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NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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MISSION SHAKTI

PSLV-C45
EMISAT
MISSION



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 28th 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 March to 31st March) 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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Satellite launch by ISRO

Question: Which of the following satellite was launched by ISRO on April 1, 2019?

(a) GSAT 31-A (b) ASAT (c) EMISAT (d) MICROSAT-R

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- PSLV-C45, launched the Indian Space Research Organization's satellite **EMISAT from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota on April 1, 2019.**
- It also launched **28 other smaller satellites** of international customers with textbook precision.
- PSLV C-45 is the **47th flight of PSLV** (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)



EMISAT:

- EMISAT is a **defence satellite**. It has lift weight of 436Kg, Altitude of 749 Kms, and with 800w power.
- EMISAT has been developed under DRDO's Project Kautilya which aims to boost India's space surveillance capacity. The main capability of EMISAT is in signal intelligence — intercepting signals broadcast by communication systems, radars, and other electronic systems on the ground from hundreds of kilometers away in space.
- The **foreign satellites include 24 from the US, two from Lithuania and one each from Spain and Switzerland.**

New PSLV:

- In this mission, the rocket **PSLV C45** flew in a new configuration called "**QL**".
- In this configuration, the rocket is fitted with **four longer versions of strap-on motors** that provide the vehicle the required additional thrust.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/pslv-isro-emisat-launch-from-sriharikota-on-april-1/article26699077.ece>

Mission Shakti

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Mission Shakti:

- 1) Defence Research and Development Organisation(DRDO) successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test on March 27, 2019**
- 2) The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two liquid rocket boosters**
- 3) A live satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) was destroyed successfully**

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer (c)

Related facts:

- On 27 March 2019, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted an Anti-Satellite (A-SAT) missile test from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island) in Odisha.
- This test has been named as Mission Shakti.

- Under this mission, a live satellite was successfully destroyed in the Low Earth Orbit (an altitude of 300 km) by DRDO through indigenously developed A-SAT missile.
- With this feat, India registered itself as the forth space power after U.S., Russia and China having such technology.
- Anti-satellite (ASAT) System is missile-based system designed to incapacitate or destroy moving satellites for strategic military purposes.
- A-SAT is a modified defence interceptor missile of Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD) system.
- The interceptor missile was a three-stage missile with two solid rocket boosters.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-successfully-tests-anti-satellite-missile&id=361489>

Pramod Sawant sworn in as Goa CM

Question: Who has been newly appointed as Goa Chief Minister after death of Manohar Parrikar recently?

(a) Pramod Sawant (b) Sudin Dhavalikar (c) Vijai Sardesai (d) None of the Above

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Newly-appointed Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant took charge of his office on 19 March 2019 at the state secretariat in Porvorim near Panaji.
- Governor Mridula Sinha administered him the oath of office and secrecy.
- Sudin Dhavalikar, MLA of Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party (MGP) and Vijai Sardesai, MLA and President of Goa Forward Party were administered as Deputy Chief Ministers in the cabinet.
- Prior to this, Sawant was Speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly.
- He represents the Sanquelim constituency in the Goa Legislative Assembly.
- In the 12-member cabinet including the Chief Minister, BJP has 5 ministers, Goa Forward Party has 3 ministers and Maharashtrawadi Gomantak Party has 2 representatives.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=BJP%26%2339%3Bs-Pramod-Sawant-sworn-in-as-new-Goa-CM&id=361167>

Visually impaired friendly coin

Question: What are the various denominations of coins released as the part of new series of visually impaired friendly coins?

(a) Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.100 (b) Rs.1, Rs.2, (c) Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.15 (d) Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.10, Rs20

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- The Prime Minister, Mr Narendra Modi released the new series of visually impaired friendly circulation coins, in New Delhi.
- Rs.1, Rs.2, Rs.5, Rs.10 and Rs.20 are the various denominations of coins released as part of the new series.
- The Union Government is guided by the vision of reaching the last mile and the last person.
- The new series of coins will facilitate the visually impaired.
- The National Institute of Design for the Design, Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Finance paved the way for introduction of these new coins.
- The newly included coin of Rs.20 will be a 12 sided coin with no serrations.
- The rest of the denominations would be of round shape.



Link:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1567736>

Visit of Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia to India

Question: Name the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who visited India recently?

(a) Adel bin Ahmed Al Jubeir (b) Imran Khan (c) Ata ur-Rahman (d) Bin Ur Laden

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Adel bin Ahmed Al Jubeir was on an official visit to India on 11th March, 2019.
- Saudi Arabia expressed full solidarity with India in fight against terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.
- Both countries have taken significant steps including to boost trade and investment and to achieve USD 100 billion investment from Saudi Arabia into India.
- India appreciated the gesture from Saudi side to increase the Hajj quota to 2 Lakh and Royal pardon to 850 Indian Prisoners.
- Saudi Arabia is India's 4th largest trading partner and 2nd largest supplier of India crude oil needs.



Link:

<https://www.mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/31148/Visit+of+Minister+of+State+for+Foreign+Affairs+of+Saudi+Arabia+to+India+March+11+2019>

India has launched its third IT corridor in China

Question: Where has India launched its 3rd IT (Information Technology) corridor in China?

(a) Dalian (b) Macau (c) Beijing (d) Jiangsu

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- India has launched its 3rd IT (Information Technology) corridor in Jiangsu (China).
- It will facilitate partnership between Indian and Chinese companies.
- The IT corridor was developed in a partnership by the National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) and China's Xuzhou City from Jiangsu Province of China.
- The previous two IT corridors were in Dalian and Guiyang cities of China.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/india-launches-3rd-it-corridor-in-china-119030800693_1.html

Namaste Thailand Festival 2019

Question: Where was the 3rd Namaste Thailand Festival organised?

(a) Bangkok (b) Hyderabad (c) Goa (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The 3rd edition of Namaste Thailand festival was organised from 15th March, to 17th March, 2019 in New Delhi, India.
- Royal Thai Embassy organised the festival with the aim to strengthen bilateral ties and increasing cultural exchange between India and Thailand.
- The festival featured the stage performances by Thai artistes including the Asia-7, a popular Thai folk-jazz band.
- It also featured the traditional Thai cuisines, a series of Thai craft activities including mulberry paper mini umbrella making, fan painting, body paint, and button badge making.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/namaste-thailand-festival-aims-to-strengthen-bilateral-ties-increase-cultural-exchange-119031600217_1.html

India gives Financial Grant for building Educational Campus

Question: India recently extended a financial grant for building Educational Campus to?

(a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal (c) Sri Lanka (d) Maldives

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Government of India has extended Financial Grant of 35.5 million Nepalese rupees for the construction of an educational campus in Nepal.



- The newly constructed building of Siddheshwar Education Public Campus in Ramechhap district was inaugurated on March 22, 2019. This three storey building comprises of 12 Class rooms, Faculty room, Principal room, Library, Laboratory room, a meeting hall and toilets for girls and boys.
- The newly built infrastructure will increase the learning environment of students as well as enhance the access to education to needy, poor and marginalized students of Ramechhap District and adjoining area.
- As part of Development Partnership Programme, the Government of India is providing assistance to institutions at all levels from Primary Schools to Universities in Nepal.

Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/nepal-india-extends-financial-grant-building-educational-campus>

IAF inducts Chinook Helicopters

Question: Consider the following statements and choose the correct option:

- 1) Indian Air Force (IAF) inducted the four heavy-lift Chinook CH-47F(I) helicopters on 25th March 25, 2019
- 2) The induction ceremony held at Air Force base in Chandigarh
- 3) The CH-47 Chinook choppers are multi-mission heavy-lift transport helicopters
- 4) The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engine helicopter developed by US company Vertol and developed by Boeing Rotorcraft Systems



Options:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa formally inducted four Heavy-lift Chinook CH-47F(I) helicopters on 25th March, 2019 at a ceremony held at Air Force base in Chandigarh.
- The Boeing CH-47 Chinook is an American twin-engine helicopter. It is developed by US Company Vertol and Boeing Rotorcraft Systems.
- These choppers are multi-mission heavy-lift transport helicopters. It will be used to transport troops, artillery, supplies, equipment on the battlefield, ammunition and even barrier materials. It can also be used for disaster relief, search and recovery operations, medical evacuation, fire-fighting and civil development.
- Chinook will help lift the M-777 ultra-light howitzers of the Indian armed forces.
- The Chinook helicopter has fully integrated digital cockpit management system and is capable of transporting fully-equipped infantry soldiers for specialized operations.
- The maximum payload of Chinook chopper is 11 tonnes and 45 troops. It can carry under slung load of up to 10 tonnes additionally.

- India signed a deal of 15 Chinook Choppers at a cost of \$1.5 billion with Boeing in September 2015. It includes production, training and support. The total fleet is expected to be inducted in the Air Force by March 2020.

Links:

<https://www.businesstoday.in/current/economy-politics/indian-air-force-inducts-four-ch-47-chinook-all-need-know-heavy-lift-choppers/story/330717.html>

Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen

Question: Which one of the following statement regarding Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen is incorrect?

- (a) It is regulated by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS)
- (b) The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2020
- (c) Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G) has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it
- (d) The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19 is conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G)

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The aim of Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) is to achieve a clean and Open Defecation Free (ODF) India by 2nd October, 2019.
- The National Annual Rural Sanitation Survey (NARSS) 2018-19, conducted by an Independent Verification Agency (IVA) under the World Bank support project to the Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen (SBM-G), has found that 96.5% of the households in rural India who have access to a toilet use it.
- The survey was conducted between November 2018 and February 2019 and covered 92040 households in 6136 villages across States and UTs of India.
- The Mission Coordinator for SBM is Secretary, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation (MDWS).
- The survey used the PPS (Probability Proportion to Size) sampling methodology, which yields results within a confidence interval of 95%.
- The NARSS confirmed the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of 90.7% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF by various districts/States.
- 93.1% of households were found to have access to toilets during the survey period (the corresponding figure as per the SBMG MIS in November 2018 was 96%).
- 96.5% of the people who had access to toilets used them.
- 90.7% of villages which were previously declared and verified as ODF were confirmed to be ODF. The remaining villages also had sanitation coverage of about 93%.
- 95.4% of the villages surveyed found to have minimal litter and minimal stagnant water.



Significance of SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission):

- Since its launch in October 2014, SBM the world's largest sanitation program, has changed the behavior of hundreds of millions of people with respect to toilet access and usage.
- 500 million people have stopped defecating in the open since the SBM began, down from 550 million at the beginning of the programme to less than 50 million today.
- Over 9 crore toilets have been built across rural India under the Mission. Over 5.5 lakh villages and 615 districts have been declared ODF, along with 30 ODF States and Union Territories.
- To accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation, the Prime Minister of India launched the Swachh Bharat Mission on 2nd October, 2014.

Objectives:

- To bring about an improvement in the general quality of life in the rural areas, by promoting cleanliness, hygiene and eliminating open defecation.
- To motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices and facilities through awareness creation and health education.
- To encourage cost effective and appropriate technologies for ecologically safe and sustainable sanitation.
- To develop community managed sanitation systems focusing on scientific Solid & Liquid Waste Management systems for overall cleanliness in the rural areas.
- To create significant positive impact on gender and promote social inclusion by improving sanitation especially in marginalized communities.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1567486>

Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)

Question: Consider the following statement regarding SHREYAS:

- 1) Boost the employment skills of Indian youth through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS) and the National Career Service (NCS)
- 2) Its target is to cover 50 lakh students by 2025
- 3) The scheme has been conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning

of the above correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(1) and (2) (c) Only(1) and (3) (d) Only(3)

Answer :(c)



- To provide industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019, Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS).

- The aim of SHREYAS is to boost the employment skills of Indian youth by providing them with 'on the job work exposure' through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS) and the National Career Service (NCS).
- Its target is to cover 50 lakh students by 2022.
- Ministry of Human Resources Development, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Ministry of Labour and Employment are the three Ministries involved with this scheme.
- Objective of the scheme is to establish an 'earn while you learn' system into higher education.

Phases of the Scheme:

1st Track: Add-on apprenticeship (Degree apprenticeship):

- The students, who are about to complete the degree programme, would be invited to choose a job role of their choice from a selected list of apprenticeship or training job roles.
- This apprenticeship programme would commence immediately after completion of the degree programme (Starting from May each year) with basic training regarding the sector and will long for 6 months.
- During the apprenticeship period, the student would get a monthly stipend of about Rs 6,000 per month by the industry. At the end, successful students would get skills certificate in addition to their degree certificate.

2nd Track: Embedded Apprenticeship:

- The existing B.Voc (Bachelor of Vocation) programmes would be restructured into B.A (Professional), B.Sc (Professional) or B.Com (Professional) courses. These courses would include educational input, vocational input, and mandatory apprenticeship of 6 to 10 months.
- Alternatively, one full semester of an existing B.Voc course would be dedicated to apprenticeship with industry. During the apprenticeship period, the student would get a monthly stipend of about Rs 6,000 per month by the industry, 25 percent of which would be reimbursed under the NAPS programme.
- At the end, successful students would get skills certificate in addition to their degree certificate on completing a test conducted by Sector Skill Council.

3rd Track: Linking National Career Service with Colleges:

- Under this, the National Career Service (NCS) portal of Ministry of Labour & Employment would be linked with the Higher Education institutions. The students would be trained in soft skills required by the market. This would improve the employment opportunities.
- The education with skills is the need of the hour and the SHREYAS will be a major effort in this direction to make our degree students more skilled, capable, employable and aligned to the needs of our economy so that they contribute to country's progress and also obtain gainful employment.

- The scheme has been conceived for students in degree courses, primarily non-technical with a view to introduce employable skills into their learning, promotes apprenticeship as integral to education and also amalgamates employment facilitating efforts of the government into the education system.

Links:

<https://shreyas.ac.in/Home/about>

New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019

Question: India and which four rhino range nations have signed a declaration The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019 for the conservation and protection of the species?

- (a) Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia
- (b) Bhutan, South Africa, Indonesia and Malaysia
- (c) Bhutan, Namibia, Indonesia and Malaysia (d) Bhutan, Kenya, Indonesia and Malaysia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 4 March 2019, India and four rhino range nations have signed a declaration 'The New Delhi Declaration on Asian Rhinos 2019' for the conservation and protection of the species at the recently held Second Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting.
- India will collaborate with Bhutan, Nepal, Indonesia and Malaysia to increase the population of three species of Asian rhinos, including the Greater one-horned rhinoceros found in the Indian sub-continent.
- 2nd Asian Rhino Range Countries meeting (from February 26 to 28, 2019) was held at New Delhi and organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change of Government of India in collaboration with the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) Asian Rhino Specialist Group, WWF (World Wide Fund)- India and Aaranyak.
- The declaration was signed to conserve and review the population of the Greater one-horned, Javan and Sumatran rhinos every four years to reassess the need for joint actions to secure their future.
- The declaration includes undertaking studies on health issues of the rhinos, their potential diseases and taking necessary steps; collaborating and strengthening wildlife forensics for the purpose of investigation and strengthening of transboundary collaboration among India, Nepal and Bhutan for the conservation and protection of the Greater one-horned rhino.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-to-collaborate-with-four-nations-to-protect-asian-rhinos/article26431985.ece>

Legislative Assembly Election in four states

Question: Which four states has been announced to held simultaneous election with 2019 Lok Sabha election?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim
- (b) Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Odisha & Sikkim
- (c) Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha & Sikkim
- (d) Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Odisha & Sikkim

Answer :(a)

Related facts:



- The Election Commission announced the schedule for the assembly elections in Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim along with the Lok Sabha elections.
- The elections in these four states will take place simultaneously with the Lok Sabha elections.
- In Andhra Pradesh, the assembly election will take place in single phase on April 11 along with the Lok Sabha elections in the state for 176 assembly seats.
- In Odisha, the assembly elections will take place in four phases on April 11, 18, 23 and 29 for 147 assembly seats.
- In Sikkim, the assembly elections will take place in single phase on April 11 for all the 32 assembly constituencies.
- In Arunachal Pradesh, assembly elections will take place in the first phase on April 11 for all 60 assembly constituencies.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568595>

Inauguration of Refurbished Handloom Haat

Question: Smriti Zubin Irani inaugurated the renovated handloom haat in which of the following city?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Chennai (d) Kolkata

Answer :(a)

Related facts:



- On 5 March 2019, Smriti Zubin Irani (Union Textiles Minister) inaugurated the renovated handloom haat in New Delhi.
- She also launched three projects of NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) – Vision NXT – Trend Forecasting Initiative, Indian Textiles and Craft Repository and Design Innovation and Incubation.
- The Haat at Janpath in New Delhi has been set up by Ministry of Textiles to provide marketing opportunities to authentic handloom products from various States, PSUs and cooperative societies.
- Its main objective is to provide infrastructure support to handloom agencies to augment their sales of handloom products and to showcase the exquisite variety of handloom products produced all over the country.
- Textiles Minister also released a booklet – World Handmade Textile Biennales on this occasion.
- Smriti Zubin Irani stated that NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) will accomplish their job through artificial intelligence. The Textiles Minister further informed that the virtual museum will not only help industry and research scholars but also carry forward the knowledge to the next generation.
- Project related to trend innovation lab ‘Vision Nxt’ initiative being set up by NIFT (National Institute of Fashion Technology) in the building will create an indigenous fashion forecasting service that endeavours to design seasonal directions for our country.
- It will help handloom sector in production of handloom products as per market requirement in terms of trends, design and colour forecast.
- The project of Indian Textiles and Craft Repository Initiative of NIFT is supported by the DC Handlooms and the DC Handicrafts, Ministry of Textiles.
- The body of textile and craft knowledge generated through the Craft Cluster Initiative will be channelled into a national knowledge portal titled Indian Textile & Craft Repository.
- This repository will also house the virtual registers of the textiles and crafts resources, which are available in the Weaver Service Centres, the Crafts Museums, similar institutions and private collections.

