods & services. In India alone, estimated investments of around \$4.5 trillion are required in the infrastructure space till 2040.
- With respect to urban needs, the population in South Asia is expected to grow by around 250 million till 2030, while that in India is expected to reach around 590 million during the same period.

NITI Aayog:

- The National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed on January 1, 2015. NITI Aayog is the premier policy 'Think Tank' of the Government of India, providing both directional and policy inputs.
- While designing strategic and long term policies and programmes for the Government of India, NITI Aayog also provides relevant technical advice to the Centre and States.
- **NITI Aayog Chairperson**-Honourable Prime Minister (Shri Narendra Modi)
- **NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson**-Dr. Rajiv Kumar

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184782>

Ekamra Sports literary festival

Question: Ekamra Sports literary festival 2018 was hosted by which of the following city?

(a)Guwahati (b)Bhubaneswar (c)Kolkata (d)Bellary

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Asia's first International Sports Literary Meet- **Ekamra Sports Literary Festival**, 2018 was organized by Government of Odisha and Emerging Sports in Bhubaneswar in 2nd November, 2018.
- Ben Johnson, Ric Charesworth, Stephanie Rice, Niraj Chopra, Dilip Turkey, Mohammad Kaif, Jeff Thompson, Ajinkya Rahane and many more, graced the event. Sport's Journalist Richard Moore and Bharat Sunaresan were among the speakers.
- This event was organized with an aim to develop a sports culture and to create an atmosphere of sports ahead of the Men's Hockey World Cup.
- Indian ace gymnast Dipa Karmakar launched the first look of her memoir titled 'Dipa Karmakar: The Small Wonder' at the event. Former Test player Akash Chopra spoke about his book, Numbers Don't Lie: 61 Hidden Cricket stories.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/bhubaneswar-to-host-ekamra-sports-literary-festival-from-nov-2/articleshow/66458628.cms>

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 27th, 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 9th 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 **49th International Film Festival of India**, IFFI 2018 was organized in Goa from 20th to 28th 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 19th
- 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>

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>

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>

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 19th 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 1 April 2016 by Shri Nitin Gadkari
- The Expressway covers major cities such as Sonapat, 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>

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 14th 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:

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

- 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/nm/NNM-Web-Contents/LEFT-MENU/ILA/ILA-Guidelines-English.pdf>

India International Cherry Blossom Festival 2018

Question: 3rd 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 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 15th 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 14th November to 27th 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

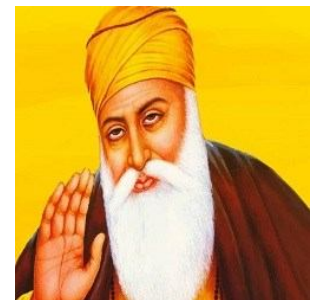
Question: National Institute of Inter-faith Studies is proposed to be opened in which of the following state?

(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 550th 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>

International

Global Carbon Project's Carbon dioxide Emitters List

Question: What is India's rank in released carbon dioxide emitters list by Global Carbon Project?

(a) Fourth (b) Fifth (c) Sixth (d) Seventh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- According to a study by the Global Carbon Project, India is the fourth highest emitter of carbon dioxide in the world.



- The top five emitters in 2017 were – China (27 %); United States (15 %); European Union (10 %); India (7 %); Rest of the World (41 %).
- India's emissions look set to continue their strong growth by an average of 6.3 percent in 2018. Growth across all fuels were – coal (7.1 percent), Oil (2.9 Percent) and gas (6.0 percent).
- The top ten emitters were China, United States, European Union, India, Russia, Japan, Germany, Iran, Saudi Arabia and South Korea.
- In India emissions were projected to grow 2 % in 2017, compared to 6 percent per year averaged over the previous decade. This was due to significant government interventions.
- Global coal use is 3 % lower than its historical high; it is expected to grow in 2018, driven by growth in energy consumption in China and India.
- The study warned that the global emissions of carbon dioxide from fossil fuels and industry are projected to rise for the second consecutive year in 2018, by more than 2 percent to a new record, mainly due to sustained growth in oil and gas use.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/global-emissions-india-4th-highest-emitter-of-co2-study/article25677626.ece>

<https://www.thedailystar.net/india/news/china-us-eu-india-top-co2-emitters-list-study-1670176>

5th Enterprise India Exhibition

Question: Who inaugurated the fifth Enterprise India Exhibition in Yangon?

(a) Ram Nath Kovind (b) Aung San Suu Kyi (c) Suresh Prabhu (d) Smriti Irani

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Honourable President of India Mr. Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the Fifth Enterprise India Exhibition in Yangon, Myanmar on December 13th, 2018.
- This was organized jointly by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce including 40-50 very small to very large Indian enterprise showcasing manufacturing capabilities.
- Enterprise India Show introduces the best of Indian products, services, innovation and knowhow to business partners, start-ups, incubators and customers in Myanmar.
- It is worth to note that Myanmar is the gateway of Look East Policy of India and ASEAN partner but still the bilateral trade between countries is very less.
- President also gave his visit to the historic Sri Kali Temple in Yangon, mausoleum of Bahadur Shah Zafar and Dhamma Joti Vipassana Meditation Centre in Yangon before concluding the trip.



Links:

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

Mount Soputan erupts in Indonesia

Question: Mount Soputan volcano, which erupted on 16th December, 2018, is located in which of the following country?

(a) Indonesia (b) Philippines (c) Malaysia (d) Japan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 16th December, 2018; an active volcano Mount Soputan located in northern part of Sulawesi Island in



Indonesia erupted spewing ash about 7.5 km high in the sky.

- Twice eruption of Mount Sopotan in a day forced local residents to move to safe places. Prior to this, a massive earthquake of 7.5 and tsunami struck Sulawesi Island killing at least 1,948 people.
- Mount Sopotan is one of the 129 active volcanoes of Indonesia. Kelud and Merapi are the most active volcanoes of Indonesia.
- Indonesia is located on the Pacific Ring of Fire making it highly prone to earthquakes and volcanoes.
- Pacific Ring of Fire:
 - A large area in the basin of the Pacific Ocean is known as the Ring of Fire or circum-Pacific belt where a large number of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur.
 - This area is stretched in horseshoe shape covering a distance of about 40,000 km (25,000 miles). In this zone more than 75% of the world's active and dormant volcanoes are located.
 - This belt is a zone of nearly continuous series of oceanic trenches, volcanic arcs, and volcanic belts and/or plate movements.

Links:

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/world/2018/10/03/volcano-eruption-rocks-indonesia-after-devastating-earthquake-tsunami/1507607002/>

Akademik Lomonosov

Question: Which of the following fact is/are true regarding Akademik Lomonosov?

- (1) It is world's first floating nuclear power plant.
(2) It is built up in USA. (3) It is unveiled port city of Murmansk.
(4) It has become operational.

Options:

(a) 1, 2, and 3. (b) 2 and 4. (c) 1, 3 and 4. (d) All of the above.

Answers: (c)

Related facts:

- On 11 December 2018, Akademik Lomonosov, the world's first floating nuclear power plant (FNPP) became operational.
- Akademik Lomonosov was constructed by Russian state nuclear power firm Rosatom. . It is named after Russian academician Mikhail Lomonosov.
- As per Rosatom, it has been started and brought to 10 per cent of its capacity.
- Akademik Lomonosov is built with the capacity of 70MW (Mega Watt) having two reactors of 35MW each.
- Having length 144 metres and width 30 metres, it has displacement of 21,500 tonnes and crew of 69 people. It will be used to power the oil, rigs located in remote areas of Arctic region which will fuel Russian missions in drilling of oil and gas in that area.
- It will be transferred to its final destination to the port of Pevek situated in the extreme north-east region of Chukotka in Russia where it will replace Biblino Nuclear power plant and the Chaunskaya coal-fired power plant.
- It is worth to note that Rosatom are the equipment suppliers and consultants for the nuclear power plant of Kudankulam, Tamil Nadu.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/world-s-first-floating-nuclear-plant-operational-in-russia-118121101478_1.html

Passport Power Index-2018

Question: Who among the following countries has topped the list of Passport Power Index 2018?

(a) United Kingdom (b) Singapore (c) United Arab Emirates (d) United states

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- United Arab Emirates (UAE) with a record-breaking visa-free score of 167 has topped the Global Passport Power Ranking 2018.
- UAE provides visa-free access to 113 countries, visa on arrival to 54 countries and for 31 countries visa requirement is compulsory.
- Singapore and Germany with visa-free score of 166 holds the second spot while third position is acquired simultaneously by 11 countries (Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Netherlands, Spain, Norway, South Korea, USA) each having visa-free score of 165.
- India has secured the 67th position in the Passport Power Index having visa-free score of 65.
- India provides visa-free access to 25 countries, visa on arrival to 40 countries and for 133 countries visa requirement is compulsory.
- This index is compiled by Arton Capital, which ranks national passports based on the summed up score of number of countries a holder can enter without a visa or by obtaining one on arrival.

Links:

<https://www.passportindex.org/byRank.php>

Partners' Forum 2018

Question: Which of the following statements are correct regarding Partners' Forum 2018?

(1) It will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

(2) It will be the fourth edition of Partners' Forum

(3) This conference is held for improvement of health conditions of children, adolescent and women.

(4) It will take place on 12th and 13th of December in New Delhi. Correct statements is/are

(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 1, 3 and 4 (c) Only 3 (d) All of the above.

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- India hosted the fourth edition of **Partners' Forum**, a two day international conference conducted by Government of India in association with **The Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health (PMNCH)** held on 12th and 13th December, 2018 in New Delhi. It was inaugurated by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi**.
- This conference will bring together around 1500 participants from across 85 countries. The invited countries have been selected from across all regions and income levels and include countries that are currently chairing key global and regional bodies (e.g. G7, G20, BRICS, etc.). It is a global high-level multi country multi stakeholder event aimed to sustain global momentum for issues like improving the health of women, children and adolescent.
- Running since September 2005 and alliance of around 1,000 plus member in 92 countries, **Partners' Forum** is a global platform aiming to reduce child and maternal mortality, improve adolescent, child, newborn and maternal health.



- The previous edition of this conference held in **Johannesburg, South Africa (2014)**. PMNCH's missions to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly in health sector. The programme of Partners' Forum will be framed around the objectives of global strategy of Survive-Thrive-Transform. **Intensified Mission Indradhanush** has been selected as one of the case studies.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1555497>

Forbes most Powerful Women List

Question: Who topped the 2018 list of Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women?