- Design Innovation and Incubation (DII) is intended to support young entrepreneurs, artisans, start-ups, NIFT alumni and students.
- The DII would also facilitate collaborations relevant for business development.
- The target beneficiaries include NIFT alumni and students who would like to start entrepreneurial ventures as well as candidates who have not been a part of NIFT but wish to take up NIFT incubation support.
- **It has been decided to set up incubation facilities (Regional Incubators) in Mumbai, New Delhi and Bengaluru campuses of NIFT in the following areas:**
 1. Textile for Apparel, Home & spaces (Delhi)
 2. Smart wearable systems (Bengaluru)
 3. Fashion and Lifestyle accessories (Bengaluru)
 4. Apparel including Athleisure and Activewear (Mumbai)

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1567449>

Yuvashree Arpan Scheme

Question: Consider the following statements related to Yuvashree Arpan Scheme:

- 1) Yuvashree Arpan scheme was unveiled by Andhra Pradesh Government
- 2) It provides financially assisting to Young Entrepreneurs
- 3) Youngsters passing out of Industrial training institute (ITI) to get financial support from the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) department

Which one of the following is correct?

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



Answer:(c)

Related facts:

- On March 6, 2019 Mamata Banerjee launched Yuvashree Arpan Scheme for financially assisting Young Entrepreneurs.
- West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee launched a new scheme called Yuvashree Plan II or Yuvashree Arpan under which 50,000 youths will receive financial assistance of Rs 1 lakh for setting up an their own business initiatives.
- The Chief Minister on this occasion also laid foundation stone of various developmental projects including the first Hindi university in West Bengal in Arupara, Howrah district and Rs 1,488 Crore drinking water project at Purba Medinipur that will benefit more than 12 lakh people.
- On 7th March 2019, Foundation stone of projects worth Rs 1,071 crore including drinking water project that would benefit more than 8 lakh people was inaugurated at Bankura.
- Moreover, she inaugurated nearly 217 projects worth accounting to more than Rs 1,300 Crore at the programme.

Eligibility Criteria to avail benefits under Yuvashree Arpan Scheme II:

- Youngsters passing out of Industrial training institute (ITI) or other polytechnic institute will be eligible to get financial support from the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSME) department.
- Besides that candidate must be the native of West Bengal.

Links:

<https://www.yogiyojana.in/wb-yuvashree-arpan-scheme/>

‘Jalamrutha’ Conversation Scheme

Question: ‘Jalamrutha’ conservation scheme is related to –

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

Answer :(a)

Related facts:



- Recently (In Feb. 2019), a Water Conservation Scheme ‘Jalamrutha’ was launched by Karnataka Government.
- Jalamrutha is a community-driven movement for water conservation in the state, initiated by Rural Development and Panchayati Raj.
- The State Government has declared 2019 as the Year of Water.
- The State Government has authorized a grant of Rs.500 Crore for the implementation of Jalamrutha scheme.
- Under the scheme, the government aims to rejuvenate 14,000 water bodies and building 12,000 check-dams in next two years.

Relevancy of Scheme:

- About 41% of the state’s population is living in urban areas. The cities require a huge volume of water to meet the demand.
- North Bangalore is growing at a rapid pace.
- The region sees burgeoning water consumption while the resources are less.
- The state is left with no option but to bring Yettinahole water through the canal to meet the water demands.

Links:

<https://www.deccanherald.com/state/jalamrutha-conservation-scheme-720940.html>

Inauguration of CIPET centre in Tripura

Question: Who among the following inaugurated CIPET centre in Tripura?

- (a) DV Sadananda Gowda (b) Narendra Modi (c) Dharmendra Pradhan
(d) Nitin Gadkari

Answer : (a)

Related facts:



- Union Minister for Chemical and Fertilizers DV Sadananda Gowda inaugurated Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology (CIPET) in Agartala, Tripura on 23 February 2019.
- The CIPET (Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology) in Tripura will produce nearly 1500 skilled workers yearly.
- It was the 35th centre for skilling and technical support under CIPET.

About CIPET:

- The CIPET (Central Institute of Plastic Engineering and Technology) was established in 1968 in cooperation with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) at Chennai.
- The aim of CIPET was to develop manpower in different disciplines of plastics, engineering and technology.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/gowda-inaugurates-cipet-centre-in-tripura-119022400129_1.html

GI Tag to Turmeric

Question: Which of the following turmeric got GI tag on March 6, 2019?

- (a) Hyderabad Turmeric (b) Bikaner Turmeric (c) Travancore Turmeric
(d) Erode Turmeric

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Erode 'manjal' Turmeric got the prestigious GI (Geographical Indication) tag from the Geographical Indication Registry of India on March 6, 2019.
- The certification is granted under the spices category which comes under Class 30 of GI classification.
- Erode Turmeric received this tag after 8 years. The application was filed by the Erode Manjal Vanigargal Matrum Kidangu Urimaiyalargal Sangham.

Erode Turmeric:

- It is a kind of turmeric cultivated in Erode district, parts of Coimbatore and whole of Tirupur districts of Tamil Nadu. It is known for the unique qualities it carries because of its place of origin.
- The crop is grown in hot moist conditions prevalent in the area with temperature ranging from 20 degrees to 37.9 degrees Celsius with an average of 600 to 800 mm rainfall in a year.
- The earliest reference about turmeric can be seen in Atharvaveda (ca. 6000 Year. B.P.) prescribed to cure jaundice.

GI Tag:

- It is a sign used for a product of area-specific origin which also has qualities specific from the area of origin.
- This tag also bars the third party usage of name of the product.
- Such recognition helps in increasing the national and international demand of the product and ensure better price for the product in both domestic and international market.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/chennai/10-yrs-after-filing-of-plea-erode-manjal-gets-gi-tag/articleshow/68294710.cms>

Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS)

Question: Union Home Minister inaugurated the Project BOLD-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) on Indo-Bangladesh in __.

- (a) Dhubri district of Assam (b) Dibrugarh district of Assam (c) Jorhat district of Assam (d) Nalbari district of Assam

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Union Home Minister inaugurated the project Bold-QIT (Border Electronically Dominated QRT Interception Technique) under comprehensive integrated Border Management System (CIBMS) on Indo-Bangladesh border in Dhubri district of Assam on March 5, 2019.
- The Sixty one Kilometer of border area in Dhubri where River Brahmaputra enters into Bangladesh consist of vast char lands and innumerable river channels thus making border guarding in this area as challenging task especially during rainy season.
- To address these problems Ministry of Home Affairs has decided to use technological solutions to enhance capabilities of manpower of BSF deployed on the ground.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/topic/Comprehensive-Integrated-Border-Management-System>

India and Maldives enters into New Visa Agreement

Question: New Visa Agreement between India and which country came in to force on 11th March, 2019?

- (a) Nepal (b) Maldives (c) Djibouti (d) Mauritius

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- **India and Maldives** entered into a **new visa agreement on 11th March, 2019.**
- The agreement will provide a **liberal visa policy** for Maldivians seeking medical treatment as well as education and business opportunities in India.
- With this new visa deal, Maldivian businessmen and tourists can stay in India for **90 days without a visa**. Maldivians with tourist visas can also stay in India for treatment in any emergency medical issue.
- The agreement was reached during the visit of Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih to India last December. Both the governments had agreed to implement the visa facilitation agreement after completing the required procedures.



India-Maldives relation:

- **Maldives** is an island country located in the **south of Indian Ocean**. Its capital is **Male** and **Ibrahim Mohammed Solih is the President of Maldives**.
- India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links and enjoy cordial and multidimensional relations. India was among the first to recognise Maldives after its independence in **1965** and to establish diplomatic relations with the country. India established its mission at **Male in 1972**.
- India and Maldives have consistently supported each other in multilateral fora such as the UN, the Commonwealth, the NAM and the SAARC.
- India is one of the important allies of Maldives. The relation however was turned sour when former President Abdulla Yameen increased the ties with China over India. It was however reinstated with the **visit of recently elected President Ibrahim Mohammed Solih to India in December, 2018**.
- Currently, India has provided US\$100 million Stand-by Credit facility (SCF) to Maldives, including long-term loans and revolving credit for trade. Under new Line of Credit worth US\$40 million offered by the Government of India to Maldives, the Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (OIA) of India has been given a contract to construct 485 housing units in Maldives.

Links:

<https://eoi.gov.in/male/?1185?000>

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports recognizes Kudo International Federation India as National Sport Federation

Question: Kudo International Federation India (KIFI) was granted provisional recognition as National Sport Federation subjected to compliance of which of the following entitled Code?

- (a) National Sports Development Code of India 2011
- (b) National Sports Development Code of India 2012
- (c) National Sports Development Code of India 2010
- (d) National Sports Development Code of India 2013



Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has granted provisional recognition to Kudo International Federation India (KIFI) as National Sport Federation with immediate effect.
- The grant of recognition is subject to compliance of the provisions of National Sports Development Code of India, 2011.
- National Sports Development Code's provisions are modified from time to time, by the Federation including displaying information on their website as per the instructions issued by the Ministry.
- The recognition means granting a major role to KIFI Association for promotion and Development of Kudo sport in India.
- The Kudo sport is placed in the 'Others' category.

Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1567658>

PM flags off Nagpur Metro

Question: In which of the following city PM Modi recently inaugurated the second Metro rail service of Maharashtra?

(a) Nasik (b) Pune (c) Sholapur (d) Nagpur

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 7 March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Nagpur Metro through video conference from New Delhi. It is the second metro service in Maharashtra.
- The foundation stone for the Nagpur Metro was laid in year 2014.
- He inaugurated 13.5 km long, Khapri- Sitabuldi section of the Nagpur Metro.
- Addressing the event, Prime Minister notified that 400 km of operational network of metro has been built in the past four and half years and work is in progress on 800 km of metro network throughout the country.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189313>

Cabinet approves Delhi Metro's Phase – 4 Project

Question: Recently Delhi Metro's Phase – 4 project has been approved by the Union Cabinet. How many priority corridors have been established in this project?

(a) Only 2 (b) Only 3 (c) Only 4 (d) Only 5

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 7th March, 2019; the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved Delhi Metro's Phase – 4 Project.
- The project has 3 priority corridors covering length of 61.679 km.
- Out of the total 61.679 km, 22.359 km will be built underground and 39.320 km will be constructed as elevated section.
- A total of 46 stations including 17 underground stations and 29 stations as elevated sections will be constructed in these corridors.
- The total completion cost of three metro corridors will be Rs.24,948.65 crore.
- The project will be implemented by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (DMRC), the existing 50:50 Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) of the Government of India and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (GNCTD).
- After the completion of these corridors of Phase – 4, coverage of Metro Network will exceed 400 Kilometers thereby connecting more areas of the national capital and more interchange stations will be at use.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189270>

Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology

Question: Where is the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology situated which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently?

(a) Varanasi (b) Ghaziabad (c) Chennai (d) Greater Noida

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Institute of Archaeology in Greater Noida on March 9, 2019.
- This institute is built at an estimated cost of Rs. 289 crore. It is spread over 25 acres and well equipped with modern facilities and latest technologies.
- The institute also has a 1000 seater auditorium, an open air theatre as well as an Archaeological Museum in it.
- This Institute of Archaeology is a wing of Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) which comes under Ministry of Culture.



Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/education/pm-modi-inaugurates-pandit-deendayal-upadhyaya-institute-of-archaeology-at-noida-5621479/>

Model Code of Conduct

Question: Which of the following statement is correct in reference to the Model Code of Conduct applied during elections?

1) This conduct is imposed by Home Ministry

2) It comes to effect with the announcement of schedule of polls

3) Article 324 of the Constitution gives the Election Commission the power to monitor Central and state governments, all the candidates and political parties

4) Government transport including official air-crafts, vehicles, machinery and personnel shall not be used for furtherance of the interest of the party in power

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Model Code of Conduct comes into force with the announcement of polling dates by the Election Commissions. This is imposed by Election Commission of India.
- The MCC is a set of guidelines to regulate political parties and candidates prior to elections for ensuring free and fair elections.
- Article 324 of the Constitution gives the Election Commission the power to monitor Central and state governments, all the candidates and political parties during the elections.
- The present Code of Conduct got imposed on March 11, 2019 and will go on to be valid till May 19, 2019 i.e. the last phase of polls.



History:

- A form of Model Code of Conduct was applied in the Kerala state assembly elections for the first time in 1960 instructing the political parties regarding election meetings, speeches, slogans, etc.
- Election Commission later added a section in 1979 to regulate the 'party in power' and prevent it from gaining an unfair advantage at the time of elections. In 2013, the Supreme Court directed the Election Commission to include guidelines regarding election manifestos.

Provisions:

- There are eight key provisions in the code of Conduct which deals general conduct, meetings, processions, polling day, polling booths, observers, party in power, and election manifestos.
- General conduct includes that criticism of political parties must be limited to their policies and programmes, past record and work. No use of caste and communal feelings to secure votes, bribery or intimidation of voters, and organising demonstrations.
- Only voters, and those with a valid pass from the Election Commission, will be allowed to enter polling booths as per pooling day conduct.
- The guidelines prohibit parties from making promises that put an extra influence on voters, and suggest that manifestos also indicate the means to achieve promises.
- It is to be known that the Model Code of Conduct is not enforceable by law but certain provisions of it can be enforced by applying corresponding provisions in other statutes like Indian Penal Code, 1860, Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, and Representation of the People Act, 1951.

Links:

<https://www.prsindia.org/theprsblog/model-code-conduct-and-2019-general-elections>

Developmental Projects unveiled in Bangladesh

Question: Which of the following development project was jointly inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi and Bangladeshi counterpart Sheikh Hasina through video conferencing?
(a) 36 community clinics (b) 11 water treatment plants (c) supply of buses and trucks
(d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina jointly unveiled e-plaques for development projects in Bangladesh, through video conference on March 11, 2019.
- Both leaders unveiled e-plaques for supply of buses and trucks, inauguration of 36 community clinics, 11 water treatment plants, and extension of National Knowledge Network to Bangladesh.
- National Knowledge Network will connect scholars and research institutes in Bangladesh, to India and the world.
- The buses and trucks would assist the efforts towards affordable public transportation. Water treatment plants will help to supply clean water in community.
- Community clinics will benefit about 2 lakh people, in Bangladesh. He said these projects show that India-Bangladesh relations are playing a key role in improving the quality of life of people.
- These projects inauguration would strengthen the ties between these neighboring nations. Indi is working on various developmental projects in Bangladesh currently.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568564>

Announcement of schedule for General Elections 2019

Question: What is the date of result decided for the upcoming General Elections of 2019 as per the announcement of Election Commission?

(a) 21 May (b) 22 May (c) 23 May (d) 26 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Election Commission of India announced the schedule for the General Elections of 2019 on March 10, 2019.
- This was announced in a press conference done by Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora.
- The date of counting (result announcement) was announced to be 23 May, 2019.



Important highlights of the announcements of 17th Lok Sabha elections:

- The five-year term of the 16th Lok Sabha is due to expire on 3rd June, 2019. Article 324 of the Constitution of India bestows the relevant powers, duties and functions upon the Election Commission of India while Section 14 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 provides for the conduct of the elections to constitute a new Lok Sabha before the expiry of its current term.
- General elections to the Legislative Assemblies of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Odisha and Sikkim shall be held on the basis of the extent of Assembly Constituencies as contained in the said Delimitation Order, 2008.
- The Commission has decided to use Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) alongwith Electronic Voting Machine (EVM) at every polling station of all the States and Union Territories to enhance the transparency and credibility of the election process as VVPAT allows the voter to verify his/her vote. 17.74 lakh VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) Machine in 10.35 lakh Pooling Booths.
- There will be 'None of the Above' (NOTA) option for the elections. It will be present in voting machine as the last button. In Postal Ballot Paper it will be available after the name of last candidate.

Schedule:

- The General elections will take place in seven phases starting from April 11, 2019 as per the announcement.
- The first phase will have the voting for 91 seats in 20 states and Union Territories on April 11, 2019.
- The second phase will have the voting for 97 seats in 13 states and Union Territories on April 19, 2019.
- The third phase will have the voting for 115 seats in 14 states and Union Territories on April 23, 2019.
- The fourth phase will have the voting for 71 seats in 9 states and Union Territories on April 29, 2019.
- The fifth phase will have the voting for 51 seats in 7 states and Union Territories on May 6, 2019.

- The sixth phase will have the voting for 59 seats in 7 states and Union Territories on May 12, 2019.
- The seventh phase will have the voting for 59 seats in 8 states and Union Territories on May 19, 2019.
- Results will be announced on 23rd May, 2019 for all the seats.

Voters:

- All citizens who turned 18 years on 1st January, 2019 and registered as electors will get opportunity to cast their vote in the upcoming Lok Sabha elections and in the respective Vidhan Sabha elections of those States where it will be held.
- Following is the data of number of Electors at the time of final publication of Special Summary Revision Roll 2019. General Electors across the States and UTs are 896076899. General Electors with disability total are up to 4563905. Overseas Indian Electors total are 71735. Service Electors total are 1662993. Thus, total number of Electors as of now for 2019 Electoral Roll is 897811627.
- There will be 1.5 crore first time voters in the Lok Sabha Elections 2019.

Links:

<http://164.100.117.97/WriteReadData/userfiles/PN23%2010032019%20.pdf>

Aahar 2019

Question: Where is the 34th edition of Aahar organised from 12 to 16 March, 2019?

(a) Pune (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Raipur

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- The 34th edition of Aahar – the International Food & Hospitality Fair was commenced on March 12, 2019 at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.
- This five-day festival will get concluded on March 16, 2019. It will feature new trends in Food and Hospitality as well as hospitality services, processing, culinary tech, retail and new innovations.
- The festival witness over 560 participants from the country and abroad.
- The foreign participation is from countries like China, Canada, Chile, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Netherland, Norway, Oman, Russia, Singapore, Spain, Turkey, Taiwan, USA, UK, UAE and Vietnam.
- The display profile is segregated into four categories namely, 'Food Products, Ingredients & Additives', 'F & B Equipment', 'House Keeping & Engineering Equipment' and Confectionary.

- AAHAR is an UFI approved event being organised by Indian Trade Promotion Council (ITPO) with support of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries, Agricultural and Processed Food Products Development Authority (APEDA) and others.

Links:

<http://commerce.gov.in/PressRelease.aspx?Id=6666>

Union Home Minister approves task force report on space technology in Border Management

Question: Recently Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approves report of task force created by MHA to identify areas for use on space technology in improving Border Management. Name the areas identified for use of space technology?

- (a) Island Development & Border Security
 (b) Communication and Navigation & GIS and Operations Planning System
 (c) Border Infrastructure Development (d) All of the above

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 17th January 2019, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has approved Report of Task Force created by MHA to identify areas for use of Space Technology in improving Border Management.
- The identified areas are Island Development, Border Security, Communication and Navigation, GIS and Operations Planning System & Border Infrastructure Development.
- A short, medium and long term plan has been proposed for implementation in five years in close coordination with Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) & Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- In short term, immediate needs of Border Guarding Forces (BGFs) BGFs will be met by procurement of high resolution imagery and hiring of bandwidth for communications., in medium term one satellite is proposed to be launched by ISRO for exclusive use of MHA and in long term MHA will develop ground segment and network infrastructure to share satellite resources by user agencies, develop a Central Archival Facility for storing various imagery resources and dissemination of the same to user agencies.
- Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)-based GPS (Global Positioning System) will provide navigation facilities for operational parties in high altitude, remote and difficult borders and Naxal areas.
- BSF has been designated as lead agency for implementation of ground segment and network infrastructure including establishment of Archival Facility.
- The Task Force headed by Joint Secretary (Border Management) and having members from BSF, Department of Space and BM Division; MHA consulted all stakeholders including Border Guarding Forces (BGFs), ISRO, National Security Council Secretariat (NSCS) and Ministry of Defence (MoD) to finalize the report.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187565>

Vishva Umiyadham

Question: Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Vishva Umiyadham at which place?

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Delhi (c) Dehradun (d) Varanasi Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 4th March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the Vishva Umiyadham Complex at Jaspur, Ahmedabad.
- Umiya Mata Temple is the Temple of Goddess Umiya, Kuldevi of Patidars. It is located in the center of Unjha, Mehsana district, Gujarat, India.
- It is about 1200 years old but it was rebuilt around a century ago with the said of the people living there.



Links:

https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-lays-foundation-stone-of-vishva-umiyadham-complex/

Sikaria Mega Food Park

Question: In which of the following state Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd?

(a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland (c) Assam (d) Tripura

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 20th February, 2019; Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti today inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd (the 1st Mega Food Park of Tripura) at Village Tulakona in Agartala.
- The Mega Food Park has been set up in 50 acre of land at the cost of Rs. 87.45 crore. Government of India has accorded approval of a financial assistance of Rs. 50.00 Crore to the project.
- The food park will have (1) Fully operational Dry warehouse and material handling of 5000 MT. (2) Pineapple canning and Pulping line of 2 MT/Hr each. (3) Packing Unit, Ripening Chambers of 40 TPD. (4) Cold Storage of 5000 MT with Frozen Storage of 1000 MT. (5) Quality Control, Research & Development Centre etc.
- There is a provision of fully developed Industrial plots for setting up processing units and Standard Design Factory (SDF) Sheds to provide ready to move in facility for micro and small enterprises.
- The Mega Food Park will leverage an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crores in 25-30 food processing units in the park and generate a turnover of about Rs. 450-500 Crore annually.
- The Park will also provide direct and indirect employment to 5000 people and benefit about 25000 farmers in the CPC and PPC catchment areas.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188819>

PM attends Gita Aradhana Mahotsav

Question: Gita Aradhana Mahotsav was organised at which place?

(a) New Delhi (b) Mumbai (c) Chandigarh (d) Mathura

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, attended the Gita Aradhana Mahotsav at ISKCON-Glory of India Cultural Centre, New Delhi, on 26th February 2019.
- He unveiled a unique Bhagwad Gita, prepared by ISKCON devotees. It measures over 2.8 meters and weighs over 800 kg. He said this unique book will become a symbol of India's knowledge, to the world.
- The Prime Minister appreciated the efforts of Srila Bhaktivedanta Prabhupadaji, in raising global awareness about this epic.
- The Prime Minister emphasized that Indian values and culture offer solutions to many problems being faced by humanity.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566431>

Observatory set up in Tehri to monitor cloud activities

Question: On 8th February, 2019; the Himalayan Cloud Observatory has been set up in which of the following district of Uttarakhand?

(a) Almora (b) Dehradun (c) Tehri (d) Nainital

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 8th February, 2019; the Himalayan Cloud Observatory has been set up in Tehri district of Uttarakhand.
- This Observatory will forecast and monitor cloud burst incidents in the Himalayan region, it will also provide help for minimizing the damage.
- The Observatory has been established in the SRT campus Badshahithaul and is currently in the testing period.
- This is second such observatory in India that can function in high-altitudes. It is been developed by Indian Science and Technology Department and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur.
- In the hilly areas of Uttarakhand cloudburst incidents are very frequent and it causes a huge damage to land and property with a big loss of life.



Link:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/observatory-set-up-in-tehri-to-monitor-cloud-activities20190209070248/>

National Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis launched

Question: Who is the Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis, for WHO SEARO (World Health Organization, South East Asia Regional Office) region?

(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Akshay Kumar (c) Vidya Balan (d) Virat Kohli

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey on 24th February, 2019, launched the National Action Plan for Viral Hepatitis in Mumbai. The Minister also released the Technical Guidelines for Diagnosis and Management of Hepatitis B.
- There are estimated 4 crore patients of Hepatitis B and 0.6 to 1.2 crore patients of Hepatitis C in India, as per the data released by the Health Ministry.
- The aim of the program is to combat hepatitis and achieve countrywide elimination of Hepatitis C by 2030,
- The Plan provides a strategic framework, based on which National Viral Hepatitis Control Program was framed and launched in July, 2018 under National Health Mission by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.
- This program is also in line with our global commitment towards achieving Sustainable development Goal (SDG) 3.3. India has affirmed this commitment at the 69th World Health Assembly.
- Goodwill Ambassador for Hepatitis, WHO SEARO (World Health Organization, South East Asia Regional Office) region is, Shri Amitabh Bachchan.
- India is one of the few countries in the world to roll out management of Hepatitis B and hepatitis C in a public health approach and offer free diagnostics and drugs lifelong to its beneficiaries.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/national-action-plan-for-viral-hepatitis-launched-119022400766_1.html

Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana

Question: Which of the following state has recently launched Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Madhya Pradesh government launched a 100- day job guarantee scheme for urban economically weaker youth, (on the lines of the MNREGA scheme) Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana on 22nd February, 2019.
- Each youth enrolled under the scheme will get total Rs. 13, 500 for the 100 days period.
- This scheme will cover the urban youth aged 21-30 and having annual income less than 2 lakh.



- The scheme has provision of skill development training apart from 100 days work for the youth. It is a step towards making youth skilled and self dependent.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mp-govt-rolls-out-100-day-job-guarantee-scheme-for-youth/article26344348.ece>

MHA approves entitlement of air travel to all personnel of CAPFs

Question: The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the entitlement of air travel to all the personnel of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces in some sectors of the country.

Which of the following sector is not included among these?

(a) Delhi-Srinagar (b) Srinagar-Delhi (c) Jammu-Srinagar (d) Delhi-Mumbai

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the entitlement of air travel to all the personnel of Central Armed Paramilitary Forces. These sectors include Delhi-Srinagar, Srinagar-Delhi, Jammu-Srinagar and Srinagar-Jammu sectors.
- The decision will immediately benefit approximately 7,80,000 personnel of the CAPFs in the ranks of Constable, Head Constable and ASI who were otherwise not eligible earlier.
- This includes journey on duty and journey on leave (while going on leave from Jammu and Kashmir to home and return).
- This facility is in addition to the existing air courier services for CAPFs that have been steadily extended in all sectors by the MHA to help the jawans cut down on travel time during their journey to and fro from home on leave.
- In Jammu and Kashmir Sector, it may be recalled that Air Courier Service for CAPF jawans was approved for the Jammu-Srinagar-Jammu sector.
- Subsequently, the Service was extended to cover 1) Delhi-Jammu, 2) Jammu-Srinagar, 3) Srinagar-Jammu and 4) Jammu-Delhi sector in Dec 2017. The number of flights was further extended in Dec 2018.
- In addition, air support is provided from IAF as and when required.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188830>

Prayagraj Kumbha Mela 2019 makes it to the Guinness World Records

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Kumbh Mela 2019:

1) Prayagraj Kumbh Mela 2019 has been placed in the Guinness World Records biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism

2) The biggest painting exercise of public sites under paint my city scheme was one of them that sets Guinness World Record

Which of the following is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Kumbh Mela 2019, (from 15th January, 2019 to 4th March 2019) as the world's largest religious gathering, booked several Guinness World Records.
- The Guinness World Records in three sectors are:
- The biggest sanitation and waste disposal mechanism,



- The largest traffic and crowd management plan, and
- The biggest painting exercise of public sites for any fair

Kumbh 2019:

- Kumbh is a symbol of peace and harmony amongst all human beings. The Kumbh Mela has been inscribed on the list of “Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity” by UNESCO in 2017.
- This reflects the significance of Kumbh worldwide.
- Kumbh at Prayagraj encapsulates the science of astronomy, astrology, spirituality, ritualistic traditions, social and cultural customs and practices making it extremely rich in knowledge.
- Kumbh also signifies the coming together of people from various cultures from all across the world and participating in the spectacle that is the largest peaceful congregation of humanity.
- Participating in the ritual of the holy bath at the Ghats is an honor and a privilege

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/kumbh-mela-tying-for-a-place-in-guinness-world-records/story-UZjs91N5APs6XZMKVrVMPL.html>

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated development projects in J&K

Question: Consider the following statement regarding development project in J&K

1) Prime Minister laid of the foundation stones of two All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Vijaypur and Awantipora

2) Launching of the University of Ladakh will be the first-ever university in the Ladakh region of the state

Which of the following statement/s is/are correct?

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 3 February 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Jammu, Srinagar and Leh and inaugurated / laid foundation stones for various development projects.
- Laid foundation stone of AIIMS in Vijaypur of Jammu and Awantipora of Kashmir.
- Launched University of Ladakh, the first ever University in Ladakh region, established under University of Ladakh Act 2018. It will be a cluster University comprising of degree colleges of Leh, Kargil, Nubra, Zanskar, Drass and Khatlasi. The university will have administrative offices at Leh and Kargil.
- Laid Foundation stone of the North Regional Center campus of Indian Institute of Mass Communication in Jammu.
- Digital launch of various projects under Rashtriya Uchchar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA).
- Laid the cornerstone of the 1640 meter long two-lane bridge on the Chenab river in Sajwal of Paragwal area of Jammu.
- Laid Foundation stone of 54 new model degree colleges, 11 Professional colleges and 1 women's university.
- Laid the foundation stone of three model degree colleges in Kishtwar, Kupwara and Baramulla of Jammu and Kashmir.
- University Institute of Engineering and Technology located in Kathua was dedicated to the Nation.
- Announcement of 100% electrification for all the families of Jammu and Kashmir State under SAUBHAGYA Scheme.
- Laid the foundation stone of the 624 MW Kiru Hydroelectric Project in Kishtwar, J&K.

- 400 KV Jalandhar-Samba-Rajouri-Shopian-Amargarh transmission line was also dedicated to the nation.
- Laid Foundation stone of project to reduce pollution of Rivers Devika-Tawi under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187956>

Prime Minister flags off metro project

Question: Which city recently got its Metro rail whose maiden run was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi?

(a) Ghaziabad (b) Chennai (c) Chandigarh (d) Nagpur

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Nagpur Metro Rail on March 7, 2019 through video conferencing from New Delhi.
- The 13.5 km long, Khapri- Sitabuldi section of the Nagpur Metro was inaugurated through the digital unveiling of plaque. This is the first phase of Nagpur metro.
- The total length of Nagpur Metro is 38 kilometers divided into two corridors. Work on this project started in June 2015.
- There will be a total of 38 stations, two depots and 69 metro cars.
- A special Nari Shakti women coach will also be available in each train.
- Around 65 percent of the total electricity consumption will be from solar energy making it the greenest metro in the country.
- By the initiatives of the Union Government in building modern transport system throughout the country, 400 km of operational network of metro have been built in the past four and half years. Work is progressing on 800 km of metro network throughout the country.

Links:

https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-flags-off-nagpur-metro/

Foundation stone laid for National Institute of Unani Medicine at Ghaziabad

Question: Recently foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) has been laid at-

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Ghaziabad (c) New Delhi (d) Lucknow

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 1st March, 2019; Union Minister of State (IC) for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik laid the foundation stone for National Institute of Unani Medicine (NIUM) at Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Union Minister of State for External Affairs General V. K. Singh also graced the occasion.
- The Ministry of AYUSH is establishing the NIUM, Ghaziabad as a part of its commitment towards provision and promotion of quality education, research and healthcare services through Unani Medicine and other AYUSH systems.
- This institute would be developed with an approximate cost of Rs. 300.00 crore on 10 acres of land and would be one of the largest institutes of Unani Medicine in Northern India.

- With a 200 bedded hospital, the institute would cater to the needs of the masses and would have facilities for quality research and education at postgraduate and PhD levels.
- Secretary, Ministry of AYUSH, Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha informed that various initiatives has been taken like starting NAMASTE-Portal and A-HIMS for harnessing the potentials of Information Technology in the development and promotion of AYUSH systems.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189116>

Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway

Question: What is the estimated cost of Dwarka and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway whose foundation was laid on March 9, 2019?

- (a) Rs 90,000-crore and Rs. 9000 crore respectively
- (b) Rs 50,000-crore and Rs. 10000 crore respectively
- (c) Rs 80,000-crore and Rs. 9000 crore respectively
- (d) Rs 90,000-crore and Rs. 2000 crore respectively

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, Finance and Corporate Affairs Minister Arun Jaitley; and Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari laid the foundation stones for development of 8-lane access controlled Dwarka Expressway and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway in Delhi on March 8, 2019.
- The estimated cost of Dwarka and Delhi-Mumbai Expressway are Rs. 90,000 crore and Rs. 9000 crore respectively.
- The ministers also inaugurated the Jaipur Ring Road through a video link on the occasion.



Delhi-Mumbai Expressway:

- The Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai Expressway is conceived as a 1320 km greenfield project with an estimated cost of Rs 90,000 crore. The existing Delhi-Mumbai National Corridor (NH-8 section of the Golden Quadrilateral) is one the busiest and most critical routes of the national highways network, witnessing an average traffic of more than 80,000 PCUs per day.
- The proposed Delhi-Vadodara-Mumbai road will result in overall reduction of about 150 km in the present distance between Delhi and Mumbai. In addition, Delhi-Vadodara expressway would also act as an expressway to Jaipur via the already developed Jaipur-Dausa NH-11.

Dwarka Expressway

- The 29 km Dwarka Expressway (NH-248BB) being built at a cost of Rs 9,000 crore will start from Shiv Murti to terminate near Kherki Daula on NH-8. This Expressway stretches 18.9 Kms in Haryana and 10.1 Kms in Delhi.

Jaipur Ring Road

- The 57 km long six-lane Jaipur Ring Road has been completed at a cost of Rs 1217 crore. It connects NH-11 (Agra Road), NH-8 (Ajmer Road), NH-12 (Tonk Road), and NH-12 (Malpura Road).

Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568385>

China drafts new rules to supervise Biotechnology Research

Question: Consider the following statements regarding new rules for supervise Biotechnology Research:

(1) India has drafted new rules to supervise biotechnology research with fines and bans against rogue scientists

(2) It proposes to classify technology used for extracting genetic materials, gene editing, gene transfer and stem cell research as “high risk”

Choose the incorrect statement:

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- China has drafted new rules to supervise Biotechnology Research, with fines and bans against rogue scientists after a Chinese researcher caused a global outcry by claiming that he gene-edited babies.
- It was claimed by him in November that the world’s first gene-edited babies — twin girls — were born that same month after he altered their DNA to prevent them from contracting HIV by deleting a certain gene under a technique known as CRISPR.
- The claim shocked scientists worldwide, raising questions about bioethics and putting a spotlight on China’s lax oversight of scientific research.
- The rule proposes to classify technology used for extracting genetic materials, gene editing, gene transfer and stem cell research as “high risk”.
- Scientists can be fined 10 to 20 times the amount of “illegal income” earned from unauthorized research and be banned from their field of work for six months to one year.
- If the circumstances are serious, their medical practice license shall be revoked and the individual shall not engage in clinical research for life.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/china-eyes-bans-for-rogue-scientists/article26391008.ece>

Indian Railways launches new Dashboard

Question: What is name of new dashboard launched by the Rail Ministry?

(a) Rail Drishti (b) Drishti (c) Train Drishti (d) Erail

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Union Minister of Railways, Piyush Goyal on 25th February, 2019 launched the Rail Drishti dashboard, which encompasses all the digitisation efforts in the Indian Railways and aims to promote transparency and accountability.



- The dashboard will bring information from various sources on a single platform and gives access to key statistics and parameters to every citizen of the country.
- The 'eDrishti' dashboard has been developed by the Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS) and can be accessed at www.raildrishti.cris.org.in.
- Through the dashboard, the customer or railway passenger will get exposure to the multifaceted transformation underway in Indian Railways across the country. It offers information in 15 categories.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188925>

106 Coastal and Marine sites got identified under National Wildlife Action Plan

Question: National Wildlife Action Plan working towards the conservation of Coastal and Marine ecosystems from the impact of climate change is for which of the following period?

(a) 2014 – 2020 (b) 2017 – 2019 (c) 2014 – 2019 (d) 2017 – 2031

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- The Centre has identified over 100 coastal and marine sites as conservation reserves from the impact of climate change under its National Wildlife Action Plan for 2017-2031.
- According to the 2nd Biennial Report (BUR) of Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), submitted to the UN body on climate change in December 2018, India is encouraging participation of local communities in governance by recognizing the conservation reserves.
- In the last 4 years India has not only been able to sustain but also increase its mangrove cover at a time when these ecosystems are disappearing at an alarming rate.
- Towards fulfillment of India's commitment to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), several initiatives have been taken to meet the targets set under SDG 14- Life Below Water.
- **Few examples of the real Treasures of India's Coast and Marine biodiversity:**
- Dense mangrove forests of Sunderbans, world's largest congregations of nesting turtles in Odisha, beautiful seagrass beds in the Palk Bay, enigmatic sea cows in the Gulf of Mannar, majestic whale sharks frequenting the waters of the Gulf of Kutch and some of the world's most magnificent coral reefs in Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep .

- The Coastal and Marine Sector is also a source of valuable fish protein not only for the growing population but also contributes the Global food basket and ear the foreign exchange to the country.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/106-coastal-and-marine-sites-identified-as-conservation-reserves-govt-report-119021301142_1.html

7th Guinness Book of World Record created by DEPwD in Bharuch, Gujarat

Question: To how many Divyangjans, Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs)' were implanted within eight hours by DEPwD at Bharuch, Gujarat creating "7th Guinness Book of World Record"?

(a) 300 (b) 260 (c) 400 (d) 160

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 28th February, 2019; "7th Guinness Book of World Record" has been created by Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD) at Bharuch, Gujarat where 'Modern Artificial Limbs (Legs)' were implanted on 260 Divyangjans within eight hours.
- DEPwD has already created Six World Records in other categories.
- This information was given by the Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot during the inauguration of National Conference on Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS) at Bharuch, Gujarat on 1 March 2019.
- The Conference was organized by the (DEPwD). About 600 delegates from across the country participated in the conference.
- The objective of the conference was to sensitize the stakeholders of the scheme i.e. Programme Implementing Agencies (PIAs), District Level Officers & State Government Officers.
- Shri Gehlot praised the achievement as ISLRTC under DEPwD has recently prepared a Directory comprising 6000 words for the hearing impaired Divyangjans and more than 1700 visually impaired children have been treated with Cochlear Implant Surgery and almost all of them are now leading a normal life.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189121>

Cabinet approves proposal of National Policy on Electronics-2019

Question: National Policy on Electronics-2019 aims to promote domestic manufacturing and export to achieve a turnover by 2025?

(a) 400 million USD (b) 300 million USD (c) 200 million USD (d) 100 million USD

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th February, 2019, Union Cabinet gave its approval to the **National Policy on Electronics 2019** (NPE 2019), proposed by the **Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology** (MeitY).

- Target was to promote domestic manufacturing and export in the entire value-chain of **Electronics System Development and Maintenance (ESDM)** for economic development to achieve a turnover of USD 400 billion by 2025.
- This will include targeted production of 1.0 billion (100 crore) mobile handsets by 2025, valued at USD 190 billion (approximately INR 13, 00,000 crore), including 600 million (60 Crore) mobile handsets valued at USD 110 billion (approximately INR 7, 00,000 Crore) for export.
- Earlier, the implementation of the Schemes/ Programmes under the aegis of the **National Policy on Electronics 2012** (NPE 2012) has successfully consolidated the foundations for a competitive **Indian ESDM** (Electronics System Development and Maintenance) value chain.
- Now, NPE 2019 proposes to build on that foundation to propel the growth of ESDM (Electronics System Development and Maintenance) industry in the country. The National Policy of Electronics 2019 (NPE 2019) replaces the National Policy of Electronics 2012 (NPE 2012).



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1565285>

NCAP-Airpocalypse III Report

Question: How many cities are violating air quality norms that have not been included in the non-attainment list under recently launched NCAP (National Clean Air Programme): Airpocalypse III Report?

(a) 139 (b) 150 (c) 200 (d) 250

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Overall 139 cities have not been included in the non-attainment list under the NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) Airpocalypse III Report.
- National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) in its current form and ambition is only a good first step on a long journey. For the first step to be meaningful it must be followed by other measures and several lacunae must be addressed.
- Public participation is critical in the fight against air pollution. The right to clean air is in fact the right to life and political parties must be queried on their plans to deliver clean air for India.
- Out of them there are several cities that have a population of more than 1 million, and PM10 levels (recorded in 2017) above NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards).
- These cities are: Ranchi, Dhanbad (Jharkhand); Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh); Chennai, Madurai (Tamil Nadu); Meerut (Uttar Pradesh); Pimpri-Chindwar, Thane, (Maharashtra); Surat, Rajkot, Vadodara (Gujarat); Howrah (West Bengal) etc.
- The NCAP (National Clean Air Programme) also mentions that the list of 102 non-attainment cities includes 43 cities identified under Smart Cities programme.

- Earlier, A comparison of the list of smart cities with the list of 313 cities with 2017 annual PM10 data, shows that there are in fact 65 smart cities that should fall in the non-attainment list.
- There are an additional 20 Smart Cities for which data on Air Quality was not available.
- Only 12 Smart Cities had PM10 levels below 60 µg/m³ which is the annual standard for PM10 prescribed by CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) under NAAQS (National Ambient Air Quality Standards).

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/139-cities-violating-air-quality-norms-not-included-in-ncap-report-119012900992_1.html

IWAI launched portal LADIS for real time information

Question: Name the portal launched by IWAI for real time information recently?

(a) LADIS (b) AOL (c) Excite (d) MSN

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 15th February, 2019, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal named LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System for real-time information on available depth on stretches of National Waterways. The information will help better planning for movement of vessels.
- LADIS will ensure that real-time data on least available depths is disseminated for ship/barge and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on NWs in a more planned way.
- The portal, hosted on IWAI's website www.iwai.nic.in has been developed in-house. Initially, LAD information will be available for NW-1, NW-2, India-Bangladesh Protocol route and NW-3, along with the date of the survey. The facility will be expanded to other NWs also.
- IWAI has designed LADIS to facilitate the day-to-day operations of inland vessels plying on National Waterways and to avoid any hindrance in service and operation.
- Vessel operators/ cargo owners will prepare their sailing plans strictly as per applicable waterways related information (Hydrographic survey reports, River Notices etc.) available on IWAI's website.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188636>

Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project

Question: Cabinet approves investment proposal for transmission component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project with which country?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved investment for Transmission Component of Arun-3 Hydro Electric Project(Nepal portion) for an estimated cost of Rs. 1236.13 crore at June 2017 Price level.



- The Arun-3 Hydro Electric project (900 MW) is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.
- The project will provide surplus power to India strengthening economic linkages with Nepal. The power from the project shall be exported from Dhalkebar in Nepal to Muzaffarpur in India.
- The Arun-3 Hydro Electric project (900 MW) is located on Arun River in Sankhuwasabha District of Eastern Nepal.
- SJVN (Sutlej Jal Vikash Nigam) Limited bagged the project through International Competitive Bidding.

Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1566714>

Sanskrit as the Second Official Language

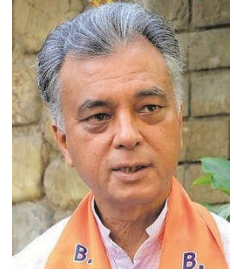
Question: Which of the following States recently adopted Sanskrit as the Second Official Language?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Haryana (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Himachal Pradesh adopted Sanskrit as the Second Official Language of the State. The House on 16th February passed the Himachal Pradesh Official Language (Amendment) Bill, 2019.
- The bill was tabled in the house on 14th February by Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur. Once given assent by the governor, it will amend the Himachal Pradesh official language Act, 1975.
- As a matter of fact 14,135 people in 20 States of India speak Sanskrit.



Links:

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/bill-to-make-sanskrit-second-official-language-of-hp-passed/730075.html>

First Vedic Education Board

Question: Who among the following have been chosen to head India's first Vedic Education Board?

(a) Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev (b) Yoga Guru Baba Ramdev (c) Shri Shri Ravi Shankar (d) Mahamandaleswar Awadheshanand Ji Giri

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- In order to promote Vedic Education in India, Government has appointed Yoga guru Baba Ramdev as the head of the first Vedic Education Board of India.
- A selection committee on 23rd February selected his Trust's bid for setting up the proposed Bhartiya Siksha Board (BSB).
- Later, a five-member panel's recommendation will be considered by the governing council of the Maharishi Sandipani Vedavidya Pratisthan (MSRVP), headed by Union Minister of Human Resources and Development, Prakash Javdekar.



- The MSRVP, a fully-funded autonomous body under the HRD ministry working on promotion of Ved- Vidya, has been entrusted with the responsibility of appointing a private sponsoring body for putting the BSB in place.
- This board will be the first government recognized board for promoting Vedic education in India.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/baba-ramdev-likely-to-head-first-vedic-board-patanjali-5599448/>

Assam Rifles Personnel empowered to arrest, search sans warrant in NE

Question: In which of the following North-East State, Central Government has not given Power to Arrest and Search without the Warrant?

(a) Nagaland (b) Arunachal Pradesh (c) Manipur (d) Meghalaya

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Assam Rifles personnel have been empowered by the central government to arrest anyone and search a place without warrant in northeastern states of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland and Mizoram.
- According to a Home Ministry notification, an officer of the rank corresponding to that of the lowest rank of members of the Assam Rifles has been given these powers under various sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- The Assam Rifles is the leading counter-insurgency force in the Northeast. It also guards the sensitive India-Myanmar border.
- The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, which is operational in some parts of the Northeast, also gives similar powers to the Army operating in the region.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/govt-empowers-assam-rifles-personnel-to-arrest-search-sans-warrant-119022100645_1.html

International

World's 16th most costly prime residential market

Question: Which Indian city is the 16th most expensive residential market in the world?

(a) Hyderabad (b) Chandigarh (c) Mumbai (d) Kolkata

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Mumbai, the financial capital of the country, is the 16th world most expensive residential market in the world as per world Frank Prime International Residential Index (PIRI 100).
- Manila topped the list of the world's most expensive residential market in the world.

- Singapore was the only other city in Asia-Pacific that emerged in the top ten of the PIRI 100.
- In Mumbai, 1 million dollar can now buy around 100 sq m which is around 930 dollar per sq ft.
- As compared to Last year, In terms of price rise, Indian luxury home markets remained low on the growth chart with Delhi gaining 1.4%, Bengaluru 1.1% and Mumbai 0.3%.

Links:

<https://www.knightfrank.co.in/news/mumbai-is-16th-most-expensive-prime-residential-market-in-the-world-knight-frank%E2%80%99s-prime-international-residential-index-013010.aspx>

World Happiness Report 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding World Happiness Report 2019:

- 1) India is at 140th rank featuring dropdown to seven places from 2018 report
- 2) Total 155 countries are included in this report
- 3) Pakistan was the happier country than India

of the above correct statement/s is/are:

- (a) Only(1) (b) Only(1)and (2) (c) Only(1) and (3) (d) Only(3)

Answer :(c)

Related facts:



- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network for the United Nations released the World Happiness Report on March 20, 2019 which was designated as the World Happiness Day by the UN General Assembly in 2012.
- This is UN’s seventh annual World Happiness Report, which ranks the world’s 156 countries on “how happy their citizens perceive themselves to be”.
- The focus of report was “Happiness and Community: how happiness has been changing over the past dozen years, and how information technology, governance and social norms influence communities”.
- **The report ranks countries on six key variables that support well-being:**

- 1) Income,
- 2) Freedom to make life choices,
- 3) Trust,
- 4) Healthy life expectancy,
- 5) Social support and
- 6) Generosity.

- The results are then correlated with other factors, including GDP and social security.
- **Index highlights:**

- The overall world happiness has fallen over the past few years, which has mostly been fuelled by a sustained drop in India, which came in 140th place this year (2019) compared with 133rd in 2018.
- India featured in the five countries that had the largest drop since 2008 in the index, along with Yemen, Syria, Botswana and Venezuela.
- The list is topped by Finland for the second year in a row followed by Denmark, Norway, Iceland and the Netherlands.
- Among India's neighboring countries, Pakistan is ranked 67th, Bangladesh 125th , Bhutan 95th, Sri Lanka 130th and China is placed at 93rd position.
- People in war-torn South Sudan(156 rank) is the most unhappy country, while Central African Republic secures 155th rank, Afghanistan at 154th rank, Tanzania holds 153rd rank and Rwanda figured at 152 rank.
- The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), launched in 2012, mobilizes global scientific and technological expertise to promote practical problem solving for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)and the Paris Climate Agreement.

Links:

<http://worldhappiness.report/ed/2019/>

Ethiopian Airlines flight crash

Question: Which Boeing aircraft suffered crash in its commercial operation from Bole International Airport in Ethiopia?

(a) Boeing-737-800MAX (b) Boeing-757-200M (c) Boeing- 747-300 Trijet (d) Boeing- 707-138B

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 10 March 2019; **Ethiopian Airlines flight ET302** in schedule service from Addis Ababa to Nairobi crashes around Bishoftu,southeast of Addis Ababa.
- All **157** people aboard comprising **149** passengers and eight crew members lost their life in the tragic airplane crash.
- The aircraft **Boeing-737-800MAX** lost contact soon after taking off from **Bole International Airport** in the **Ethiopia** capital.
- **Four Indians** also died in this crash, one of them was **Indian Environment Ministry**consultant, Shikha Garg and she was on her way to attend a **UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme) meeting**.



Links:

<https://www.ethiopianairlines.com/corporate/media/media-relations/press-release/detail/1078>

SIPRI releases the Trends in International Arms Transfers 2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the 2018 report Trends in International Arms Transfers released by SIPRI:

- 1) The assessment was done for a five-year period (2014-2018)
- 2) India has been superseded by Saudi Arabia and dropped down to become the second largest importer of weapons in the world
- 3) The US and Israel remain by far the largest exporters

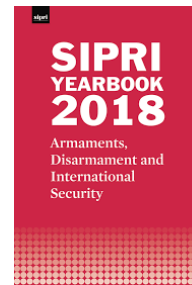
4) China, which is now the fifth largest exporter of weapons
Which one of the following is/are incorrect?

(a) Only(1) (b) Only(2) and (3) (c) Only(3) (d) All are Correct.