(a) Christine Lagard (b) Melinda Gates (c) Sushma Swaraj (d) Angela Merkel

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- According to fresh released list of The World's 100 Most Powerful Women by Forbes on 4 December 2018 German Chancellor **Angela Merkel** is the most powerful women in the world for the eighth straight year.
- United Kingdom's Prime Minister **Theresa May** is ranked second whereas **Christine Lagarde** Managing Director, IMF (International Monetary Fund) is spotted third.
- The list features four Indians. HCL head **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** is placed on 51st rank, Biocon founder **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** secures 60th rank, Chairman of Hindustan Times (HT) Media **Shobhana Bhartia** nails 88th rank and actress **Priyanka Chopra** secures 94th rank. Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was bags 26th rank.
- **Forbes** is a biweekly American business magazine featuring articles on Investment, Finance, Politics etc. It is known for publishing lists and rankings of top companies, world's Billionaires, most powerful men and women in the world etc.



Links:

<https://www.forbes.com/power-women/list/#ab:overall>

Qatar to withdraw from OPEC

Question: Which of the following country recently announced its withdrawal from the membership from OPEC?

(a) Kuwait (b) Gabon (c) Qatar (d) Iran

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Qatar will quit the bloc of Petroleum Exporting Countries OPEC as per the announcement of its Energy Minister Mr. Saad Sherida (Saad al-Kaabi); this will come into effect from January 2019. Qatar was its member since 1961.
- Qatar notified that it would leave OPEC to focus on gas production, in a swipe at Saudi Arabia, the de facto leader of the group, which is trying to show unity in tackling an oil price slide.
- Qatar holds only around 2% of global oil reserves. Qatar is one of the world's biggest Liquefied Natural Gas (LPG) exporters. It plans to boost its gas production from 77 million tonnes a year to 110 million tonnes per year by 2024.



- Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is a Permanent Intergovernmental Organization of 15 oil-exporting countries created at Baghdad Conference in 1961. It is headquartered in Vienna, Austria.
- Five countries namely Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Venezuela are founder members of the Organization.

Links:

https://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/about_us/23.htm

Asia Pacific Summit 2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Asia Pacific Summit 2018:

1. **Asia Pacific Summit 2018 was held in Kathmandu.**
 2. **The theme of the summit is “Addressing the critical challenges of our time: Interdependence, Mutual prosperity and Universal Values”.**
- Of the above which is/are correct?**

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Asia-Pacific Summit- 2018 was held in Kathmandu, the capital of Nepal on 1-2 December 2018.
- The theme of two day summit was “Addressing the Critical Challenges of our Time: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values”.
- Around 1500 participants from 45 countries including India attended the summit.
- Nepal’s Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli showed concern of adverse impacts of climate change, natural and man-made disasters and terrorism.
- Former Prime Minister of India, H.D. Deve Gowda emphasized on issues of terrorism and climate change, the biggest challenges of today’s world.
- Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar, stressed the need for collective efforts to tackle the global challenge of disaster, terrorism, hunger, migration and displacement, poverty, discrimination and injustice.



Links:

<http://newsonair.nic.in/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356146>

1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management

Question: The 1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management was organized in which of the following city in India?

(a) Jaipur (b) Nagpur (c) Mohali (d) New Delhi

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 -11 December 2018, the 1st International Conference on Sustainable Water Management was organized at Indian School of Business (ISB), Mohali (Punjab) under the aegis of National Hydrology Project, Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation by Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB).



- The theme of the Conference was ‘Sustainable Water Management’ which deals with promoting integrated and sustainable development and management of Water Resources.
- The aim of the Conference is to foster the participation of and dialogue between various stakeholders, including governments, scientific and academic communities.
- Delegates from Australia, United Kingdom, USA, Spain, Netherlands, Republic of Korea, Canada, Germany and Sri Lanka etc. including India took part in the event and delivered their experience and expertise in the use of state of art technology.
- About 20 companies and organizations showcased their activities in the area of sustainable water resources management through the stalls in exhibition.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186218>

Global Wage Report 2018

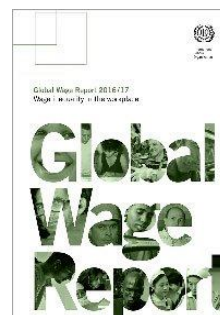
Question: According to the Global Wage Report released by International Labour Organisation (ILO), at what level India led the average real wage growth during 2008?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 26th 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

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 12th, 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>

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 2/3rd of the world's population and 3/4th 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 30th November and 1st December 2018. It was the first G20 summit to be hosted in South America.
- This was the 13th 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 30th 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>

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 13th-16th 2018; the 26th 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 20th 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 4th 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)13th place (b)53rd place (c)39th place (d)50th place

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 20th November, 2018; a Global Annual Talent Ranking list was released by IMD Business School Switzerland. India slipped two places to 53rd China got the 39th place in this list. Within Asia,



Singapore topped the chart with a global 13th 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 17th ASEAN Community Council Meeting was held?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 17th ASEAN Economic Community Council (AEC) meeting was held in Singapore on 12th Nov, 2018 as part of the 33rd 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

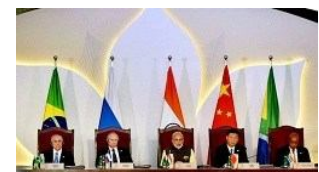
Question: When was South Africa inducted into BRIC (Brazil, Russia, India and China) to form BRICS?

(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

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

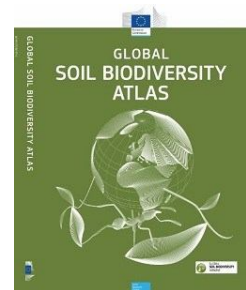
Question: India among nations that face grave danger to soil biodiversity according to the study published by-

(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 26th
- 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 27th 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 27th 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:

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

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 3rd 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

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

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

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 40th 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

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 2nd 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 4th

- **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

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:

<https://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-international/xi-opens-worlds-longest-sea-bridge/article25304554.ece>

Economics

New President of FICCI

Question: Who has been elected as the new President of FICCI?

(a) Sandip Somany (b) Habeel Khorakiwala (c) Sangita Reddy (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Sandip Somany has been elected as the new President of FICCI, on 17th December 2018.
- He is the CMD of Sanitary ware Firm HSIL'S.
- Sangita Reddy, joint Managing Director of the Apollo Hospitals Group, has now been elevated as the Senior Vice President of FICCI, whereas Uday Shankar, Chairman & CEO of Star India, has joined the Chamber as the Vice President.
- Established in 1927, FICCI is the largest and oldest apex business organization in India, it is a non-government, not-for-profit organization.
- FICCI is the voice of India's business and industry FICCI provides a platform for networking and consensus building within and across sectors.
- It is the first port of call for Indian industry, policy makers and the international business community.



Links:

<http://ficci.in/about-us.asp>

RBI new Governor

Question: Who has been appointed Governor of the Reserve Bank of India?

(a) Jagdish Bhagwati (b) Kaushik Basu (c) Shaktikanta Das (d) Gita Gopinath

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Former Economic Affairs secretary **Shaktikanta Das** was named the 25th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India.
- He succeeded Urjit Patel, who resigned from the post over the issue of autonomy of RBI.
- He is a Tamil Nadu cadre IAS Officer who has the first and foremost responsibility of normalizing the relation between central government and the central bank.



- Shaktikanta Das served in various capacities for Indian and Tamil Nadu governments, including as Economic Affairs Secretary of India, Revenue Secretary of India, Fertilizers Secretary of India. He was a member of the Fifteenth Finance Commission of India.
- **Shaktikanta Das** had been instrumental in establishing the monetary policy committee (MPC) and the switchover to an inflation targeting regime, among other things.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/shaktikanta-das-appointed-as-the-new-rbi-governor/articleshow/67045353.cms>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

Bee Vaccine

Question: Which of the following countries’ scientists have developed a vaccine for bees?

(a) Finland (b) USA (c) Canada (d) Germany

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Scientist from Finland have developed what they believe is the world’s first vaccine to protect bees against disease.
- Bees are vital for growing the world’s food as they help to fertilize three out of four crops around the globe, by transferring pollen from male to female flowers.
- In recent years bee populations around the world have been dying off from “colony collapse disorder”, a mysterious scourge blamed on mites, pesticides, virus, fungus, or some combination of these factors.
- UN-led research in 2016 found that more than 40 percent of invertebrate pollinators, particularly bees and butterflies, are facing extinction.
- The study also found that 16.5% of vertebrate pollinators, such as birds and bats, are under threat.
- The vaccine, developed by a team at Helsinki University in Finland, works by giving bees resistance to fight off severe microbial diseases that can be total for pollinator communities.



Links:

<https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/scientists-engineer-bee-vaccine-to-help-the-pollinator-fight-off-insect-apocalypse-5742281.html>

Combined Guided Weapon Firing Exercise at Air Force Station, Suryalanka

Question: The Combined Guided Weapon Firing Exercise titled CROSSBOW-18 took place at which of the following place?

(a) Adampur (b) Bagdogra (c) Agra (d) Suryalanka



Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- An 11 days Combined Guided Weapon Firing exercise named 'CROSSBOW-18' took place on 3-13 December 2018 at the Air Force Station Suryalanka in Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh under the aegis of Southern Air Command.
- Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa on a two day visit witnessed the combined guided weapons firing exercise of Surface to Air Missile.
- This exercise was conducted in order to improve the combat skills of missile Squadron crew by upgrading professional skills and aimed to strengthen the Air Defence preparedness of the country.
- This was a first of its kind Exercise undertaken by the Indian Air Force in which firing of four different class of missiles – AKASH, SPYDER, OSA-AK-M and IGLA was successfully carried out during day and night in an integrated networked environment.
- AKASH is a medium range Surface to Air Missile with multi target engagement capability. AKASH missile is developed by joint venture of DRDO & BDL.
- SPYDER Missile is developed by Rafael Advanced Defense Systems with cooperation from Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI).
- OSA-AK-M Missile is a highly mobile, low-altitude, short-range tactical surface-to-air missile system developed in the Soviet Union.
- IGLA Missile is a series of surface to air missiles developed by Soviet Union.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186214>

GSAT-7A Launch

Question: ISRO`s satellite GSAT-7A was recently launched from which space station?