Answer :(c)

Related facts:

- The Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has released the Trends in International Arms Transfers 2018 Report.
- The assessment was done for a five-year period (2014-2018).
- India was the world's second largest importer of major arms in 2014-18 and accounted for 9.5% of the global total.
- After eight years of holding the position of the largest importer of weapons, India has been superseded by Saudi Arabia and dropped down to become the second largest importer of weapons in the world.
- Last year (for the period 2013-17), India accounted for 13% of all imports and was the world's largest importer.
- Reasons for gradual lowering of imports by India is Imports decreased by 24% between 2009-13 and 2014-18 (two five-year blocks), partly due to delays in deliveries of arms produced under license from foreign suppliers, such as combat aircraft ordered from Russia in 2001 and submarines ordered from France in 2008.
- The five biggest exporters in five-year block period 2014-2018 were the US, Russia, France, Germany and China.
- The US and Russia remains by far the largest exporters, accounting for 36% and 21%, respectively, of the total global trade.
- China, which is now the fifth largest exporter of weapons, has been aiding Pakistan and Bangladesh in stepping up their military prowess in the region. The two countries accounted for 53% of Beijing's exports from 2014-2018. On the other hand, Beijing is also an importer. China is the world's sixth largest arms importer in 2014-18 and accounted for 4.2% of the global total.
- Pakistan recorded a 39% dip in arms imports in 2014-18 compared to 2009-13, with the US becoming "increasingly reluctant" to provide military aid or sell arms to Pakistan.
- US arms exports to Pakistan fell 81% between 2009-13 and 2014-18. Pakistan has instead turned to other suppliers. For example, in 2018 it ordered four frigates and 30 combat helicopters from Turkey.



About SIPRI (Stockholm International Peace Research Institute):

- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) established in 1966 is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.
- Based in Stockholm the Institute provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/russian-arms-exports-to-india-fell-by-42-per-cent-between-2009-2013-and-2014-2018-report/article26492809.ece>

Forbes Billionaire List 2019

Question: Forbes has released the list of the richest people in 2019, what is rank of Mukesh Ambani as per published list?

(a) 12th (b) 13th (c) 14th (d) 15th

Answer :(b)

Related facts:

- Forbes has released Billionaire List 2019.
- According to this, in the list of the world's richest men, Mukesh Ambani has improved his position by six places to 13th position.
- Earlier in 2018, Mukesh Ambani was at number 19, while he was ranked 33th in 2017.
- When Forbes released the list of billionaires in 2018, Mukesh Ambani's net worth was \$ 40.1 billion (Rs 2.83 lakh Crore).
- It has now become \$ 50 billion (Rs 3.52 lakh Crore). His oil and gas company's annual revenue is approximately \$ 60 billion (Rs 4.23 lakh Crore).



Forbes list:

- According to this list, Amazon founder Jeff Bezos (\$ 131 Billion) remains the world's richest person.
- He is followed by Bill Gates (\$ 96.5 Billion) and Warren Buffett (\$ 82.5 Billion).
- At the same time, Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg (\$ 62.3 billion) has moved three places down (eighth), while former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg (\$ 55.5 billion) has moved up two places (9th).

Only four Indians in Top 100:

- Among Mukesh Ambani's top 100 billionaires, India's Azeem Premji was ranked 36th with \$ 22.6 billion, while HCL's co-founder Shiv Nadar was 82 and Arcelor Mittal chairman and CEO Lakshmi Mittal remained at the 91st position.

List of billionaires for the 33rd time:

- Forbes released the list of billionaires for the 33rd time. There are 2153 billionaires in the list of the year 2019. In 2018, 2208 billionaires were included.
- This year's total wealth of billionaires was \$ 8,700 billion, which was \$ 9,100 billion in 2018. This list of Forbes has been prepared based on shares and exchange rates of companies on February 8.

About Forbes:

- Forbes Incorporate is a privately owned publication and media company, whose major publication is a bi-weekly magazine Forbes.
- In the year 1917, Bertie Charles Forbes, known as B.C. Forbes, started Forbes magazine, a bi-monthly publication designed for top decision-makers. Forbes continues to keep ranking for different areas from time to time.

Links:

<https://www.forbes.com/billionaires/#31150e6a251c>

Global Environment Outlook

Question: Consider the following statements in respect to the Global Environment Report released recently and choose the correct option:

- (1) The report is released by United Nations Environment Program
- (2) The report mentions that a quarter of all premature deaths and diseases worldwide are due to manmade pollution and environmental damage
- (3) 1.4m people die each year due to lack of access to clean drinking supplies
- (4) This report was first published in 2010

Correct option:

(a) 1, 2 and 4 (b) 1, 3 and 4 (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- **United Nation Environment released its Global Environment Report in Nairobi, Kenya on 13th March, 2019.**
- The report mentions that a **quarter of all premature deaths and diseases** worldwide are due to **man-made pollution and environmental damage.**
- The report is prepared in **six years by 250 scientists from 70 nations.**
- The report shows a **growing gap between rich and poor countries** as extensive over-consumption, pollution and food waste in the developed world leads to hunger, poverty and disease elsewhere.
- **1.4m people die each year** due to lack of access to **clean drinking supplies** from preventable diseases such as diarrhea and parasites linked to pathogen-riddled water and poor sanitation.
- The report warns that **deadly smog emissions**, chemicals polluting drinking water and the accelerating destruction of ecosystems which is crucial to the livelihoods of billions of people are driving a worldwide epidemic that hampers the global economy.
- The poor environmental conditions cause approximately **25% of global disease and mortality, around 9 million deaths in 2015 only.**
- The report says **air pollution causes 6-7 million early deaths** annually.
- **Food waste accounts for 9% of global greenhouse gas emissions.** The world currently throws away a third of total food production, in richer nations the figure is approximately 56%.



Global Environment Outlook (GEO):

- **The Global Environment Outlook (GEO)** is often referred to as UN Environment's flagship environmental assessment. The **first publication was issued in 1997.**
- It is a flagship report because it fulfills the core functions of the organization, which date back to the UN General Assembly resolution that established the UN Environment Programme in **1972.**

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/environment-damage-behind-a-quarter-of-premature-deaths-diseases-un-report/article26524718.ece>

International Arms Transfer Report 2018

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the International Arms Transfer Report 2018:

- 1) This report is published by Amnesty International
- 2) This report mentions that India continues to be the world's largest importer of arms
- 3) The volume of international transfers of major arms in 2014–18 was 7.8 per cent higher than in 2009–13
- 4) Russia's arms export to India fell by 42 per cent between 2014-18 and 2009-2013

Choose the correct option:

(a) 1, 2 and 3 (b) 1 and 4 (c) 2, 3 and 4 (d) 3 and 4

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Sweden based think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) released its annual report titled 'Trends in International Arms Transfers-2018' on March 11, 2019.
- The report mentions the volume of International arms transfer and highlights the key changes in the facts and figures. The report mentions that the volume of international transfers of major arms in 2014–18 was 7.8 per cent higher than in 2009–13.

India perspective:



- The report does a critical analysis of the arms transfer that takes place in India and also highlights the important changes that took place in recent years.
- India is now the second largest importer of arms. The top position is gained by Saudi Arabia switching India to second rank. India still accounts for 9.5 per cent of the global total.
- India's import of arms decreased by 24 per cent between 2009-2013 and 2014-2018. This is due to delays in deliveries of arms produced under license from foreign suppliers as well as the Make in India initiative of government.
- As per the report, Russia's arms export to India fell by 42 per cent between 2014-18 and 2009-2013. It accounted for 58 per cent of total Indian arms imports in 2014-2018, compared with 76 per cent in 2009-2013
- During 2014-18 period, India procured Mi-17-V5 helicopters from Russia; maritime surveillance planes, the Boeing P8-I from the US, and UAVs and radars from Israel.

Global trends and highlights:

- United States, Russia, France, Germany and China are the world's largest exporters of arms accounting for 75 per cent of the total volume of arms exports during 2014-18.
- The five largest importers were Saudi Arabia, India, Egypt, Australia and Algeria.
- US share of total global exports rose from 30 per cent to 36 per cent. Arms exports by Russia decreased by 17 per cent between 2009–13 and 2014–18.
- France increased its arms exports by 43 per cent and Germany by 13 per cent between 2009–13 and 2014–18.
- Arms imports by states in the Middle East increased by 87 per cent between 2009–13 and 2014–18 and accounted for 35 per cent of global arms imports in 2014–18.
- Saudi Arabia became the world's largest arms importer in 2014–18, with an increase of 192 per cent compared with 2009–13.
- States in Asia and Oceania received 40 per cent of global arms imports in 2014–18, but there was a decrease of 6.7 per cent compared with 2009–13.

Links:

<https://www.sipri.org/media/press-release/2019/global-arms-trade-usa-increases-dominance-arms-flows-middle-east-surge-says-sipri>

International Vision Zero Conference

Question : Consider the following statements:

- 1) During February 2019, the three days conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to occupational Safety and Health was held in Mumbai
- 2) It was organized by DGFASLI and DGUV, Germany
- 3) Vision Zero is based on four fundamental principles

On the basis of the above given facts which of the following alternatives are true:

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Only 3 (d) All 1,2,3

Answer :(d)

Related facts:

- On 18th February 2019, the three-days, conference on the VISION ZERO and its relevance to Occupational Safety and Health was held in IIT, Mumbai, India.
- The conference was inaugurated by Sri Heeralal Samariya, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- The conference has been organised by Directorate General Factory Advice and Labour Institutes (DGFASLI), Ministry of Labour and Employment, with German Social Accident Insurance (DGUV), Germany in association with IIT, Bombay and International Social Security Association – Manufacturing, Construction and Mining.
- The concept of 'Vision Zero' is fast gaining international acceptance and is expected to leverage the efforts of the Government of India to raise the occupational safety and health standards in the country so as to improve the occupational safety and health situation.
- The concept of 'Vision Zero' is based on four fundamental principles viz. life is non-negotiable, humans are fallible, tolerable limits are defined by human physical resistance and people are entitled to safe transport and safe workplaces.
- The Vision is based on principles of Controlling Risks, Ensuring Safety and Health in Machines, Equipment and Workplaces and Skill Up gradation of Workforce.
- Participants from various sectors attended the conference; on the other hand international community will get an appraisal of the occupational safety and health status in India thereby exposing the Indian industrial occupational safety and health scenario to the international community.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188696>

Inclusive Internet Index 2019

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Inclusive Internet Index 2019?

1) The Inclusive Internet Index, is commissioned by Facebook and conducted by The Economist Intelligence Unit

2) India has been ranked 57th in Inclusive Internet Index 2019

Choose the correct option:

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Inclusive Internet Index, commissioned by Facebook and conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit, seeks to measure the extent to which the Internet is not only accessible and affordable, but also relevant to all, allowing usage that enables positive social and economic outcomes at individual and group level.
- India has been ranked 47th in the list of 100 countries. Sweden has topped the rankings followed by Singapore and the US. The UK, Namibia, Ireland, Austria, Chile and South Africa are the top performers of the year in terms of gender equality. All these countries had female digital skills training plans.



- The purpose of the Inclusive Internet Index is to provide researchers and policymakers with the information they need to enable the beneficial use of the Internet, irrespective of age, gender, location or background.
- The index assesses the performance of 100 countries in four categories of inclusion: Accessibility, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness.
- Each category incorporates key indicators of internet inclusion, including quantitative measures such as network coverage and pricing, and qualitative measures such as the presence of e-inclusion policies and the availability of local-language content.

Links:

<https://theinclusiveinternet.eiu.com/>

Blasts in India-assisted Hydropower Project site in Nepal

Question: Arun III Hydropower project is being constructed in which of the following country with the assistance of India?

(a) Bangladesh (b) Nepal (c) Myanmar (d) Afghanistan

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 7th February, 2019; blasts occurred near the India-assisted hydropower project site in Nepal. The incident happened on near the near the powerhouse of under construction Arun III Hydropower project. This led to the damage of a generator and a boomer.
- Arun-III is the largest capacity project in the country and is scheduled to be constructed within the next five years.
- It is worth to note that the foundation stone of this 900-Megawatt Power Plant jointly laid by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Nepalese counterpart K P Sharma Oli last year.
- India's state-owned Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Power Development Company has been carrying out the construction work at the plant.



Links:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/renewable/blasts-in-india-assisted-hydropower-project-site-in-nepal/67909912>

France moves proposal at UN Security Council

Question; Consider the following statements:

1) France has decided to move a resolution at the UNSC to designate Pakistan – based Maulana Masood Azhar as a global terrorist

2) This decision has been taken on the wake of Pulwama attack

3) This will be the second time France will be party to such a proposal at the UN

On the basis of the above given facts which of the following alternative/s are true:

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Only 3 (d) All 1,2,3

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The US, the UK and France have moved a fresh proposal in the UN Security Council to designate Pakistan-based terror group JeM



Chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist, a listing that will subject him to global travel ban, asset freeze and arms embargo.

- The fresh proposal was moved Wednesday (27th February). The Security Council Sanctions Committee will have 10 working days to consider the fresh proposal submitted by the three members.
- This decision has been taken on the wake of Pulwama attack on 14th Feb. 2019 at CRPF battalion.
- This will be the second time France will be party to such a proposal at the UN's sanctions committee 1267.
- Earlier it was blocked by China. After the Pulwama attack, China has reiterated its earlier position.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=US%2C-UK-and-France-moved-fresh-proposal-in-UNSC-to-designate-Masood-Azhar-as-global-terrorist&id=360368>

Dubai Airport retains top position as World's Busiest Airport in 2018

Question: Name the airport which retained the top spot as World's Busiest Airport for the fifth consecutive year recently?

- (a) Dubai International Airport (b) Changi Airport (c) Beijing Capital International Airport
(d) San Francisco International Airport

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **Dubai International Airport (DXB)** retained the top **global spot in 2018** as the world's busiest airport for the fifth consecutive year.
- It overtook the crown of the world's busiest hub for international travel from London's Heathrow in 2014.
- Annual traffic rose slightly to 89.15 million passengers, 1% above the number recorded in the year 2017. It missed the target of **90.3 million passengers**.
- In **2017**, Indians retained the top position with 12.28 million passengers and Saudis came in second with 6.47 million travelers, overtaking Britons.
- The Dubai International Airport (DXB) was opened for civil aviation in July 1937.



Links:

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/life/2019/01/29/dubai-airport-retains-top-spot-as-worlds-busiest-for-fifth-year/1717443>

13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition

Question: The 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition organized from 10th to 12th February, 2019 was titled as-

- (a) PETROTECH-2019 (b) PETROMECH-2019 (c) BIOTECH-2019 (d) INFOTECH-2019

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- **PETROTECH-2019; the 13th International Oil & Gas Conference & Exhibition**, was organised from 10th to 12th February, 2019 under the aegis of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Government of India.
- The theme of the conference was '**Shaping the New Energy World through Innovation and Collaboration**'.



- While inaugurating the conference in Greater Noida, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stressed on the need to move towards transparent and flexible markets for oil and gas to serve energy needs in an optimal manner.
- Prime Minister also stressed the need to move towards responsible pricing of Oil and Gas to balance the interests of both the producer and the consumer.
- The **PETROTECH-2019** exhibition will focus on development in petroleum technologies, exploration & production, process control, refining and pipeline and services, systems, products, oil field hardware, software, analytical instruments, Renewable, R&D, HSE, training and publications of technical literature.
- Over **95 Energy Ministers** from partner countries have been invited by the **Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas** to participate in the Conference.
- The **PETROTECH-2019 Exhibition** saw participation of over **13 country pavilions** and about **750 exhibitors from over 40 countries**, with exclusive areas on the **Make in India** and **Renewable Energy** theme.
- Several **Start Up Companies** also exhibited their technology and development during **PETROTECH**.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187891>

Emergency in Sudan

Question: Which country has declared Emergency recently?

(a) Sudan (b) Libya (c) South Sudan (d) Angola

Answer: (a)



- A year-long state of emergency was declared in Sudan by President Omar al-Bashir on February 22, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country.
- He called on Sudan's parliament to postpone constitutional amendments that would allow him to run for another term in a presidential election in 2020.
- Since December 2018, anti-governments protests is being witnessed in various areas of Sudan, including the capital Khartoum, over the deteriorating economic conditions and price hikes of basic commodities.
- It is worth to note that Omar al-Bashir was serving as President of the Republic of the Sudan since 1989.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Sudanese-President-declares-year-long-state-of-emergency&id=360157>

Economics

Generalized System of Preferences

Question: Choose the correct statement:

- 1) The Generalized System of Preferences is the largest and oldest United States trade preference programme
- 2) The United States of America revoke GSP over India because of two product one from Dairy and Other from medical mainly
- 3) The Indian export industry not much affected of the GSP removal for India by the US

4) The GSP helps spur sustainable development in beneficiary countries by helping them increase and diversify their trade with the US

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

Answer :(d)

Related facts:



- The Generalized System of Preferences is the largest and oldest United States trade preference programme.
- The U.S. intended it to promote economic development by eliminating duties on some products it imports from the 120 countries designated as beneficiaries.

Need for its Introduction:

- It was established by the Trade Act of 1974.
- According to the U.S. Trade Representative, the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) helps spur sustainable development in beneficiary countries by helping them increase and diversify their trade with the U.S.
- The U.S. also believes that moving GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) imports from the docks to U.S. consumers, farmers, and manufacturers supports tens of thousands of jobs in the U.S.
- The other benefit is that “GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) boosts American competitiveness by reducing the costs of imported inputs used by U.S. companies to manufacture goods in the United States.”
- The Trade Representative says the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) is important to U.S. small businesses, many of which rely on the programmes’ duty savings to stay competitive.

Importance in Indian Context:

- The Indian export industry not much affected of the GSP (Generalized System of Preferences) removal for India by the U.S.
- The loss for the industry amounts to about \$190 million on exports of \$5.6 billion falling under the GSP category.
- But specific sectors, such as gem and jewellery, leather and processed foods will lose the benefits of the programme.
- A producer may be able to bear 2-3% of the loss from the change, but not more.
- The loss, in export of some kinds of rice for example, may even exceed 10%. The landed price of goods from India has to be the same as it was before the GSP was removed.