- (a) Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Thiruvananthapuram (Thumba), Kerala
- (c) Abdul Kalam Island, Balasore, Odisha
- (d) Baikonur Cosmodrome, Kazakhstan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th December 2018, ISRO's 39th communication satellite GSAT-7A was successfully launched and put in orbit by GSLV-F11 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- GSAT-7A with a lift-off mass of 2250 kg is a geostationary satellite carrying communication transponders in Ku-band. The Satellite is built to provide communication capability to the users over the Indian region. It has a mission life of eight years.
- GSLV – F11 is ISRO's fourth generation launch vehicle with three stages. GSLV-F11 is the 13th flight of India's Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and its 7th flight with indigenous Cryogenic Upper Stage (CUS).
- This is the first satellite primarily built for Indian Air Force. It is a military communication satellite meant to augment the communication capacity of Air Force. It is expected to link altogether all ground-based radars, airbases and airborne early warning and control aircraft for surveillance, maintain air superiority etc. boosting IAF`s network centric warfare capabilities.



Links:

<https://www.isro.gov.in/launcher/gslv-f11-gsat-7a-mission>

Submarine Rescue System

Question: Which of the following statement/s is/are correct about Submarine Rescue System?

1. The Indian Navy inducted its first Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV).
 2. It will be operational by April next year.
 3. It was inducted by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
 4. It is developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
- Correct statement/s is/are.**

(a) 1 and 2 only. (b) 1 and 3 only. (c) 1 and 4 only. (d) All of the above.

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 12 December 2018, the Indian Navy inducted its first flyaway third generation Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System considering of a non tethered Deep Sea Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) and its associated equipments. It was inducted formally by Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba.
- The vehicles are developed by M/s James Fisher and Sons Pvt. Ltd, a UK based company. The newly acquired capability would be operated and deployed by the crew of Indian Navy's newly formed Submarine Rescue Unit (West) from its base in Mumbai.
- Deep Sea Submarine Rescue System is a significant and pioneering jump in the Indian Navy's capability in deep submarine rescue as traditional methods of search and rescue at sea are ineffective for a disabled submarine. It is used to search, locate and rescue crew from a disabled Submarine.
- The DSRV can be operated in very rough conditions and can undertake operations up to 650 meters deep in extreme sea conditions. 3 crew member operated vehicle can rescue 14 personnel in one operation. Earlier submarine INS Sindhurakshak exploded in August 2013, killing all 18 Navy personnel who could have been saved by this system.



Links:

<https://www.indiannavy.nic.in/node/21744>

HAL's Light Utility Helicopter

Question: HAL's Light Utility Helicopter will replace which of the following helicopters in its way of upgradation?

(a) Cheetah & Chetak (b) Chetak & Baaz (c) Baaz & Eagle (d) None of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 December 2018, an important milestone of flying at 6 km altitude has been achieved by HAL's (Hindustan aeronautics Limited) multi-purpose Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) in Bengaluru.
- The LUH is built to fly over high altitude areas and has a maximum permitted height limit of 6.5 km.



- LUH will replace the aging Cheetah and Chetak helicopters in service with the Indian Army and Indian Air Force.
- LUH is a 3-ton class new generation helicopter designed and developed by the HAL's Rotary Wing Research and Design Center (RWR&DC).
- The first flight of LUH PT-1 was carried out on September 6, 2016 and the second prototype flew on May 22, 2017.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/hals-light-utility-helicopter-achieves-important-milestone/articleshow/67037630.cms>

Agni V

Question: Dr Abdul Kalam Island is located in which of the following state?

(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Kerala

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 10th December, 2018; **Agni V**, a long-range surface-to-surface Nuclear Capable Ballistic missile, was successfully launched from canister on a road mobile launcher at the Dr Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha.
- Agni V is an intercontinental ballistic missile having strike range of 5,500-5,800 km.
- Strategic Forces Command (SFC) carried out and monitored the launch operations in presence of Scientists from Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and other associated officials. This launch comes after a series of successful launches of the missile.
- This missile strengthens the country's deterrence capability, which has been developed indigenously by assiduous efforts of scientists.
- Weight of the missile is 50,000 kg; Length is 17.5 mts; Diameter is 2 mts; Warhead Weight is 1500 kgs.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1555405>

India China Military Drill

Question: The next joint military drill between India and China will be organized at which of the following place?

(a) Pune (b) Wuhan (c) Chengdu (d) Vishakhapatnam

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The annual bilateral military exercise, "Hand in Hand" will take place Chengdu, China from 10th to 23rd December. It is a part of military diplomacy between Indian and Chinese armies.
- It aims to increase the capacity of Joint Exercise Commander by empowering him to take military contingencies of both the nations under command hence building close relations between both the armies.



- Both army will establish a Joint Command Headquarter and conduct joint exercise which will include operations at tactical level in an International Counter Insurgency/Counter Terrorist environment as per mandate of UN.
- The last joint drill of Hand in Hand took place in Pune in 2016. It was suspended in 2017 over tensions between armies in Doklam.
- DOKLAM ISSUE:
- Doklam in the Sikkim sector is an area around 100sq km. situated at the trijunction between India, China and Bhutan. The dispute started when Chinese army started to construct a road in a disputed area which was objected by Indian Army. This led to 73-day standoff between forces of India and China in summer 2017.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186140>

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 25th edition of SIMBEX, an acronym for “Singapore-India Maritime bilateral exercise” is scheduled from 10th to 21st 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 25th 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 Kadmatt 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 10th to 12th November followed by Sea Phase from 12th to 16th November in the Andaman Sea. The second harbour phase from 16th to 19th November will be held at Visakhapatnam



Links:

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

GSAT- 29

Question: Consider the following statements in the context of GSAT-29, India’s recent communication satellite sent into orbit on 14th 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 14th, 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 33rd 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>

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 19th 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

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



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

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-today/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-roskosmos-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 28th 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 1st 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 **Welcome 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

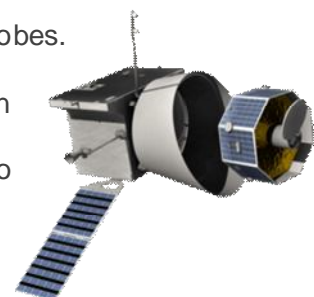
Question: Recently Spacecraft BepiColombo was sent to probe which planet?

(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 56th edition of the prestigious tournament organized in Prague, Czech Republic.
- It is notable that this win marks the 11th 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

Indian Women's Cricket Team Coach

Question: Who is appointed as the coach the Women's Cricket team of India?

(a) Gary Kirsten (b) Rahul Dravid (c) Gautam Gambhir (d) W V Raman

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- **W. V. Raman (Woorkeri Venkat Raman)**, a former Indian opener has been appointed the new coach of the Indian Women's Cricket Team.
- He will **replace Romesh Powar** who steps down from his post recently.
- **W. V. Raman** has coached India U19, Bengal and Tamil Nadu in the Ranji Trophy.
- Raman has represented India in 11 Tests and 27 ODIs.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356934>

Virat Kohli maintains first rank in ICC Test rankings

Question: As of 7th December 2018, which of the following team holds the title of No. 1 Men's Test Team in released ICC Rankings?

(a) England (b) India (c) Australia (d) South Africa

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian captain Virat Kohli maintained the top spot in the recently released ICC Test Batsman rankings. He conceded 15 points to slip to 920 points, just seven points ahead of second ranker Kane Williamson (New Zealand).



- Indian batsman Cheteshwar Pujara achieved his career best 4th rank owing to his good performance in the Test against Australia.
- India fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah has achieved a career-high ranking of 33rd, after his remarkable bowling performance which consists three for 47 and three for 68 at Adelaide which helped him to climb five places. Kagiso Rabada of South Africa is at the first spot in bowler's domain.
- It is worth to note that Team India holds the top spot in ICC Men's Test Team Rankings accumulating 116 points followed by England with 108 points and with 106 points South Africa holds the third place.

Links:

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

Gautam Gambhir

Question: Which of the following cricketer was the top-scorer for India in the 2011 World Cup finals?

(a) Yuvraj Singh (b) Gautam Gambhir (c) Virat Kohli (d) MS Dhoni

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 4 December 2018 former India opener Gautam Gambhir announced his retirement from all forms of cricket.
- Gambhir has scored 5,238 runs in 147 one-day with an average of 39.68 and 11 centuries. Gambhir scored 4,412 runs with an average of 41.95 in 58 Test matches including 9 centuries.
- In 2009, he was ranked as the No.1 batsman in Test cricket in the ICC's rankings, two years after he was ranked No.1 as T20 batsman. In One Day Internationals (ODIs), Gambhir achieved his career-best 8th ranking.
- In 2011 World Cup Final, Gautam Gambhir top scored match winning 97 runs against Sri Lanka. He was also main run getter in the first Twenty-20 World Cup Tournament, which India won in 2007 at South Africa.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/gautam-gambhir-announces-retirement-from-cricket/story-C3nf4AwEm97LLM6UtsR5ml.html>

Delhi Daredevils Renamed as Delhi Capitals

Question: Recently what new name has been given to the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Daredevils?

(a) Delhi Tigers (b) Delhi Rangers (c) Delhi Lions (d) Delhi Capitals

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Delhi Capitals is the new name given to the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise Delhi Daredevils along with new Logo. The announcement in this regard was made by its co-owners GMR Group and JSW Sports.
- The team has retained the old red and blue colour in the new team logo. The logo of the team has been inspired by the design of Parliament House, and the three tigers are inspired from the Ashok Chakra.
- Delhi released as many as ten players; auctions are to be held on December 18th, 2018.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/delhi-daredevils-renamed-delhi-capitals-ahead-of-ipl-2019/story-lyvHJ85zMQH6O4gLuBQXRK.html>

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 9th to 24th 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?

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



(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

Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup 2018

Question: Who won the Odisha Men's 2018 Hockey World Cup?

(a) Belgium (b) Canada (c) Netherlands (d) Australia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Belgium won the Odisha Men's Hockey World Cup of 2018 defeating Netherlands in finals in the 14th edition of Men's Hockey World Cup held from 28 November to 16 December 2018 in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Belgium claimed their first World Cup title ever.
- The win was decided by the shootout as Fulltime ended goal less for both the teams. Belgium won the shoot-out by 3-2 defeating Netherlands at Kalinga Stadium. Belgium became the sixth nation to hold this title.
- There were a total of 16 teams divided into 4 pools. Defending champions Australia finished third winning Bronze medal whereas Netherlands was awarded Silver medal. India secured 6th position the team tally.