- If not, consumers of those products in the U.S. would gravitate to producers that enjoy the GSP benefits and hence are able to offer lower prices.
- Obviously, it is difficult to get back a customer that a competitor takes away.

Reason of India in the cross-hairs:

- The U.S. conducts periodic, review for India, taken up 2017-18, focused on ‘whether it is meeting the eligibility criterion that requires a GSP beneficiary country to assure the U.S. that it will provide equitable and reasonable access to its market.’
- The Trade Representative accepted two petitions asserting that India did not meet the criterion: one from the National Milk Producers Federation and the U.S. Dairy Export Council, and the other from the Advanced Medical Technology Association.
- Second, India has recently placed a cap on the prices of medical devices, like stents, that impacts U.S. exports of such devices.

Indian government can do:

- The government must offer fiscal help to the affected sectors.
- But the obvious question is: what can India do if it has to be compliant with World Trade Organisation rules that protect all its members equally from undue sops given to exporters.
- A wry answer is that if the U.S. is not playing by WTO rules, other countries too need to be able to protect their industries. The Centre could consider refund of taxes for goods not under GST.
- Use of electricity or petrol in the manufacture of such goods but for which an input credit is not available could qualify here.
- Helping such sectors would also protect jobs; especially when job creation is at a low.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/why-is-gsp-vital-to-india-us-trade-ties/article26482585.ece>

WGC Report on Gold holding

Question: Which rank has India hold in gold reserve by the World Gold Council?

(a) 10th (b) 11th (c) 12th (d) 13th

Answer :(b)

Related facts:

- India, the world’s largest consumer of gold, has the 11th largest gold reserve, with the current holding pegged at 607 tonnes.
- International Monetary Fund (IMF) is third on the list with total gold reserves of 2,814 tonnes.



- Top slot is occupied by the U.S., which boasts of gold reserves of 8,133.5 tonnes, followed by Germany with 3,369.7 tonnes.
- Among Asian countries, China and Japan have more reserves of the precious metal when compared to India.
- Pakistan, with its gold reserves of 64.6 tonnes, occupies the 45th position.

About World Gold Council:

- The World Gold Council is the market development organisation for the gold industry.
- The World Gold Council is an association whose members comprise the world's leading gold mining companies.
- Headquartered in the UK, they have offices in India, China, Singapore, Japan and the United States.
- It helps to support its members to mine in a responsible way and developed the Conflict Free Gold Standard.
- It works across all parts of the industry, from gold mining to investment, and their aim is to stimulate and sustain demand for gold.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/india-ranks-11th-in-gold-holding/article26501875.ece>

India-US Trade Issues

Question: In near future US would review the eligibility of Indian products for preferential or duty-free access to its market under the-

- (a) Generalized System of Preferences Programme
- (b) Normalized System of Preferences Programme
- (c) Specialized System of Preferences Programme
- (d) None of the above



Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March, 2019 United States of America has given a 60-day withdrawal notice to India on the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) benefits extended by US (United States).
- Since the review initiated by the US (United States) in April 2018 on India's GSP benefits, India and US (United States) have been discussing various trade issues of bilateral interest for a suitable resolution on mutually acceptable terms.
- GSP benefits are envisaged to be non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory benefits extended by developed countries to developing countries.
- In India's case the GSP concessions extend by the US (United States) amounted to duty reduction of only USD 190 Million per annum.
- The US (United States) had initiated the review on the basis of representation by the US (United States) medical devices and dairy industries, but subsequently included numerous other issues on a self-initiated basis.
- Any MFN (Most Favoured Nation) duty reduction would almost entirely benefit third countries. Accordingly, India conveyed willingness to extend duty concessions on specific items in which there is a clear US (United States) interest.

- On telecom testing, India was willing to consider discussions for a Mutual Recognition Agreement.
- Due to various initiatives resulting in enhanced purchase of US goods like oil and natural gas and coal the US trade deficit with India has substantially reduced in calendar years 2017 and 2018.
- Earlier in 2018, the reduction is estimated to be over USD 4 billion with further reduction expected in future years on account of factors like the growing demand for energy and civilian aircrafts in India.
- India's trade weighted average tariffs are 7.6% which is comparable with the most open developing economies and some developed economies.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-may-impose-retaliatory-tariffs-on-us-goods-from-april-1/articleshow/68278891.cms>

Loan Agreement for 'Chhattisgarh Public Financial Management and Accountability Program'

Question: Loan amount for 'Chhattisgarh Public Financial Management and Accountability Program' is _

(a) 25.2 Million Dollar (b) 30.2 Million Dollar (c) 35.2 Million Dollar (d) 40.2 Million Dollar

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- The Government of India, the State Government of Chhattisgarh and the World Bank signed a 25.2 million dollar Loan agreement on March 5, 2019.
- The Agreement has been done to support the State's Reforms in Expenditure Management.
- Further the support will cover expenditure planning, investment management, budget execution, public procurement and accountability.
- The Chhattisgarh Public Financial Management and Accountability Program will also help state strengthen its Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) and Tax Administration systems.
- New Project, with its focus on IT solutions, will benefit almost 11,000 village panchayats and 168 Urban Municipalities in the state.
- With 92 % households in the State belonging to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, the Direct Benefit Transfers (DBTs) are increasingly being used by the Central and State Governments to channel resources to households and individuals.
- The 25.2 Million Dollar Loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), has a 5-year grace period, and a final maturity of 10.5 years.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189202>

Digital Currency SOV

Question: Which country announced to release its digital currency named SOV in 2019?

(a) Seychelles (b) Paraguay (c) Nicaragua (d) Marshall Islands

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The **Marshall Islands**, an island country and associated state of United States is planning to launch its **own digital currency** in 2019.
- The currency will be known as **SOV (Sovereign)** whose **legal tender** status has been approved by the Parliament of the country.
- This will be circulated as a legal tender **along with US Dollar**, the official currency of Marshall Islands.
- **Israel-based company Neema** is partnering with the Marshall Islands government to develop this currency. They are working through a huge amount of US regulatory concerns as well as the technological and logistical side of issuing the SOV using **blockchain technology**.
- **SOV** will be issued to the public through an **initial coin offering**. It is a financing strategy very prevalent among startups for raising funds for their projects.
- **Marshall Islands passed legislation in 2018** for developing a digital currency as legal tender. This was criticized by the International Monetary Fund, the U.S. Treasury Department and bank officials in the Marshall Islands for negative impacts on existing banks and can also lead to massive money laundering abuses as reported in digital currencies.



Marshall Islands:

- Officially known as **The Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI)**, Marshall Island is a small island with a population of nearly 55,000 is situated in Central Pacific Ocean. The country is part of the larger island group of Micronesia.
- **Majuro** is the capital of Marshall Islands. The President of Marshall Islands is **Hilda Heine**, she the **eighth** President of the country. **US Dollar** is the official currency.

Links:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-crypto-currencies-marshall-islands/marshall-islands-to-issue-own-sovereign-cryptocurrency-idUSKCN1GC2UD>

NFDC declared winner under Miniratna category

Question: Recently which corporation of India has been declared winner under Miniratna category?

- (a) National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC)
- (b) Airports Authority of India (AAI) (c) Central Railside Warehouse Company Limited
- (d) HMT (International) Limited

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Film Development Corporation of India has been selected as winner under the Miniratna Category (Category II) by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME).
- This has been done as part of Endeavour by Ministry of MSME to felicitate select CPSEs to recognize their exemplary work towards promotion of SC/ST entrepreneurs.
- The performance parameters for the same were procurement from SC/ST entrepreneurs, number of vendor development programmes for SC/ST and number of SC/ST entrepreneurs benefitted as per data uploaded on Sambandh Portal.



National Film Development Corporation Ltd. (NFDC):

- NFDC, incorporated in the year 1975, was formed by the Government of India with the primary objective of planning and promoting an organized, efficient, and integrated development of the Indian film industry.
- The primary activities of NFDC are Film Production – 100% finance for debutant directors & Co-Production with Foreign & Indian Film Makers, Promoting Indian Films at various International Film Festivals and markets in India and abroad.
- NFDC is now positioned as a 360-degree integrated media service provider for the creation and dissemination of advertising communication across various electronic platforms.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188084>

First Advance Estimates of National Income 2018-19

Question: As per the report on First Advance Estimates of National Income, 2018-19 the Per Capita Net National Income during 2018-19 is estimated to be around-

(a) Rs 1,25,397 (b) Rs 1,40,500 (c) Rs 1,50,500 (d) Rs 1,60,500

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The Per Capita Net National Income during 2018-19 is estimated to be Rs 1, 25,397 showing a rise of 11.1 % as compared to Rs 1, 12,835 during 2017-18 with the growth rate of 8.6 %.
- The Central Statistics Office (CSO), has released the First Advance Estimates of National Income at Constant (2011-12) and Current Prices, for the financial year 2018-19.
- For the year 2018-19, the Budget Estimates of Tax Revenue as provided by Controller General of Accounts (CGA) has been used for estimating taxes on products at Current Prices.
- Real GDP or Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at Constant Prices (2011-12) in the year 2018-19 is likely to attain a level of Rs 139.52 lakh crore, as against the Provisional Estimate of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for the year 2017-18 of Rs 130.11 lakh crore, released on 31st May 2018.
- The growth in GDP during 2018-19 is estimated at 7.2percent as compared to the growth rate of 6.7per cent in 2017-18.
- The growth in GDP (Gross Domestic Product) during 2018-19 is estimated at 7.2 percent as compared to the growth rate of 6.7 percent in 2017-18.
- Real GVA, i.e. GVA (Gross Value Added) at Basic Constant Prices (2011-12) is anticipated to increase from Rs 119.76 lakh crore in 2017-18 to Rs 128.09 lakh crore in 2018-19. Anticipated growth of real GVA at Basic Prices in 2018-19 is 7.0percentas against 6.5percent in 2017-18.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=187267>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

India's newest frog evolved 60 million years ago

Question: New species of the frog (*Astrobartrachus kurichiyana*) is found in?

(a) Wayanad, Kerela (b) Eastern Ghats (c) Himalayan Region (d) Sunder ban

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The starry dwarf frog, a nocturnal amphibian that lives under leaf litter on a mountain top was discovered in Kerala's Wayanad.
- Vijayakumar S.P, the frog researcher first laid his eyes on the odd-looking frog and picked it up from atop Wayanad's Kurichiyarmala.
- Genetic study says that its closest relatives are the Nycibatrachinae group of frogs that dwell in the Western Ghats, and the Lankanectinae frogs of Sri Lanka.
- The name of the new species of the stray dwarf frog is *Astrobartrachus kurichiyana* in an honour of the kurichiyana tribal community who live in the area.
- According to the genetic analysis the species is at least 60 million years old.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/indias-newest-frog-evolved-60-million-years-ago/article26516002.ece>

ChinaSat6c completes 300th launch

Question: Recently China launched which new communication satellite to complete its 300th launch?

(a) Chang e-4 (b) ChinaSat6c (c) Haiyang 2B (d) ICYMI

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:

- China launched **new communication satellite 'ChinaSat6c'** which completes its **300th launch**.
- The '**ChinaSat6c 'satellite** was launched from **Xichang Satellite Launch Centre** in **Sichuan province**.
- On 10 March 2019, **China** lifted into space a **Long March-3B carrier rocket** into a **geostationary orbit** in **Sichuan province**.
- It marked the 300th launch of the **Long March carrier rocket series**, developed by the **China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation**.
- The satellite was developed by the **China Academy of Space Technology** and will be operated by the **China Satellite Communications Co. Ltd**.
- Nearly 97 per cent of China's total launch missions have been carried out by the Long March rocket series.
- The communication satellite can cover **China, Australia, New Zealand** and the **South Pacific island** countries.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/china-launches-new-communication-satellite-completes-300-launches-of-long-march-rocket-series-119031000137_1.html

AL NAGAH 2019

Question: Exercise AL NAGAH 2019 of bilateral joint exercise held between which countries?

(a) India and Oman (b) India and Russia (c) India and Bangladesh (d) India and USA

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Exercise Al Nagah III, third in the series of bilateral joint exercise between India and Oman held from 12 to 25 March 2019 at Jabal Al Akhdar Mountains in Oman.
- The exercise, with an aim to enhance interoperability in counterterrorist operations in semi urban mountainous terrain.
- India-Oman bilateral security ties have continued to develop since the beginning of India-Oman Joint Military Cooperation meetings in 2006.
- Exercise Al Nagah III follows the first two joint exercises that were held in Oman in January 2015 and India in March 2017 respectively.
- Similar exercises are also in vogue between the navies and air forces of both the nations thus underscoring the growing bilateral military and strategic partnership between the two important nations of Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- The Indian Army contingent was represented by 04 Officers, 09 Junior Commissioned Officers and 47 other ranks of 10th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles.
- Similar strength was also fielded by Jabel Regiment of Royal Army of Oman (RAO).
- The exercise will go a long way in enchaining understanding of capabilities and strengthening camaraderie between both the Armies.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1567471>

Exercise Mitra Shakti

Question: Which are the two participating country in the joint military exercise Mitra Shakti 2019?

(a) India and Malaysia (b) India and Indonesia (c) India and Sri Lanka

(d) India and Thailand

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The 6th annual joint exercise Mitra Shakti will be conducted between India and Sri Lanka from 26th March to 08th April, 2019, in Sri Lanka. It is a part of military diplomacy and interaction between the armies of India & Sri Lanka.
- Troops from 1st Battalion the BIHAR Regiment of the Indian Army and Gemunu Watch Battalion of Sri Lankan Army will be jointly undertaking the exercise.
- The aim of the exercise is to build and promote close relations between armies of both the countries and to enhance ability of joint exercise commander to take military contingents of both nations under command.
- The exercise will involve tactical level operations in an international Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist Environment under United Nations mandate.
- Exercise MITRA SHAKTI-VI will go a long way in further cementing relationship between both the nations and will act as a catalyst in bringing synergy and cooperation at grassroots levels between both the armies



Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1569085>

NASA Space Probe on Moon

Question: Which NASA orbiter spotted water molecules moving around Moon?

- (a) Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) (b) Lunar Precursor Robotic Program (LPRP)
(c) Lunar Crater Observation and Sensing Satellite (LCROSS)
(d) Lunar Exploration Neutron Detector (LEND)

Answer :(a)

Related facts:



- NASA's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO) has observed water molecules moving around the dayside of Moon, an advance that could help us learn about the accessibility of water that can be used by humans in future lunar missions.
- Lyman Alpha Mapping Project (LAMP) —the instrument aboard LRO measured sparse layer of molecules temporarily stuck to the Moon's surface, which helped characterize lunar hydration changes over the course of a day.
- Lunar water can potentially be used by humans to make fuel or to use for radiation shielding or thermal management.
- Scientists had hypothesized that hydrogen ions in the solar wind may be the source of most of the moon's surface water.
- As a result, when the moon passes behind the earth and is shielded from the solar wind, the 'water spigot' should essentially turn off.

About Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO):

- LRO is a NASA mission to the moon within the Lunar Precursor and Robotic Program (LPRP) in preparation for future manned missions to the moon and beyond (Mars).
- LRO is the first mission of NASA's 'New Vision for Space Exploration', which President Bush announced on January 14, 2004, in sending more robot and human explorers beyond Earth orbit.

The objectives of LRO are to:

- Identify potential lunar resources.
- Gather detailed maps of the lunar surface.
- Collect data on the moon's radiation levels.
- Study the moon's Polar Regions for resources that could be used in future manned missions or robotic sample return missions.
- Provide measurements to characterize future robotic explorers, human lunar landing sites and to derive measurements that can be used directly in support of future Lunar Human Exploration Systems.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nasa-orbiter-spots-water-molecules-moving-around-on-moon-says-study/article26488576.ece>

ARTEMIS Mission

Question: Consider the following statements regarding ARTEMIS Mission:

1) ARTEMIS stands for Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of the Moon's Interaction with the Sun

2) They were originally members of the successful mission THEMIS in Earth orbit

Which one of the following is/are incorrect?

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

Answer :(d)
Related facts:



- Scientists used NASA's ARTEMIS mission and suggest that the solar wind and the Moon's crustal magnetic fields work together to give the Moon a distinctive pattern of darker and lighter swirls.

Causes of the above pattern:

- Every object, planet or person travelling through space has to contend with the Sun's damaging radiation.
- The Sun releases a continuous outflow of particles and radiation called the solar wind.
- Because the solar wind is magnetized, Earth's natural magnetic field deflects the solar wind particles so that only a small fraction of them reach the planet's atmosphere.
- But the Moon has absence of global magnetic field; however magnetized rocks near the lunar surface help in creation of small, localized spots of magnetic field.
- The magnetic fields in some regions are locally acting as a magnetic sunscreen.
- Moreover the field region serve as miniature magnetic umbrellas, the material that makes up the Moon's surface, called regolith, is shielded from the Sun's particles.
- As those particles flow toward the Moon, they are deflected to the areas just around the magnetic bubbles, where chemical reactions with the regolith darken the surface.
- This creates the distinctive swirls of darker and lighter material.