Links:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Men%27s_Hockey_World_Cup

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:

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

Link:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2018_Asian_Men%27s_Hockey_Champions_Trophy#Final_ranking

Football

Ballon d’or 2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Ballon d’or- 2018:

1. Cristiano Ronaldo has won the prestigious award for the 5 times in a row.
2. Ada Hegerberg has won the award in women category. Choose the correct options of the following:

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- **Luka Modric** of Croatia has won the prestigious **Ballon d’or** award for 2018 whereas **Ada Hegerberg** of Norway bagged the prestigious award in women category
- Croatian footballer Luka Modric has broken the dominance of Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi. Both the players have won award 5 times each.
- Norwegian player Ada Hegerberg is the first player to be awarded with award **Ballon d’or feminine**.
- The **Ballon d’Or** (“**GoldenBall**”) is an annual football award presented by France Football (French weekly magazine containing football news from all over the world). It has been awarded since 1956.



Links:

<https://www.francefootball.fr/ballon-d-or/>

Subroto Cup 2018

Question: 59th 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:

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

Badminton

BWF WORLD TOUR 2018

Question: Who won the prestigious BWF World Tour 2018?

(a) Nozomi Okohura (b) Ling Dang (c) P V Sindhu (d) Saina Nehwal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Indian Badminton star P V Sindhu scripts history by winning the prestigious BWF (Badminton World Federation) women finals 2018 at Guangzhou, China. She won the finals by defeating Nozomi Okohura in a straight sets win of 21-19, 21-17.
- She became the first Indian to win this championship ever. She was Runners Up of this event last year.
- Sindhu ranked world no. 3 is the only Indian woman to win Silver in Rio Olympics losing to Carolina Marin. She had also won silvers at the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Championships this year.
- She was honoured with India's fourth highest civilian honor, Padma Shri in 2015 as well as conferred prestigious Arjuna Award and Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award in year 2013.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=35662>

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 10th edition of AIBA (International Boxing Association) Women's World Championship held in New Delhi from 15th -24th 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.edrستي.in/>

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

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 18th 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

Sports Miscellaneous

Anup Kumar retires

Question: A popular player named Anup Kumar announced his retirement recently; he was associated with which he following game?

(a) Badminton (b) Hockey (c) Kabaddi (d) Football

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Anup Kumar, a legendary Kabaddi player of India announced his retirement from the game with immediate effect.
- Anup began his career in 2006 and concluded it after 15 years in which he achieved many milestones. The most prominent in them was the World Cup win in 2016 under his captaincy. He also led the team in Asian Games in 2014 where India won Gold medal.
- He was also associated with team U Mumba which won the title in 2015 and later with Jaipur Pink Panthers in Pro Kabaddi League. He was awarded with Arjuna Award in 2012 for his contribution to the game.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356876>

Yasir Shah

Question: Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah took fastest 200 Test wickets against which of the following country?

(a) England (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) West

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 6th December, 2018; Pakistan leg-spinner Yasir Shah became the fastest bowler to take 200 Test wickets in his 33rd Test during the fourth day of third test match against New Zealand in Abu Dhabi. He broke the 82-year-old record of Australian Clarrie Grimmett's achieved in 36 Tests.
- His 14 for 184 were the second best match figures in a Test for Pakistan, first being Imran Khan, who bagged 14 for 116 against Sri Lanka in Lahore in 1982.
- Yasir is also the fastest Pakistani to grab 50 wickets in nine Tests, reached 100 wickets in 17 Tests – second only after English player George Lohmann who took 16 matches to attain the feat.



Links:

<https://www.thenational.ae/sport/cricket/pakistan-s-yasir-shah-becomes-fastest-bowler-to-200-test-wickets-1.799777>

IAAF Athlete of the Year-2018

Question: Which of the following athletes were awarded IAAF Athlete of the Year for 2018?

(1) Eluid Kipchoge (2) Dina Asher (3) Caterine Ibarguen (4) Deepa Karmakar

Correct options are:

(a) 1, 3 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1 and 3 (d) All of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Kenyan marathon runner Eulid Kipchoge and long and triple jumper from Caterine Ibarguen of Colombia were awarded male and female World Athlete of the Year at a ceremony in Monaco on 4 December 2018 by IAAF.
- 34-year-old Kipchoge won the London Marathon and Berlin Marathon. He set a world record of two hours, one minute and 39 seconds in Berlin. He is second Kenyan to win this award after 2010 winner David Rudisha.
- Ibarguen won the triple and long jump in the Central American and Caribbean Games. She has also won Continental Cup and Diamond League Finals.
- Men and Women rising star award was given to Sweden's pole vaulter Armand Duplantis and American 400m runner Sydney McLaughin at the same ceremony.
- IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) founded in 1912 and Headquartered in Monaco, is an international governing body for the sports of athletics.
- It organizes different athletic competitions to develop and integrate different athletic sports.

Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/athletics/46451728>

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 3rd spot in the latest ICC women's T20 International player batting rankings updated on 24th November, 2018. Suzle Bates of New Zealand bagged the first spot.
- Opener Smriti Mandhana (6th) and Jemimah Rodrigues (10th) also achieved their career-best rankings. Mithali Raj holds the 9th
- 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 8th 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 8th 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 10th 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 6th November 2018, Angad Vir Singh Bajwa has won gold medal with a world record score in the **men's skeet** in 8th 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 3rd 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>

Short Notes

Personalities

Riva Ganguly Das

Question: Riva Ganguly has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to which of the following country?

(a) Sri Lanka (b) Myanmar (c) Afghanistan (d) Bangladesh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- According to PIB press release posted on 20th December, 2018, Ms Riva Ganguly Das, (an IFS officer of 1986 batch) has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- She will succeed Mr Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who has been appointed as the new Indian Ambassador to the US.
- At present, she is working as the Director General, ICCR (Indian Council for Cultural Relations). Before joining as Director General of ICCR, she was Consul General of India in New York.



Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30793/Riva+Ganguly+Das+appointed+as+the+next+High+Commissioner+of+India+to+the+Peoples+Republic+of+Bangladesh>

Prabhanjan Passed Away

Question: Recently writer Prabhanjan passed away. Which of the following statement is/are correct about the writer?

(1) He wrote in Tamil language

(2) His novel Vaanam Vasapadum was awarded with Sahitya Akademi Award. Correct option

(a) 1 and 2 (b) Only 1 (c) Only 2 (d) None of the above.

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Acclaimed Tamil writer and critic **Prabhanjan (S.Vaidyalingam)** died on 21stDecember 2018, in



Pondicherry. He was born in 1945 and was suffering from Lung Cancer. He was a prominent literary figure for over 40 years.

- He won the prestigious Sahitya **Akademi Award** for his novel **Vaanam Vasapadum** in **1995**. He began his career as a Tamil teacher in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu and later started writing. His works have been translated into Hindi, Telugu, Kannada, German, French, English and Swedish.
- His works have influence of **Self Respect Movement**. He was also awarded with **Bharatiya Bhasha Parishad Award** and **The Tamil Literary Garden Award**.

Links:

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/221218/puducherrydistinguished-tamil-writer-prabhanjan-passes-away.html>

Indian Ambassador to US

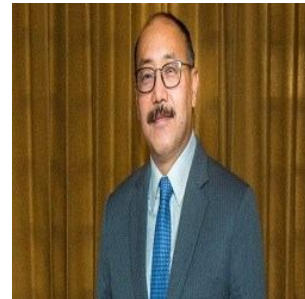
Question: Who is appointed as the next ambassador of India to US?

- (a) Riva Ganguly Das (b) Shashikanth Das (c) Harsh Vardhan Shringla
(d) Nirupma Rao

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Senior diplomat **Harsvardhan Shringla** is appointed as the next Ambassador to United States from India on December 20, 2018. He will succeed **Navret Sarna**, the present ambassador.
- Shringla is **1984 batch officer of Foreign Services**. He is currently giving his services as **Indian Ambassador to Bangladesh** where Riva Ganguly will succeed him.
- **Riva Ganguly** is a 1986 batch Foreign Service officer and is currently serving as Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356914>

Upendra Kushwaha resigns

Question: Upendra Kushwaha, who resigned recently, has served in which of the following ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (b) Ministry of Home Affairs
(c) Ministry of Human Resource Development (d) Ministry of Rural Development

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 10 December 2018, Upendra Kushwaha resigned from the post of **Minister of State, Human Resource Development**.
- He is the president and founder of Rahrtriya Lok Samata Party, a regional party from Bihar founded in 2013. He joined NDA in 2014 General Elections.
- He is a Member of Parliament from Karakat, Bihar. He is the only member from this party in Lower House. He was particularly unhappy with the seat sharing proposal for union elections.



Links:

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

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/rlsp-chief-upendra-kushwaha-resigns-from-union-council-of-ministers/article25709349.ece>

SWIFT INDIA CHIEF

Question: Who is recently appointed as the next chairman of SWIFT India Domestic Services?

(a) Arundhati Bhattacharya (b) Arvind Subramaniam (c) Uday Kotak (d) Sunil Bharti Mittal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **Arundhati Bhattacharya**, former State Bank of India Chairman has been appointed as new chief of **SWIFT India Domestic Services**; it is a local unit of SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication).
- Arundhati is also in the boards of two leading companies, Wipro and Reliance Industries Limited.
- She will succeed Mr. M.V. Nair. She is credited for supervising the merger of six associate banks with SBI for which she got extension of one year tenure as Chairman of SBI.
- SWIFT is a cooperative society under Belgian law owned by its member financial institutions with offices around the world. It was established in 1973 and is headquartered in La Hulpe, Belgium.
- It provides a network enabling worldwide financial institutions to send and receive information regarding financial transactions in a safe and secured way.



Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/arundhati-bhattacharya-appointed-swift-india-chairman/story/299041.html>

Mushirul Hasan

Question: Mushirul Hasan was a recognised person in which of the following the field?

(a) Painter (b) Politician (c) Anthropologist (d) Historian

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Mushirul Hasan, a notable historian of India passed away on 10th December. He was 69 years old and was bedridden after a serious accident years ago. He wrote extensively on partition.
- He has written many books over history which includes **India Partition: The Other Face of Freedom**, documenting the plight of partition. His other books are When Stone Walls Cry, Moderate or Militant: Images of India's Muslims and many more.
- He was an alumnus of the Aligarh Muslim University and Cambridge University. He also served as the Vice-Chancellor of the Jamia Millia Islamia University and Director General of the National Archives of India. He was also president of the Indian History Congress.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/historian-mushirul-hasan-passes-away/article25708430.ece>

New Chief Economic Advisor

90

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

Question: Who has been appointed as the new Chief Economic Advisor of India?

(a) Kaushik Basu (b) Krishnamurthy Subramaniam (c) Aditya Puri (d) Ajay Narayan Jha

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Appointment Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed Krishnamurthy Subramaniam as the new Chief Economic Advisor to the finance minister. He is appointed for the duration of 3 years. Krishnamurthy Subramaniam will succeed Mr. Arvind Subramaniam.
- Mr. Subramaniam is an associate professor in Indian School of Business (ISB), Hyderabad. He is an alumni of top ranking IIT-IIM and had his PhD from Chicago-Booth.
- He delivered his services regarding the expert committees on Corporate Governance for the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and on Governance of Banks for The Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
- CEA (Chief Economic Advisor) advises Government of India on financial, economic and commercial policies. The CEA directly works under Ministry of Finance. The CEA is also an ex-officio cadre who controls the authority of IES (Indian Economic Services).



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/govt-appoints-krishnamurthy-subramanian-as-new-chief-economic-advisor/article25688778.ece?homepage=true>

George H. W. Bush

Question: Which of the following US President has contributed majorly to the end of Cold War?

(a) George H W Bush (b) William Howard Taft (c) Franklin D Roosevelt (d) James A Garfield

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Eminent Republic Party politician and 41st US President (1989-1993) George H. W. Bush died on November 30, 2018. He was 94 years old.
- He was the father of 43rd President of US, George W Bush.
- Formerly he served as Vice President of America and Director of the Central Investigation Agency (CIA). He has also served as US ambassador to the United Nations (UN) and China.
- He was the last of the World War II generation to occupy the Oval Office.
- During his reign, the Gulf War was fought. He chose a collaborative approach, working with the Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev to allow for the reunification of Germany, the dissolution of the Soviet Union, routing Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the end of the Cold War. He lost to Democrat Bill Clinton in the 1992 elections.



Links:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/11/30/us/politics/george-hw-bush-dies.html>

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; Surraaj** and **Aranya**.
- He was conferred Govind Vallabh Pant Honor, Award of Uttar Pradesh Hindi Institute and Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi Award for Central Hindi Institute.



Links:

<http://www.uniindia.com/renewed-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 22nd 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 30th 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 20th 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 services till 7th of August, 2020, when he will be superannuated.
- Mr Saxena joined UPSC as a Member on 8th May, 2015, and has been performing duties of the post of Chairman, UPSC since 20th 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 17th November, 2018.
- Alyque Padmasee was a man who played many roles, is known for his portrayal of Mohammad Ali Jinnah in Richard Attenborough's 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.bloombergquint.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 87th 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>

Awards & Honors

Women Transforming India Awards

Question: The Third edition of the 'Women Transforming India Awards' was organized by

—

- (a) NITI Aayog (b) National Commission For Women
(c) National human rights commission of India (d) None Of the Above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The third edition of the 'Women Transforming India (WTI) Awards' was organized by NITI Aayog in partnership with MyGov and the United Nations, on 16th December, 2018.
- Upgraded portal of the 'Women Entrepreneurship Platform' (WEP portal 2.0) was launched by Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- WTI award's theme is "Women and Entrepreneurship" and fifteen winners have been chosen through an extensive six-month long process to identify fascinating and inspiring stories of women entrepreneurs.
- Awards ceremony recognizes the exceptional work of 12 women in critical areas such as preventing violence against women; bridging the gender gap in education; providing healthcare; building livelihoods and enterprises for women; and promoting inclusion for persons with disabilities.
- WTI Awards 2018 received over 2300 nominations this year.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=170334>

Mamata Banerjee

Question: Chief Minister of which of the following state got the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award for 2017?

- (a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Tamilnadu (d) Telangana

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has been conferred the Skoch Chief Minister of the Year Award for 2017.
- This award is given to for her contribution in the overall development of the state and emerging as the best chief minister in the country.
- West Bengal emerges top performing State in Governance. The state has this year bagged 31 Skoch Awards for its performance across different fields besides implementing unique projects.



- She has been conferred with the prestigious award on the basis of the state's performance in the field of governance, culture, finance, urban and rural development, the organization.
- While Chandrababu Naidu was awarded with the 'SKOCH Sprinter of the Year' and Suresh Prabhu as the 'Steady Reformer'.
- SKOCH Consultancy Services Pvt. Ltd. is founded in the year 1997; Sameer Kochhar is the Chairman of the Group.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/mamata-banerjee-is-the-skoch-chief-minister-of-the-year/articleshow/67178399.cms>

Prime Minister Shram Awards

Question: How many workers were selected for the Prime Minister Shram Award for the year of 2017?

(a) 45 (b) 43 (c) 40 (d) 47

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- A total of 40 workers are selected for the Prime Minister Shram Award for the year of 2017. The award is given under Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- This award is given to the workers employed in Departmental Undertakings & Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performances, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.
- Nobody was selected for the Shram Rata Award. Shram Bhushan awards were conferred to 3 nominations receiving a cash award of Rs. 1, 00,000 and a Sanad. Shram Veer/ Veerangana Award were given to 12 nominations who will receive a cash award of Rs. 60,000 and a Sanad. Shram Shree/ Devi Award were given to 16 nominations who will receive a cash award of Rs. 40,000 and a Sanad. The awardee includes 3 women in the list.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1556844>

Handicrafts Export Awards

Question: Handicrafts export awards was presented by?

(a) Harsimrat – Kaur Badal (b) Smriti Irani (c) Nazma Heptullah (d) None of the Above

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- Handicraft export awards were presented at India Expo Centre & Mart, in Greater Noida on 18th December 2018, by Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Irani, for their outstanding performance in exports in the year 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- The awards were given under different categories to 136 exporters. 70 awards were given for the year 2015-16 and 66 awards were for the year 2016-17 during the ceremony.
- The handicrafts exports during the year 2015-16 was to the tune of Rs. 21,557.12 crores which increased to Rs. 24392.39 crore in 2016-17 with an overall increase in exports of

13.15% in rupee terms and 10.52 % in dollar terms. The handicraft exports during 2018-19 went ahead to the tune of Rs. 16, 825.75 crore during April-November, 2018-19.

- Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) was established under Companies Act in the year 1986-87 and is a non-profit organization, with an object to promote, support, protect, maintain and increase the export of handicrafts. it is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for promotion of exports of Handicrafts

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186596>

Sonam Kapoor

Question: PETA Award is conferred in which of the following field?

(a) Art (b) Literature (c) Music (d) Conservation of Animals

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Actress Sonam **Kapoor** has been named People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) India's Person of the Year for 2018. PETA India's motto is "Animals are not ours to experiment on, eat, wear, use for entertainment or abuse in any other way".
- She has done her earnest effort to promote the vegetarian eating and for keeping animal skins out of her handbag line for Rheson. She in 2016 earned a Compassionate Business Award from the PETA .



Other Recipient of PETA Award:

- Past recipients of PETA India's Person of the Year Award include Anushka Sharma, Sunny Leone, Dr Shashi Tharoor, former Supreme Court Justice KS Panicker Radhakrishnan, and actors Kapil Sharma, Hema Malini, R Madhavan, and Jacqueline Fernandez.

Links:

<https://www.petaindia.com/media/sonam-kapoor-is-peta-indias-2018-person-of-the-year/>

Crossword Book Awards 2018

Question: Who is conferred the lifetime achievement award in the 16th Crossword Book Awards 2018?

(a) Sudha Murty (b) Shashi Tharoor (c) Soha Ali Khan (d) Amitabh Ghosh

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Critical writer, International Diplomat and Parliamentarian Shashi Tharoor was given the Lifetime Achievement Award in the 16th Crossword Book Awards of 2018. He has written many popular books including Pax India, An Era of Darkness etc. and has a great contribution in Indian writing.
- Apart from this, **Sudha Murty** was awarded for her book "Three Thousand Stitches: Ordinary People, Extraordinary Lives" in non-fiction category. **Durjoy Dutta** was also awarded for his book "The Boy Who Loved" in fiction category.



- Other awardees includes **Soha Ali Khan** for “The Perils of Being Moderately Famous”; popular writer **Ruskin Bond** for “Looking for the Rainbow: My Years with Daddy”; **Chandramouli Venkatesan** for “Catalyst”; and **Sarita Davarre and Sanjay Kapoor** for “You’ve Lost Weight: The Easy Guide to Receiving This Compliment Everyday.”

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/tharoor-sudha-murthy-bond-soha-ali-khan-conferred-crossword-book-awards-118122100412_1.html

Asma Jahangir

Question: Asma Jahangir was posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights Prize, she belongs to which of the following country?

(a) India (b) Bangladesh (c) Pakistan (d) Afghanistan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 18th December 2018, Pakistan’s prominent human rights activist and lawyer Asma Jahangir was posthumously awarded the 2018 UN Human Rights Prize. She was one of the four winners of the award which was announced by the United Nations.
- Asma Jahangir was former UN Special Reporter on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.
- She was the first woman to serve as the President of the Supreme Court Bar Association in Pakistan. She was the founder of a home-grown human rights movement in Pakistan and co-founded and served as Chairperson of Human Rights Commission of Pakistan.
- Jahangir won numerous international awards in recognition of her human rights work including the Martin Ennals Award in 1995, the UNESCO/Bilbao Prize for the Promotion of Culture of Human rights and honoured as an *Officier dans l’Ordre national de la Légion d’honneur* by France.

UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights:-

- The UN Prize in the Field of Human Rights is an honorary award given to individuals and organizations in recognition of outstanding achievement in human rights.
- This is the tenth award of the prize, coinciding this year with the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- Every five years, prize winners are chosen by a special committee mandated by the UN General Assembly.

Links:

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/HumanRightsPrize2018.aspx>

Jnanpith Award 2018

Question: Who among the following has been conferred 2018 Jnanpith Award?