ARTEMIS Mission Goal:

- ARTEMIS (Acceleration, Reconnection, Turbulence and Electrodynamics of the Moon's Interaction with the Sun) is made up of two panels P1 and P2.
- They were originally members of the successful mission THEMIS in Earth orbit studying Earth's aurora, but were redirected to the moon in an effort to save the two panels from losing power in Earth's shade.
- Through this new mission scientists look to learn more about the Earth-moon Lagrange points, the solar wind, the Moon's plasma wake and how the Earth's magneto tail and the moon's own weak magnetism interact with the solar wind.

Links:

<http://cse.ssl.berkeley.edu/artemis/mission-artemis.html>

PINAKA Rocket Test Fired

Question: At which of the following place did the successful test fire of guided rocket system PINAKA took place?

(a) Pokhran (b) Sriharikota (c) Chandipur (d) Jaisalmer

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 11th March 2019, **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** successfully test fired the indigenously developed guided missile system **PINAKA at Pokhran ranges**, Rajasthan.
- The weapon system is equipped with **state-of-the-art guidance kit** comprising of an advanced navigation and control system.



- In both the missions, the weapon systems impacted the intended targets with high precision and achieved desired accuracies. Telemetry Systems tracked and monitored the vehicle all through the flight path.
- The **indigenously developed Guided missile PINAKA** by DRDO will significantly boost the capability of the artillery to make precision hits.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568552>

NASA's Opportunity: The Golf cart seized rover on Mars that went beyond its mission life

Question: Which of the following rover that was sent to Mars was recently declared dead?

(a) Opportunity (b) Lunar (c) Huygen (d) Mangalyan

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- After exploring the Mars surface for more than 14 years NASA Golf cart seized Rover Opportunity went dead on 20th February, 2019.
- Opportunity is a robotic rover of NASA which was landed at the Gusev Crater on Mars on January, 2004.
- Its mission was to search for wide range of rocks and soils for clues to past water activity on Mars.
- It was designed to explore the surface of Mars for three months but went on for more than 14 years.
- The rover has stopped communicating with earth after a global dust storm on Mars disrupted its functioning.
- The last communication by Opportunity was received on 10th June, 2018.
- As part of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover (MER) mission, two identical solar-powered rovers: Opportunity and Spirit, landed at the Gusev Crater and Meridiani Planum respectively in January, 2004.

Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/nasa-mars-mission-opportunity-rover-5583355/>

Israel's first lunar lander mission

Question: Recently which among the following countries first lunar lander mission was launched through a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida, USA?

(a) Canada (b) Israel (c) Japan (d) South Korea

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 22nd February, 2019; Israel's first Lunar Lander Mission was launched through a SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from Florida.

- It will be a first Lunar Lander Mission by any private agency and if successful will make the Israel only the fourth nation to achieve a controlled touchdown on the moon's surface.
- This unmanned robotic lander named as Beresheet, which in Hebrew language of Israel refers to biblical phrase in the beginning. It soared into space from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.
- With this rocket accompanied two other payloads, a telecommunications satellite for Indonesia and an experimental satellite for the U.S. Air Force.

Link:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-space-moon-israel/israels-first-lunar-lander-launched-into-space-from-florida-idUSKCN1QA2V9?il=0>

Cabinet approved setting up a new company under Department of Space

Question: Union Cabinet approved setting up a new company under Department of Space for which of the following objective?

- (a) Commercially exploit the research carried out by ISRO Centers and constituent units of DOS (b) For Development work carried out by ISRO Centers (c) Both (a) & (b) (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Union Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved setting up a new company under Department of Space (DoS) on the 19th February, 2019.
- Objective of this company is to commercially exploit the research and development work carried out by ISRO Centers and constituent Units of DoS.
- **The following areas/avenues provide opportunities for commercial exploitation of ISRO programmes:**
- Small satellite technology transfer to industry, wherein the new company shall take license from DoS/ISRO and sub-license to industries.
- Manufacture of small satellite launch vehicle (SLV) in collaboration with the Private Sector.
- Productionisation of Polar SLV through industry; Productionisation and marketing of Space-based products and services, including launch and applications.
- Transfer of Technology developed by ISRO Centers and constituent units of DoS.
- Marketing of some spin-off technologies and products, both in India and abroad.
- Any other subject which Government of India deems fit.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188799>

NASA to launch SPHEREx mission to investigate Universe

Question: Recently NASA launched a mission to investigate the Universe. Name of the mission is?

- (a) SPHEREx (b) CIRCLEx (c) CYLINDERx (d) PARABOLAx

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- US space agency NASA has unveiled a new space telescope, SPHEREx, that would begin a two-year mission in 2023 to look for life's ingredients and probe how the universe evolved.



- As per NASA, the Spectro-Photometer for the History of the Universe, Epoch of Reionization and Ices Explorer (SPHEREx) mission is a planned two-year mission at a cost of 242 million USD.
- NASA's SPHEREx mission will help astronomers understand both how our universe evolved and how common are the ingredients for life in our galaxy's planetary systems.
- SPHEREx will survey the sky in optical as well as near-infrared light which, though not visible to the human eye, serves as a powerful tool for answering cosmic questions.
- Astronomers will use the mission to gather data on more than 300 million galaxies, as well as more than 100 million stars in our own Milky Way.
- It will deliver an unprecedented galactic map containing 'fingerprints' from the first moments in the universe's history. And we'll have new clues to one of the greatest mysteries in science.

Objectives of SPHEREx:

- SPHEREx will survey hundreds of millions of galaxies near and far, some so distant, that their light has taken 10 billion years to reach Earth.
- In the Milky Way, the mission will search for water and organic molecules — essentials for life, as we know it — in stellar nurseries, regions where stars are born from gas and dust, as well as disks around stars where new planets could be forming.
- Every six months, SPHEREx will survey the entire sky using technologies adapted from Earth satellites and Mars spacecraft.
- The mission will create a map of the entire sky in 96 different colour bands, far exceeding the colour resolution of previous all-sky maps.
- It also will identify targets for more detailed study by future missions, such as NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and Wide Field Infrared Survey Telescope, as per US space agency.

SPHEREx selection:

- Earlier NASA's Astrophysics Explorers Program requested proposals for new missions in September 2016.
- In August 2017, nine proposals were submitted, and two mission concepts were selected for further study.
- After a detailed review by a panel of NASA and external scientists and engineers, NASA determined that the SPHEREx concept study offered the best science potential and most feasible development plan.

Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/science/story/nasa-new-mission-spherex-telescope-origins-of-universe-1457595-2019-02-16>

Iran's first semi heavy missile equipped submarine unveiled

Question: Name the country whose first semi heavy missile equipped submarine has been unveiled recently?

(a) Iran (b) India (c) Pakistan (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 17th February, 2019, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has unveiled the first Iranian made semi-heavy submarine Fateh.
- Earlier, Iran has developed a homegrown defense industry since 1992 that produces light and heavy weapons ranging from mortars and torpedoes to tanks and submarines.
- The submarine has subsurface-to-surface missiles with a range of about 2,000 kilometers (1,250 miles), capable of reaching Israel and U.S. military bases in the region.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/iran-unveils-first-semi-heavy-missile-equipped-submarine/articleshow/68036426.cms>

Sports

Tennis

BNP Paribas Open 2019

Question: Who won the Men's Singles title of Indian Wells, 2019, which ended on 17th March, 2019?

(a) Roger Federer (b) Rafael Nadal (c) Dominic Thiem (d) Novak Djokovic

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Dominic Thiem of Austria won the BNP Paribas Open, 2019, defeating Roger Federer in the finals, it was organised at Indian Wells, California. The final score was 3-6, 6-3, 7-5.

Women's Singles

- Bianca Andreescu of Canada won the Women's title defeating Angelique Kerber of Germany in the finals. This is the first time a wild card player has won the title of this tournament. The final score was 6-4 3-6 6-4.



Men's Doubles

- The winner of Men's Doubles was Nikola Pietrangeli and Horacio Zeballos; they defeated Lukasz Kubot and Marcelo Melo. The final score was 4-6, 6-4 10-3.

Women's Doubles

- The winner of Women's doubles was Elise Mertens and Aryna Sabalenka; the Runners-up were Barbora Krejčíková and Katrina. The final score was 6-3, 6-2.

Links:

<https://bnpparibasopen.com/news/nikola-mektic-and-horacio-zeballos-triumph-in-the-desert-collect-2019-bnp-paribas-open-doubles-championship/>

Cricket

Go Daddy

Question: Which of the following company has been recently announced by the International Cricket Council (ICC) as an official sponsor of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019?

(a) Nissan (b) OPPO (c) MRF Tyres (d) Go Daddy

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 12 March 2019; International Cricket Council (ICC) announced to make Go Daddy Inc. as an official sponsor of the ICC Men's Cricket World Cup 2019.
- The ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 is scheduled to be hosted by England and Wales, from 30 May to 14 July 2019.
- Go Daddy Inc. is an American web hosting and Internet domain registrar company, headquartered in Scottsdale, Arizona.
- Go Daddy offers an integrated suite of products for small business owners and entrepreneurs, ranging from domain names, hosting, website building, email marketing, security and e-commerce.



Links:

<https://www.icc-cricket.com/media-releases/1094056>

Indian Bowler at Top in ICC ODI Rankings

Question: Which Indian bowler is currently at top in the ICC women ODI player rankings?

(a) Jhulan Goswami (b) Natalie Sciver (c) Alyssa Healy (d) Jess Jonassen

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- India fast bowler Jhulan Goswami took back the top position for bowlers in the ICC Womens ODI Player Rankings after playing an important role in a 2-1 home series win over England in the ICC Womens Championship.
- Earlier in 2017, Goswami, who last held the top spot finished with eight wickets in the series while helping her team reach second position in the eight-team championship that provides direct qualification berths to hosts New Zealand and four other top teams in the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2021.
- Goswami, the most successful bowler in ODIs with 218 wickets, inched closer to the record for the most number of days at the top.
- She has now been number one for 1873 days, with only retired Australia fast bowler Cathryn Fitzpatrick having spent more time at the top, for 2113 days.
- Goswami's new-ball partner Shikha Pandey gained 12 spots to reach fifth position after also finishing with eight wickets against England.



Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cricket/jhulan-goswami-returns-to-the-top-of-odi-rankings/story-tzGlw3hxeBCTNLgUzmivJI.html>

Football

South Asian Football Federation Women's Championship

Question: Name the country where 5th SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women's Championship was held recently?

(a) India (b) Nepal (c) Bangladesh (d) Sri Lanka

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- India won the 5th SAFF Women's Championship 2019 defeating Nepal by 3-1 in the final held at Biratnagar, Nepal.
- It is worth to mention that India won this championship for the fifth time.
- For the finals, goals were scored by Dalmia Chhibber, Grace Dengmei and Anju Tamang from Indian side. From Nepal side, single goal was scored by Sabitra Bhandari.
- Six countries viz. India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka participated in the held edition.
- The South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) is the unit of South Asian football playing countries.
- The SAFF Secretariat is currently located in Bangladesh.

Link:

<https://saffederation.org/>

Hosts of Copa America 2020

Question: Which two countries will co-host the 2020 Copa America football championship?

(a) Us and Canada (b) Mexico and US (c) Brazil and Mexico (d) Argentina and Colombia

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- South American countries Argentina and Colombia will co-host the 2020 Copa America football championship 2020.
- The decision was taken by the South America ruling body CONMEBOL in its meeting on March 14, 2019.
- CONMEBOL comprises 10 member federations in South America which accepted the nomination of Argentina and Colombia as joint venues for the 2020 edition of the Copa America.
- Brazil will host this year's Copa America Cup which will kick-start on June 14 and will end on July 17, 2019.

Link:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/argentina-colombia-set-be-co-hosts-2020-copa-america>

Chess

61st Chess Grandmaster of India

Question: Recently who became the 61st Grand Master of India following victory at Noisiel Open?

(a) P. Iniyan (b) NR Visakh (c) Nihal Sarin (d) Karthik Venkatraman

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 5th March 2019 P. Iniyan (Iniyan Panneerselvam) became the 61st Grandmaster for India.
- He got this achievement when he won at the Noisiel Open in France.
- In this match he defeated GM (Grand Master) Sergey Fedorchuk of Ukraine in the sixth round of the game.
- In this way he became the 61st Grandmaster for India reaching 2500 points in ELO ratings.
- This 16-year-old young chess player belongs to the Erode district of Tamil Nadu.

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/chess/iniyan-becomes-indias-61st-grandmaster/articleshow/68280996.cms>

Boxing

Gold Medal in Boxing Tournament

Question: Which Indian boxer won a gold medal in the 38th GeeBee Boxing Tournament organised in Helsinki, Finland?

(a) Shiva Thapa (b) Mary Kom (c) Kavinder Singh Bisht (d) Vijendra Singh

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- **Kavinder Singh Bisht** in the 56kg-category struck **gold medal** while **Shiva Thapa** in the 60kg, **Govind Sahani** in 49 Kg, **Mohammed Hussamuddin** in 56 Kg and **Dinesh Dagar** in 69 Kg claimed **silver medals** to end a fine Indian campaign at the **38thGeeBee Boxing Tournament in Helsinki, Finland** on 10th March, 2019.
- Kavinder Singh Bisht is from Uttarakhand and he is **world championship quarterfinalist** in the flyweight category and this was his maiden international gold after making the jump to bantamweight.
- Shiv Thapa, a three-time Asian medallist besides being a former bronze-winner at the world championships, lost 1-4 to **Arslan Khataev**.

Links:

<http://www.ddnews.gov.in/sports/finland-boxing-tournament-1-gold-4-silver-medals-india>

Billiards, Snooker & Squash

Pankaj Advani wins 86th senior Snooker National Championship

Question: On February 10, 2019 ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has won the Senior National Snooker title at Indore. He won this title by defeating-

(a) Laxman Rawat (b) Rupesh Shah (c) Alok Kumar (d) Siddharth Parikh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On February 10th, 2019, ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani has won the 86th Senior National Snooker title by defeating Laxman Rawat by 6-0 in the final game at Indore. The final score was 70-36, 91-22, 66-06, 65-51, 77-49, 59-18
- Advani now taken his total tally of Indian Championships to 32 with this national snooker title.
- As a junior, Advani has won 11 Indian titles, as a senior he has won nine billiards, three six-red snooker and now nine snooker gold medals.
- Advani now has 21 world titles and 21 national titles as a men's player, in both snooker and billiards.

Link:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/pool/pankaj-advani-wins-86th-senior-snooker-national-championship/article26230682.ece>

Golf

Golconda Masters 2019

Question: Name the place where Golconda Masters Golf Championship 2019 held?

(a) Hyderabad (b) Guntur (c) Adilabad (d) Warangal

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The 5th edition of India's Professional Golf Tour (PGTI) competition Golconda Masters 2019 was organised from 6-9 February 2019 at the Hyderabad Golf Club in Hyderabad.
- Bengaluru based Chikkarangappa S won the 2019 prestigious title. This victory marks his 12th career win with a score of 20-under-264 at the Hyderabad Golf Club (HGC).
- Aman Raj of Patna and M. Dharma of Bengaluru were joint runner-up with the overall score of 18-under-266.
- Chikkarangappa gained 5 points from this victory and took a massive leap of 104 spots to acquire 357 rank from 461 in world rankings.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/golconda-masters-2019-in-a-first-pgti-aligns-with-owgr-119020501565_1.html

First District Cooling System of India

Question: Name the place where the First District Cooling System of India is to be set up?

(a) Amaravati (b) Bhopal (c) Kanpur (d) Lakhimpur Khiri

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- UAE-based cooling solutions utility **National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed)** has entered into a 30-year concession with **Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA)** to build, own, operate and transfer India's **first district cooling system** in **Amaravati** the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh.
- The agreement is for a contracted cooling capacity of **20,000 refrigeration tons(RTs)**. Tabreed's district cooling system will cater to the state's assembly, high court, secretariat and other government buildings currently being constructed, for which cooling services will start in early **2021**.
- Earlier, **District cooling** was **first set up in India** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT)**. The first phase of this system, with a capacity of **10,000 RTs**, has been operational since April **2015**.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/amaravati-to-adopt-district-cooling-in-govt-bldgs-signs-deal-with-uae-firm-119021300789_1.html

Athletics

Mirabai Chanu won gold at EGAT Cup in Thailand

Question: Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has won a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand in which of the following weight category?

(a) 65kg (b) 48 kg (c) 52 kg (d) 58 kg

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu has won gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand.
- World champion Chanu won the 48kg category gold with an effort of 192 kg in the silver level Olympic qualifying event. Japan's Miyake Hiromi (183kg) claimed the silver, while the bronze went to Papua New Guinea's Loa Dika Toua (179kg).
- The 24-year-old Manipuri weightlifter Chanu made this time a strong comeback as she lifted 82 kg in snatch and 110 kg in clean and jerk to finish for the top position.
- The points from the events will count in the final rankings for the Tokyo 2020.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Mirabai-Chanu-notched-up-gold-at-EGAT-Cup-in-Thailand&id=359391>

Sports Miscellaneous

Asian Youth Championship 2019

Question: India finished with which rank in medals tally in the recently concluded Asian Youth Championships?