(a) Krisna Sobti (b) Amitav Ghosh (c) Chetana Divya (d) Bhalchandra Nemade

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Eminent path-breaking English novelist Amitav Ghosh has been conferred the 54th Jnanpith Award for the year 2018. He is the first English author to be awarded with the prestigious award.
- Born in Calcutta in 1956, his first literary work was English fiction 'The Circle of Reason' which brought to him tremendous popularity. His other distinguished literary works are "The Shadow Lines, The Calcutta Chromosome, The Glass Palace, The Hungry Tide, and Sea of Poppies, River of Smoke, Flood of Fire".
- His novel The Shadow Lines won the Sahitya Akademi Award in year 1989 and he was shortlisted for Man Booker prize, 2008.
- He was awarded Padma Shri in 2007 and was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature in year 2009.
- **About Jnanpith Award:**
- The Jnanpith Award is the foremost Indian literary award presented annually by the Bharatiya Jnanpith to an author for their "outstanding contribution towards literature".
- Instituted in 1961, the award has been presented for works in sixteen languages.
- The award carries citation plaque, a cash prize of ₹11 and a bronze replica of Saraswati.
- Malayalam writer G. Sankara Kurup was the first recipient of Jnanpith award in 1965 for his collection of poems, Odakkuzhal. Renowned Hindi writer and essayist Krishna Sobti was bestowed 2017 Jnanpith Award.



Links:

http://jnanpith.net/media_image/announcement/54th%20Jnanpith%20Award%20goes%20to%20Amitav%20Ghosh.pdf

Skoch Award-2018

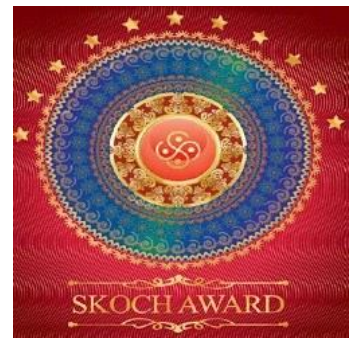
Question: Which of the following award has been conferred to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy recognizing effective installation of renewable energy capacity?

(a) Skoch Award (b) SEAL Award (c) Green Award (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 7 December 2018 Ministry of New and Renewable Energy has been conferred the 'Skoch Award' for national significance at an event held in New Delhi.
- The Award has been conferred on the Ministry considering its purpose and critical role played in installing about 73 GW renewable energy capacity in the country.
- With 21 Percent of total installed capacity, within the year renewable energy grossed a magic figure of providing one billion units of electricity in the country.
- It is worth to note that India ranks 4th in the world in wind energy capacity and 5th in solar & total renewable energy capacity installed in the world.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186201>

Sahitya Academi Award-2018

Question: Which of the following writer has been awarded Sahitya Academi Award for Hindi language in 2018?

(a) Ramdarash Mishra (b) Dudhnath Singh (c) Ramakant Singh (d) Chitra Mudgal

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Sahitya Academi announced its prestigious Annual Awards under the chairmanship of Akademi president Chandrashekar Kambar in which eminent Hindi writer Chitra Mudgal was awarded for her acclaimed novel "Post box no.203 Nalasopara" in novel category.
- Born on 10 September 1944 in Chennai, Chitra got her first story published in 1955. Since then she had authored numerous novel, story, dramas and essays.
- She is recipient of Vyas Samman, Indu Sharma Katha Samman, Sahitya Bhusan, Veer Singh Deo Samman. Total of 24 writers in different languages received the award.
- Sahitya Academy was established by Government of India on 12 March, 1954 for promotion and preservation of literature in 24 languages recognized by it. There are 3 Kala Academies namely, the Sangeet Kala Academy, the Lalit Kala Academy, and the Sahitya Academy.
- The awardees would be awarded an engraved copper-plaque, a cheque of ₹1lakh and a shawl on 29 January next year at Kamani Auditorium, New Delhi.



Links:

<http://sahitya-akademi.gov.in/sahitya-akademi/index.jsp>

Asian of the Year-2018

Question: Who among the following has been conferred Asian of the Year Award 2018?

1. **Vijay Varma**
2. **P Rajkumar**
3. **Ng Kok Choong**



Choose the correct options of the following:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Four men of courage and two disaster relief organisations collectively labelled as The First Responders were conferred The Straits Times Asians of the Year 2018.
- Indian Navy Commander (Pilot) Vijay Varma and Captain (Pilot) P Rajkumar have been awarded 'Asian of the year' in Indonesia for their selfless service and bravery in the rescue operations during the devastating floods of Kerala.
- Commander Vijay Varma was praised for rescuing a pregnant lady who gave birth just after being airlifted to safety and Captain P. Rajkumar saved the life of 26 people who were stuck at a rooftop in Kochi.
- Other awardees include late Ng Kok Choong of Singapore and Dr Sutopo Purwo Nugroho of Indonesia. Two disaster relief organizations Singapore's Mercy Relief and the Jakarta-based Asean Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) were also awarded.
- This award was inaugurated in the year 2012 and is given annually to a person, an institute or an organization, who/which has impacted the Asian affairs by newspaper Strait Times.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/indian-navy-commander-captain-win-asian-of-the-year-award-for-kerala-flood-rescue/articleshow/66850803.cms>

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/>

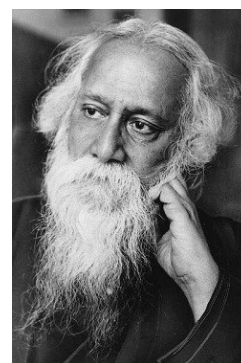
Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for 2014, 2015 & 2016 announced

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/PressReleaseframePage.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 13th

- 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.



Navakranta Bhat	Engineering & Computer Sciences
Kavita Singh	Humanities
Roop Malik	Life Sciences
Nalini Ananthraman	Mathematical Sciences
S K Sathish	Physical Sciences
Sendhil Mullainathan	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:

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

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: 12th 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 29th 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-News-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 87th 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:

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

<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

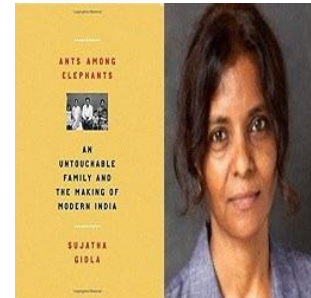
Question: US-based Dalit writer Sujatha Gidla has won 2018 Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize for which of the following book?

(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 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

Planning & Project

Task Force for Wildlife

Question: Which of the following countries planned a joint task force to protect wildlife?

(1) India (2) Myanmar (3) Bhutan (4) Nepal

Correct match is

(a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 2, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 3 and 4 (d) All of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- India, Nepal and Bhutan joined hands to have a joint task force for the protection of wildlife. This will allow free movement of wildlife across the political boundaries of nations and will also help to curb the smuggling across the Kanchenjunga Landscape, a region spread across the boundary region of Nepal, Bhutan and India.
- These developments are outcomes of visit by forest officials and representatives of non-government organisation of the three countries. In the later held meeting concerning same issue at Siliguri in north Bengal, Indian side was led by Ravinkanta Sinha, Principal Chief Conservator of Forest, West Bengal whereas Nepal was represented by G.P.



Bhattarai, Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, Nepal. The Bhutanese delegation was led by Tashi Tobgyel, Department of Forest and Park Services, Bhutan.

- The landscape selected is stretched along the southern side of Mt. Kanchenjunga covering an area of 25,080 sq km.
- The landscape is divided between the three nations having its area in eastern Nepal around 21%, in Sikkim and West Bengal of India around 56% and western and south western part of Bhutan around 23%.
- A regional knowledge development and learning centre named International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) published a report citing severe loss of flora and fauna in this region. A total of 1,118 sq km of tree cover and riverine grassland was lost in the landscape between 2000 and 2010 in which 74% and 26% area was converted into rangeland and agricultural land.
- Kanchenjunga is home for 169 species of mammals and 713 species of birds other than 7 million people. The report also mentions death of average 3 elephants per year (144 in total) between 1958 and 2013.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-nepal-bhutan-plan-joint-task-force-to-protect-wildlife/article25753701.ece>

Nominations sought for International Youth Exchange Programme

Question: Sports Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore won silver medal in which of the following Olympics?

(a) 2000 Sydney (b) 2004 Athens (c) 2008 Beijing (d) 2008 London

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Under the Youth Exchange Programme conducted by Department of Youth Affairs, nominations are invited from reputed institutions viz. IITs, IIMs, NITs, AIIMs, NSS, NYKS, RGNIYD, National Youth Awardees etc from 13 December 2018.
- Under the International Youth Exchange Programme, youths from India are sent to a few friendly countries and vice-versa for promoting exchange of ideas, values and culture amongst the youth of different countries and also to develop International understanding.
- The objective of this programme is to create an International perspective in the youth and to involve them in promoting peace and understanding.
- After finalization of dates for exchange programmes with the partnering countries, the delegates visiting a particular country are finalized after short listing names from the nomination received, depending upon the requirement of the programme.
- The number of youth/students sent to other countries in year 2017-18 was 367 whereas in 2018-Till, 282 youths are sent in the partner countries.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186350>

Digital Sky Portal

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Digital Sky Portal.

1. This portal will register all kinds of drones including Nano drones
2. From now, Nano drones in India can start flying legally

3. Drones are allowed to fly only 'Green zone'
Choose the correct option of the following:

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) Neither of them

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Civil Aviation has launched the online portal Digital Sky Portal on December 1st, 2018.
- Three fly zones have been identified, namely: green zone (requires intimation only), yellow zone (permission required) and red zone (is no fly zone).
- Now onwards Nano drone which weighs less or equal to 250 grams will not require any registration or license and they fly legally.
- For Micro and above categories drone, operators and pilots will have to register on the digital sky portal, following which a unique identification number (UIN) or Unmanned Aircraft operator's Permit (UPOP) will be issued by DGCA. The fee for a fresh UIN is rupees 1000, and rupees 25,000 for fresh UPOP.
- India had announced the release of its Civil Aviation Regulations (CAR) to enable safe flying of RPAS (Remotely piloted aerial systems) in India.
- Task-force for the recommendation of Drone Policy 2.0 is being constituted. DRONE 2.0 frameworks for RPAS are expected to include regulatory architecture for autonomous flying, delivery via drones and beyond visual line of sight (BVLOS) flights.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186069>

MoU between India and Korea for Tourism

Question: On 29th, 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 29th 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://www.edristi.in/>

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 26th 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>

Treaty & Agreements

Bilateral Annual Haj 2019 Agreement between Indian and Saudi Arabia

Question: Who is the Minister for Minority Affairs, Government of India?

- (a) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi (b) Sayed Shahnawaz Hussain (c) Nazma Heptullah
(d) None of the above

Answer (a)

Related Facts

- On 13 December 2018, India and Saudi Arabia signed bilateral Annual Haj 2019 Agreement at Jeddah.
- The Agreement was signed by Union Minister for Minority Affairs, Government of India Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, and Haj and Umrah Minister of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Dr Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benteen.
- Agreement seeks to ensure safety and better facilities, medical facilities for the Indian pilgrims during Haj 2019. It is a part of strengthened bilateral relations of the two countries.



Facts & Figures:

- Record 1, 75, 025 Muslims from India performed Haj 2018 which included about 48 % women.

- Indian Government had lifted ban on women going to Haj without Mehram (male companion) last year which resulted about 1300 Indian Muslim women went on Haj 2018 without Mehram.
- For the first time, more than 100 women Haj coordinators and Haj assistants had been deployed to assist Indian women Haj pilgrims in 2018.
- Haj committee of India has received more than 2 Lakh 47 thousand applications yet for Haj 2019. The Indian Government has requested the Saudi Arabia Government to increase India's annual quota for Haj 2019.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186371>

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 1st November 2018; Smt Anupriya Patel made the key note address at the ‘**1stAnnual 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 25th October 2018, the 48th 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://www.edristi.in/>

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 29th 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 5th 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

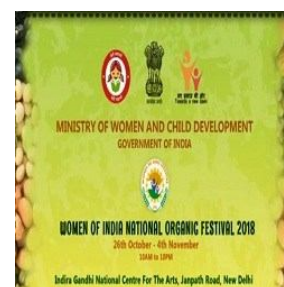
(c)Boost production of skin care products by women entrepreneurs

(d)Boost fabric, jewellery creation by women

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- From 26th October to 4th November, 2018, at Indra Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, the 5th 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/>

Year, Day & Week

World Soil Day-5th December

Question: World Soil day is observed on-

(a) 4th December (b) 5th December (c) 6th December (d) 7th December

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- World Soil Day is observed annually on the 5th of December at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) headquarters in Rome, the regional offices and through national and local events.
- This day is celebrated to focus attention on the importance of healthy soil and advocates sustainable management of soil resources.
- The Theme for World Soil Day 2018 is: "Be the Solution to Soil Pollution".
- Formal adoption of this day took place in December 2013 at the 68th UN General Assembly.
- In India, government facilitates Soil Health Cards to farmers to check the fertility status of their soil and enables them to apply soil health card based recommended dosages of fertilizers including micro-nutrients, bio-fertilizers, manures as well as soil ameliorants.
- According to Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, over 15 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to the farmers across the country.



Links:

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

International Universal Health Coverage Day

Question: International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed on?

(a) 12th December (b) 10th December (c) 4th December (d) 24th December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Universal Health Coverage Day is observed globally on 12th December every year since it was officially declared by the UN General Assembly in year 2017.

- This day is celebrated to raise awareness of the need for strong and resilient health systems and universal health coverage.
- The theme of the day for year 2018 is “Unite for Universal Health Coverage: Now is the Time for Collective Action.”
- Universal Health Coverage has been included in the new Sustainable Development Goals for 2015-30 adopted by the United Nations which seeks to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030 by all UN member states.
- In order to ensure comprehensive and impactful health care this comprises financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all.



Links:

<http://www.un.org/en/events/universal-health-coverage/>

International Mountain Day

Question: International Mountain Day is observed on-

(a) 11th December (b) 10th December (c) 4th December (d) 24th December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Mountain Day (IMD) is observed globally on 11th December every year since its establishment by the UN General Assembly in year 2003.
- This day is celebrated to spread awareness about the contribution of mountains in the biodiversity as it consists of approximately a quarter of the terrestrial biological diversity.
- The theme of the day for year 2018 is “#MountainsMatter”.
- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is mandated to lead observance of it at the global level and Water and Mountains Team of the Forestry Department is responsible for coordinating this international process.



Links:

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

International Migrants Day

Question: International Migrants Day is observed on-

(a) 18th December (b) 10th December (c) 4th December (d) 24th December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Migrants Day is observed globally on 18th December every year since its official establishment by the UN General Assembly in year 2000.
- This day celebrates the movement of migrants as well as their contribution to world development and raises awareness about the protection and safety of the migrants.
- To enhance the protection of refugees and migrants, a set of commitments called as New York Declaration was adopted on 19th September 2016 by United Nations General Assembly.



Links:

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

World AIDS Day

Question: World AIDS Day is observed on?

(a) 1st December (b) 4th June (c) 8th August (d) 4th July

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World AIDS Day is observed on 1st December every year since 1988.
- This day is observed to raise global awareness against the HIV/ AIDS pandemic.
- 2018 completed the 30th year of the World AIDS Day having the theme of ‘**Know Your Status**’.
- The theme reflects the figure that around the world, 37 million people are living with HIV, the highest number ever; yet a quarter do not know that they have the virus.



Links:

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

International Volunteer Day

Question: International Volunteer Day is observed on-

(a) 5th December (b) 4th December (c) 1st December (d) 3rd December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **International Volunteer Day (IVD)** is observed globally on 5th December every year.
- This day seeks to promote volunteerism, recognize volunteer’s work among their communities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector.
- The theme of this year is ‘Volunteers build Resilient Communities’.
- The International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly through Resolution 17th December, 1985.



Links:

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

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Question: International Day of Persons with Disabilities is observed on?

(a) 3rd December (b) 4th June (c) 8th August (d) 4th July

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Day of Personswith Disabilities is observedglobally on 3rd December every year since 1992.
- This day is observedto promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support forthe dignity, rightsand well-being of persons withdisabilities.



- This year the theme for day is ‘Empowering persons with disabilities and ensuring inclusiveness and equality’.

Links:

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

International Day for the Abolition of Slavery

Question: International Day for the Abolition of Slavery is observed on?

(a) 2nd December (b) 4th December (c) 1st December (d) 3rd December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 2nd December every year, ‘International Day for the Abolition of Slavery’ is observed globally since 1986.
- This day focuses on eradicating contemporary forms of slavery, such as trafficking in persons, sexual exploitation, and the worst forms of child labor, forced marriage, and the forced recruitment of children for use in armed conflict.
- This day also marks the date of adoption by the United Nations Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others by the General assembly in year 1949.



Links:

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

International Civil Aviation Day

Question: International Civil Aviation Day is observed on?

(a) 7th December (b) 4th December (c) 1st December (d) 3rd December

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Civil Aviation Day is observed globally on 7th December every year.
- This day is celebrated to recognize the importance of aviation, especially international air travel, to the social and economic development of the world.
- For 2015-2018 inclusive the Council has selected the following theme: **Working Together to Ensure No Country is Left Behind.**
- International Civil Aviation Day was formally declared by the United Nations General Assembly in the year 1996.



Links:

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

International Year of Millets in 2023

Question: International Year of Millets will be observed in which of the following year?

(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2022 (d) 2023

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Council has approved India's proposal to observe an International Year of Millets in year 2023 in its 160th session held in Rome on 3-7 December 2018.
- This international endorsement comes in the backdrop of India celebrating 2018 as the National Year of Millets for promoting cultivation and consumption of these nutri-cereals.
- Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Shri Radha Mohan Singh on behalf of all countrymen conveyed his gratitude to the countries who voiced their support.
- This will enhance global awareness to bring back these nutri-cereals to the plate, for food and nutrition security and hence increase production for resilience to challenges posed globally by climate change.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186206>

WORLD TOILET DAY

Question: World Toilet Day is celebrated every year on?
(a)12th November (b)13th November (c)15th November (d)19th November

Answer:(d)

Related facts:

- World Toilet Day is a yearly event observed on 19th 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:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/11/19/world-toilet-day>

International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

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

(a) 25th November (b) 14th November (c) 20th November (d) 12th November

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women is observed on 25th November every year the date marks the launch of 16 days of activism that will conclude on 10th 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 7th February 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 54/134, officially designating 25th 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

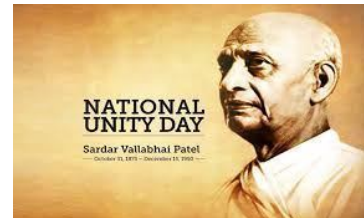
Question: Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day) is celebrated to commemorate the birth anniversary of-

(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 21th 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 17th 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 20th 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

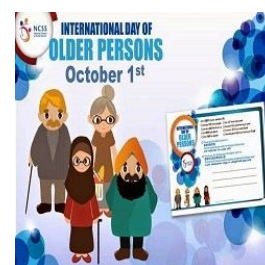
Question: International Day of Older Persons is observed on-

(a) 24 October (b) 1 October (c) 30 October (d) 28 October

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 1st 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 14th December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated 1st 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 20th **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 14th 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>

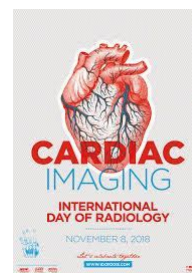
International Day of Radiology

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- International Day of Radiology is observed on 8th 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.edristi.in/>

<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) 23 October (c) 25 October (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/

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

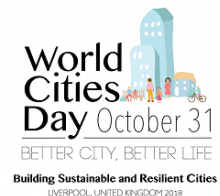
Question: World Cities Day is observed on-

- (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 Timeless Laxman

Question: What is the name of the book launched by PM Narendra Modi on the life of famous cartoonist RK Laxman?

(a) Vibrant Laxman (b) Political Cartoon of Laxman (c) Timeless Laxman (d) Politics of Cartoon: RK Laxman's narrative

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 18 December 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a coffee table book named 'Timeless Laxman' based on the life and times of legendary cartoonist RK Laxman. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Governor C Vidyasagar Rao were also present at the launch event.
- This book has been penned by cartoonist's daughter-in-law Usha Srinivas Laxman. This book is mainly comprised of pictures and looks oversized.
- RK Laxman (born 1921) was a celebrated cartoonist, humorist and illustrator and brother of famous author RK Narayanan. He was known for his famous cartoon 'The Common Man, You Said It' in The Times of India, which started in 1951. His cartoons depict an average Indian's hope, need, problems etc. as well for the humor and pun his cartoons carried all the way through.
- He was honored with Padma Bhushan (1973), Padma Vibhushan (2005) and Ramon Magsaysay Award (1984) for journalism. He died in 2015.
- During the launch event, PM Narendra Modi emphasized the essentiality of Laxman's work in understanding the sociology and socio-political milieu of that time.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/laxmans-cartoons-have-healing-power-modi/article25777066.ece>

Blue Waters Ahoy!

Question: Who is the author of the book 'Blue Waters Ahoy!'?

(a) Vice Admiral Arun Prakash (b) Admiral Nirmal Kumar Verma (c) Admiral R K Dhowan
(d) Vice Admiral Anup Singh

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Admiral Sunil Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, ADC Chief of the Naval Staff, released a book titled 'Blue Waters Ahoy!' – chronicling the Indian Navy's History from 2001-10 on the occasion of Navy Day.
- The book is authored by Vice Admiral Anup Singh, ex Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command, Sh. Ramnath Kovind, the President of India graced the occasion.
- This is in fact, the sixth volume of the Navy's History; the first five having covered the period from 1945 to 2000.
- In order to recognize the evolution of Indian Navy a History Cell was established in 1968 which collates and analyses historical data.
- The Indian Navy celebrates Navy Day every year on 04th December to commemorate its offensive actions during the 1971 war.



Links:

<https://nationaldefence.in/breaking-news/blue-waters-ahoy-chronicling-the-indian-navys-history-from-2001-10-released-by-navy-chief/>

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 27th
- 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 8th 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”

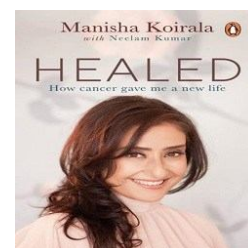
Question: Who is the author of book ‘HEALED’?

(a) Manisha Koirala (b) Sonali Bendre (c) Diana Hayden (d) Lisa Ray

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 10th 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:

<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 20th 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

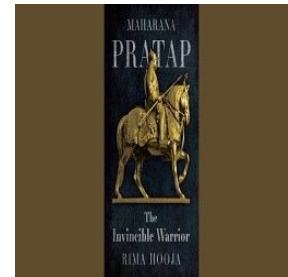
Question: Who is the author of the book “Maharana Pratap: The Invincible Warrior”?

(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:

<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

Fastest Asian to Cycle

Question: Who became the fastest Asian to cycle around the globe?

(a) Vedangi Kulkarni (b) Jenny Graham (c) Jyong Kix (d) Mustafa Ali

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Vedangi Kulkarni from India became the fastest Asian to cycle the globe. This was achieved when she completed the 29,000 kms cycling required to qualify as bicycling across the globe and landed in the early hours in Kolkata on 23rd December, 2018.
- Hailing from Pune, the 20 year old Vedangi spent 159 days cycling up to 300 kms per day across 14 countries. She started it from Perth, Australia in July this year. Vedangi studies sports management in University of Bornemouth, United Kingdom.



- She will now be flying back to the Australian city to complete the record by cycling a 15 kilometer distance to reach the same place from where she started.
- Thirty eight year old British Adventurer Jenny Graham became the fastest women to cycle the globe. She achieved this feat in 124 days earlier this year.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=357047#>

55th Anniversary of SSB

Question: Which of the following Armed Force had its 55th Anniversary on 24th December, 2018?

- (a) Assam Rifles (b) ITBP (Indo Tibetan Border Police) (c) Border Security Forces
(d) Sashastra Seema Bal

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The 55th Anniversary of armed force Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) was organized in New Delhi on 24th December, 2018. The chief guest at the ceremony was Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijju.
- Delegates from Nepal and Bhutan were also present during the Raising Day parade. The event also had parade of 52 international medalists from SSB, martial arts and mountaineering skills demonstration, performance by dare devil team, a motorcycle squad of SSB in the conclusion.
- President Police medal and Indian Police Medal was presented by Minister to the staffs and officers. SSB, previously known as Special Service Bureau is India`s Central Armed Police Force controlled by Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- This force was conceived in November 1962 following Sino-India war and created in March 1963 with the objective of 'Total security preparedness' in the remote border areas. As of 2017, it has 76,337 active personnel in 67 battalions.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=357091>

US Defence Secretary Resigned

Question: who retired from the post of US Defence Secretary recently?

- (a) James Mattis (b) Mike Pompeo (c) Nikki Halley (d) Rex Tillerson

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Defence Secretary of the United States **James Norman Mattis** announced his resignation from the post on 21st December. The 68 year old was the 26th Defence Secretary of US and was widely respected as the ablest administrator in Trump`s administration.
- The Secretary of Defence is the **Chief of Pentagon** and the personal assistant to the President in Defence matters. This post is somewhat equivalent to the post of Defence Minister in other Republics.
- The resignation came a day after **US announced to withdraw its troops from Syria.**
- James Norman Mattis is the 26th Secretary of Defense and a former United States Marine Corps general. He commanded the 1st Marine Division during the 2003 invasion of Iraq



and served as the 11th Commander of United States Central Command during the Presidency of Barack Obama.

Links:

<https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2018/12/20/james-mattis-step-us-defense-secretary/>

Merriam-Webster selects 'Justice' as 2018 Word of the Year

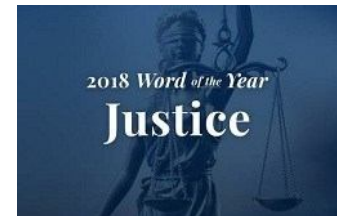
Question: Which word is selected by Merriam-Webster as word of the year 2018?

(a) Justice (b) Peace (c) Surreal (d) Youth cake

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Merriam-Webster's Word of the Year for 2018 is Justice.
- The concept of justice was at the center of many of our national debates in the past year: racial justice, social justice, criminal justice, economic justice.
- In 2016 & 2017 Surreal and Youth cake were the Word of the year respectively.
- Dictionary.com selected misinformation as its Word of the Year whereas Oxford dictionary chooses toxic as Word of the Year.
- Merriam-Webster is an American company based in Springfield, Massachusetts. This company publishes reference books and is especially known for its dictionaries.



Links:

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/merriam-webster-selects-justice-as-its-2018-word-of-the-year/ar-BBR4Riq>

Senior National Rowing Championship 2018

Question: Senior National Rowing Championship 2018 will be organised in which of the following city?

(a) Pune (b) Mumbai (c) Mangalore (d) Chennai

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 37th edition of Senior National Rowing Championship will be held in the Army Rowing Node in Pune during 17th December to 22nd December, 2018.
- 500 rowers and coaches across the country from various associations will take part in the Championship.
- The rowers representing India in World Championship 2019 will be selected from this event. This Championship will be the first qualifying Championship for the Tokyo Olympics of 2020.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356779>

Tri Services Cycling & Trekking Expedition

Question: Recently, Tri Services Cycling & Trekking Expedition was conducted in which of the following state?

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



(a) Sikkim (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) Uttarakhand (d) Jammu & Kashmir

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- To enhance the spirit of adventure ingrained in the Indian Armed Forces, demonstrate high standards of physical fitness, competitive spirit, mental robustness and camaraderie amongst the three Services- a Tri Services adventure expedition is being conducted from December 17, 2018 to January 05, 2019.
- The adventure is –Cycling & Trekking expedition. Tri Services team will be represented by of three Officers, three warrant rank officers and thirteen soldiers from the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- The expedition is in three phases which includes cycling-cum-trekking, para- gliding and sea diving. Expedition team would cycle the treacherous and challenging mountains of North Sikkim under the aegis of the Striking Lion Division for the next five days reaching altitudes of 15,000 feet in the Lachen & Lachung Valleys.
- Apart from cycling, the team would also trek through the mountain ranges along the Teesta River. During course of the expedition, the team will spread the message of Green Sikkim, Clean Sikkim.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=186462>

MC Mary Kom honoured with ‘Meethoileima’ title

Question: Who among the following Indian woman boxers 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:

- On 11th December, 2018, six time world boxing Champion Mary Kom has been conferred the title “**Meethoileima**” (par excellent queen/great or exceptional lady) by the Manipur Government in a felicitation ceremony held at Khuman Lampak Sports Complex in Imphal.
- On the occasion, State Chief Minister N. Biren Singh handed over a cheque of ten lakh rupees to her.
- Imphal West DC Road towards Game Village will be named as MC Mary Kom Road.
- She is the only woman to become World Amateur Boxing Champion for a record six times, and the only woman boxer to have won a medal in each one of the seven world championships.
- On 26 April 2016, Mary Kom was nominated by the President of India as a member of the Rajya Sabha.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=356577>

Casio Launches World’s first GST Calculator

Question: Which of the following electronic company has launched the World’s first GST calculator in India recently?

(a) Samsung (b) Casio (c) Nikon (d) Sony



Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Japanese electronics company 'CASIO' launched the world's first Goods and Services Tax (GST) calculators (MJ-120GST and MJ-12GST) for the Indian market.
- These GST calculators features in-built GST tabs for all five tax slabs – 0%-, 5%, 12%, 18% and 28%.
- The tax slab buttons on these calculators include GST + 1, GST + 2, GST + 3, GST 4 and are changeable as per industry standards.
- These GST calculators also feature tax-mode application that will help taxpayers and traders to calculate base value of products by deducting tax from MRP and thereby calculating the income.

Links:

<https://www.gadgetsnow.com/more-gadgets/casio-launches-two-gst-calculators-price-starts-at-rs-398/articleshow/66589083.cms>

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.

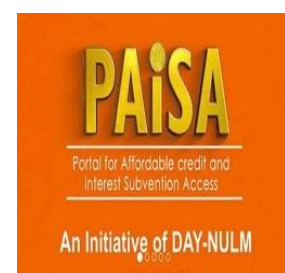
Choose the correct options of the following:

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

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



- **PaiSA** is a “portal for affordable credit and interest subvention access” launched on 26th 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

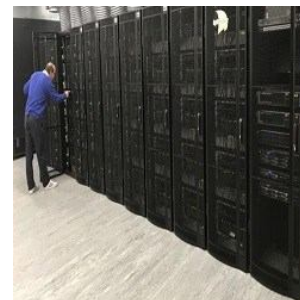
Question: What is SpiNNaker?

(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

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_release_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 Panja 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

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 75th 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 75th 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 21st, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had hoisted the National Flag at Red Fort and unveiled the plaque to commemorate the **75th 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 19th 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 6th 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/new_s/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 25th 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

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>