(a) Third (b) Second (c) Fourth (d) Sixth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Asian Youth Championships 2019 held at the Tseung Kwan O Sports Ground in Hong Kong from 15th -17th March 2019.
- China topped the medals tally with 31 medals that included 12 gold, 11 silver and 8 bronze medals.
- Indian youth team finished 2nd in the overall medals tally.
- India got a total of 26 medals including 8 gold, 9 silver and 9 bronze medals.
- Japan secured third position with a total of 20 medals.
- A total of 19 nations participated in this third edition of the biennial, continental athletics competition for Asian athletes aged 15 to 17.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/sports/athletics-india-finishes-second-medal-tally-asian-youth-cships>

Shooting World Cup: Saurabh, Manu won gold in 10m Air Pistol mixed event

Question: Who won the gold in the Shooting World cup in 10m mixed event?

(a) Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker (b) Jiang Ranxin and Zhang Bowen

(c) Lender Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi (d) Kim Bomi and Han

Seungwoo

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary clinched the mixed air pistol gold in the shooting World Cup that concluded at the DR. Karni Singh Range, Tughlakabad.
- Prior to this, Saurabh had already won the men's 10m Air Pistol final in New Delhi, on the 24th of February, 2019.
- The two teammates scored 483.4 points to finish atop of the scoreboard, beating the People's Republic of China Team 1 (Jiang Ranxin and Zhang Bowen) and South Korea's Team 2 (Kim Minjung and Park Daehun).



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/shooting-world-cup-saurabh-manu-win-gold-in-10m-air-pistol-mixed-event/article26385590.ece>

Pro Volleyball League

Question: Which team won the 1st RuPay Pro Volleyball League title?

(a) Calicut Heroes (b) Chennai Spartans (c) Ahmedabad defenders (d) U Mumba Volley

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Chennai Spartans have won the inaugural Pro Volleyball League title by defeating Calicut Heroes 15-11, 15-12, 16-14 in the finals.
- With this win, Chennai Spartans have also qualified for this year's FIVB Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship.
- Pro Volleyball League (PVL), also known as RuPay Pro Volleyball League for sponsorship reasons, is a professional men's indoor volleyball league in India, the inaugural season took place in February 2019.
- The league is an initiative between the Volleyball Federation of India and Baseline Ventures.



Links:

<https://sportstar.thehindu.com/volleyball/pro-volleyball-league-2019-final-chennai-spartans-calicut-heroes-kumara-rudy-verhoeff-jerome-vinith-lotman-post-match-quotes/article26344366.ece>

ISSF Shooting World Cup

Question: Which shooter won India's first gold medal at ISSF World Cup, 2019?

(a) Rouzhu Zhao (b) Anjum Moudgil (c) Apurvi Chandela (d) Hong XU

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Apurvi Chandela set a new world record in the Women's 10m Air Rifle Event with 252.9 points at ISSF World Cup medal held in New Delhi. This is her third individual World Cup Medal.
- Rouzhu Zhao of China finished second with 251.8 points had to settle for the silver medal while compatriot Hong Xu clinched the bronze medal with 230.4 points.
- 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medallist Apurvi Chandela has already secured a place in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics along with compatriot Anjum Moudgil.



LINKS:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/other-sports/story/issf-shooting-world-cup-apurvi-chandela-shatters-world-record-to-win-india-s-first-gold-1463166-2019-02-23>

Short Notes

Personalities

Appointment of Finance Secretary

Question: The Ministry of Finance is composed of ___.

(a) Five departments (b) Four departments (c) Three departments (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts:

- On 8 March 2019, Economic Affairs Secretary Subhash Chandra Garg was appointed as the Finance Secretary.
- Garg, 58 years, a 1983 batch IAS officer of Rajasthan cadre, has been working as the Secretary in Department of Economic Affairs since June 2017.
- The Ministry of Finance is composed of five departments viz Department of Economic Affairs, Department of Revenue, Department of Expenditure, Department of Financial Services and Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (formerly Known as Department of Disinvestment).
- Each of the Departments is headed by a Secretary.
- As per the convention, the senior-most among the five secretaries in the Finance Ministry is designated as the Finance Secretary.
- While Ajay Bhushan Pandey is the Revenue Secretary, Rajiv Kumar is Secretary, Department of Financial Services, Atanu Chakraborty is Secretary in Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and Girish Chandra Murmu is the Expenditure Secretary.



Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/subhash-chandra-garg-named-finance-secretary-119030800956_1.html

Alejandro Toledo arrested in California

Question: Ex president Alejandro Toledo was arrested in California for public intoxication recently. He was the president of which country?

(a) Peru (b) California (c) Iran (d) Cambodia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Alejandro Toledo, former President of Peru, 'Wanted' in home country for alleged connection with Latin American's biggest graft scandal was arrested in California on suspicion of public intoxication recently.
- He was accused of taking 20 million dollar in bribe.
- Alejandro has been living in the San Francisco Bay Area and Peruvian authorities have been seeking his extradition since 2017.
- Toledo was Peru's president from 2001 to 2006 and developed a reputation for partying.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/ex-peru-president-alejandro-toledo-arrested-in-california-for-public-intoxication/article26575958.ece>

Nara Lokesh

Question: IT Minister of which of the following state has been recognized as Young Global Leader for 2019 by World Economic Forum (WEF)?

(a) Gujarat (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Karnataka

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 13 March 2019, Andhra Pradesh IT Minister Nara Lokesh has been recognized by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as their Young Global Leader for 2019.
- Nara Lokesh's effort, as one of the youngest ministers, is giving impetus to development even in the most remote villages of Andhra Pradesh in the country.
- Lokesh has been recognized as Young Global Leader for the 5th consecutive time this year.
- The WEF (World Economic Forum) on 13 March, 2019 announced Young Global Leaders List 2019 which included 127 most promising social activists, business leaders, public servants, artists and technologists of the world under the age of 40.
- The individuals are expected to take part in the five year-programme that will help them to identify new ways to learn new & creative ideas.
- The Forum of Young Global Leaders is a diverse community of leaders from various fields of life and from every region of the world.

Links:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/others/wef-recognises-nara-lokesh-as-young-global-leader-for-201920190313203050/>

Supreme Court sets aside Life ban on Sreesanth

Question: Name the cricketer on whom Supreme Court lifted the life ban recently?

(a) Ajay Sharma (b) Ajay Jadeja (c) Sreesanth (d) Yuzvendra Singh Chahal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 15 March 2019; Supreme Court removed the life ban imposed on S Sreesanth.
- Earlier in 2013, Sreesanth was charged with his alleged involvement in the IPL spot-fixing scandal. Afterwards BCCI's disciplinary committee imposed the life ban upon this cricketer.
- Earlier, Kerala High Court upheld the life ban imposed on Sreesanth after which Sreesanth challenged the High Court verdict in the Supreme Court.
- In the Supreme Court, the bench of Justice Ashok Bhushan and KM Joseph has informed that the BCCI's disciplinary committee can reconsider the punishment given to Sreesanth during three months.
- The court also cleared that the committee will also have to listen to Sreesanth's side when deciding the sentence.
- Sreesanth has been a member of the team that won the World T20 in 2007 and the ODI World Cup in 2011.
- He has taken 75 wickets in 53 ODI's & 87 wickets in 27 Tests and has played 10 T-20 internationals claiming 7 wickets.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/spot-fixing-case-supreme-court-sets-aside-life-ban-on-s-sreesanth/article26542020.ece>

Question: Name the state where Metro Man E. Sreedharan has been appointed as Principal Advisor for two Mass Rapid Transit Corporations (MRTCs) recently?

(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Jammu and Kashmir (d) Himanchal

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 10th March, 2019; **E. Sreedharan** was appointed as Principal Advisor for **two Mass Rapid Transit Corporations (MRTCs)** in the state of **J &K (Jammu & Kashmir)**.
- **Padma Shri and Padma Vibhushan award** winner **Sreedharan** is credited for providing his **intelligent leadership** in building the **Konkan Railway** and the **Delhi Metro**.
- Earlier in 2015 former **UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon** appointed **Sreedharan** to serve on the **United Nations High Level Advisory Group on Sustainable Transport (HLAG-ST)** for **three years**.
- It should be noted that the J&K government recently approved two Mass Rapid Transit Corporations in the state, Jammu Mass Rapid Transit Corporation and Srinagar Mass Rapid Transit Corporation.
- These corporations have been entrusted with to tackle the issues of urban mobility in a holistic manner by providing safe, affordable, reliable and sustainable access for the city inhabitants to jobs, education, recreation etc.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/metro-man-sreedharan-named-top-adviser-to-mrts-projects-in-jk/article26488513.ece>

Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passes away at 63

Question: Consider the following statement regarding Manohar Parrikar who passed away recently:

1) He became Chief Minister of Goa for the first time on 24th October 2000

2) He took sworn as Chief Minister of Goa three times

3) He became Defense Minister of India in November 2014

Choose the correct statement/s:

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

Answer :(d)

Related facts:

- On 17th March 2019, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar passed away in Panaji after a prolonged illness at the age of 63.
- He was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in February 2017.
- A six-time MLA and former Defence Minister, Mr Parrikar was born on 13th December, 1955 in Mapusa, Goa.
- He graduated from Indian Institute of Technology, Mumbai with a B.Tech degree in Metallurgical Engineering.
- Manohar Parrikar was first elected to the Goa Assembly in 1994.
- He served as the Chief Minister of the state during October 2000 to February 2005; and March 2012 to November 2014.
- He served Goa as a Chief Minister for four times. His fourth tenure as CM of Goa began on 14 March 2017 till death.
- From November 2014 till March 2017, he served as the Union Defence Minister.
- He served as a Rajya Sabha MP from November 2014 to September 2017.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=361125>

Imran Tahir announced retirement from ODI Cricket

Question: Imran Tahir is a cricket player of which of the following country?

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

Answer :(c)

Related facts:

- Leg-spinner of South African cricket team, Imran Tahir announced his retirement from ODI Cricket after World Cup on 4 March 2019.
- Tahir made his ODI debut in South Africa's opening match against West Indies in Delhi of World Cup 2011.
- He has played 98 ODIs for South Africa taking 162 wickets at an average 24.56.
- He has also played 37 T20s and 20 Tests having 62 and 57 wickets respectively.
- Tahir will be available for T20 format till T20 World Cup in 2020.
- Earlier, he has also participated in ODIs World Cup 2011 and 2015 and T20 World Cup 2014 and 2016 for South Africa.
- It is notable that Cricket World Cup 2019 will be played in England.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/cricketnext/news/imran-tahir-announces-odi-retirement-post-2019-world-cup-2055317.html>

Executive Chairman of the National Legal Service Authority (NALSA)

Question: __ nominated as Executive Chairman of NALSA.

(a) Justice SA Bobde (b) Justice Khehar (c) Justice AK Sikri (d) None of the above

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- Supreme Court judge Justice SA Bobde was nominated as Executive Chairman of the NALSA on March 5, 2019.
- Earlier, Justice AK Sirki headed the authority.
- National Legal Services Authority of India is mandated to provide free legal services to the needy.
- It also organizes Lok Adalats for amicable and speedy settlement of disputes.



Links:

<https://nalsa.gov.in/current-executive-chairman>

India's first Lokpal

Question: Who will become the first Lokpal of India as per the Lokpal Act, 2013?

(a) Ajit Mohanty (b) AK Sikri (c) PC Ghose (d) Markandey Katju

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Pinaki Chandra Ghose will become the first Lokpal of India. His name was approved by the high level selection committee chaired



by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

- The name of other members is also finalised.
- The Committee included Chief Justice of Supreme Court Ranjan Gogoi, Speaker Lok Sabha Sumitra Mahajan and former Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi as its members.

Pinaki Chandra Ghose:

- He was appointed as judge of Calcutta High Court in 1997.
- He later became the Chief Justice of Andhra Pradesh and was elevated to Supreme Court in 2013.
- He is currently a member of the National Human Rights Council (NHRC).

Lokpal Act 2013:

- This Act was passed in 2013 and provisions made to set up Lokpal at the centre and Lokayuktas in state.
- It was setup to inquire into allegations of corruption against certain public functionaries and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.
- This act is applied to public servants in and outside India.
- The appointment came after Supreme Court asked the Centre to appoint Lokpal.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/former-sc-judge-pinaki-chandra-ghose-tipped-to-be-indias-first-lokpal/article26559961.ece>

Air Marshal R Nambiar

Question: Headquarters of Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force is located at which of the following place?

(a) Pathankot (b) New Delhi (c) Ambala (d) Ahmedabad

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 1st March, 2019; Air Marshal Raghunath Nambiar, PVSM AVSM VM & Bar took over as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Western Air Command, Indian Air Force.
- Shri Nambiar was commissioned in the Flying Branch of Indian Air Force as a Fighter Pilot on 11th June 1981. The Air Marshal is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Khadakvasla.
- Air Marshal Nambiar was awarded Vayu Sena Medal for Gallantry by Hon'ble President of India for his prominent role in the Kargil Operations. He was awarded a Bar to the Vayu Sena Medal for flight testing the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) in 2002 during its first phase of flight.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189140>

Shri Ajay Narayan Jha joins as Member Finance Commission

Question: Recently who joined as Member of 15th Finance Commission?

(a) Shakti Kanta Das (b) Ajay Narayan Jha (c) N. K. Singh (d) Y.V.

Reddy

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- Ajay Narayan Jha joined the 15th Finance Commission as its Member.
- Ajay Narayan Jha replaced Shri Shakti Kanta Das. Shri Shakti Kanta Das who had resigned as a Member of the Commission after being appointed as Governor, Reserve Bank of India.
- Shri Jha, a 1982 batch IAS officer of Manipur Cadre, was the Finance Secretary to the Government of India. Shri Jha had also served as Secretary to the 14th Finance Commission which was headed by former RBI Governor, Shri Y.V. Reddy.
- The 15th Finance Commission was constituted by a Presidential Order in November, 2017 under the Chairmanship of Shri N. K. Singh to decide the formula for devolution of revenue between Centre and States, for a period of 5 years – April, 2020 to March, 2025.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1566861>

First woman to fly HAL's Tejas

Question: Which player becomes first woman to fly HAL's Tejas aircraft?

(a) PV Sindhu (b) Saina Nehwal (c) Gadde Ruthvika Shivani (d) Arundhati Pantawane

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 25th February, PV Sindhu co-piloted the indigenously built Light Combat Aircraft Tejas at the Aero India Show in Bangalore.
- Tejas, built by the state-run Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is a single-engine multirole light fighter. It is set to replace the ageing Jaguar and Mig-21 fleet in the Indian Air Force.
- The penultimate day of the Aero India show was Women's Day when women's contribution in the aerospace sector was celebrated and Sindhu's participation was part of that.

Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/badminton/pv-sindhu-takes-to-the-skies-co-pilots-tejas-aircraft-5599632/>

Mukesh Ambani topped the Hurun India Philanthropy List 2018

Question: Which of the following Indian businessman got the top position in Hurun India Philanthropy List 2018

(a) Ratan Tata (b) Kumar Mangalam Birla (c) Azim Premji (d) Mukesh Ambani

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Released on 9th February, 2019 Hurun India Philanthropy List 2018, placed Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) Chairman Mukesh Ambani at the top.
- Mr. Mukesh Ambani made the highest contribution of Rs 437 crore between October 2017 and September 2018 for philanthropy.
- He was followed by Ajay Piramal, Piramal Group Chairman who made Rs 200 crore donations during the period.
- The list, compiled by the Hurun Research Institute, ranks individuals from India who donated Rs 10 crore and above between 1st October, 2017 and 30th September, 2018.
- The list included 39 Indians and the total Indian philanthropy amount in the list stands at Rs 1,560 crore.
- It showed that education was the most preferred cause for donations, followed by healthcare and rural development.
- Ambani's corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure is channelized through Reliance Foundation. Ambani's philanthropic interests include sectors like education, social, rural development and healthcare.
- It is to be noted that Mukesh Ambani was also named as the richest Indian by the Barclays Hurun India Rich List for 2018, released in September last year, with a net worth of Rs 3.71 lakh crore as on July 31, 2018.



Links:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/business-economy/companies/article/mukesh-ambani-tops-hurun-india-philanthropy-list-2018-heres-how-much-he-donated-last-year/363116>

New Director of BARC

Question: Who is newly appointed as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre?

(a) Ajit Kumar Mohanty (b) Ajit Kumar Khuntia (c) K. Sivan (d) Gyan Prakash Parekh

Answer: (a)

- Renowned scientist Ajit Kumar Mohanty was appointed as director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) on March 6, 2019.
- He has been appointed for a period of three years. He succeeded K N Vyas.
- He has held the post of director of Physics group in BARC as well as of Saha Institute of nuclear physics.
- Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) is the country's premier multi-disciplinary nuclear research facility based in Mumbai. It was established in January 1954 as Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay (AEET) but was later renamed as BARC in 1966.



Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Ajit-Kumar-Mohanty-appointed-Director-of-Bhabha-Atomic-Research-Centre&id=360668>

<http://www.barc.gov.in/about/index.html>

World War II Spy – first Indian-origin woman to get Blue Plaque in UK

Question: Who has become the first Indian-origin woman to get Blue Plaque in UK?

(a) Noor Inayat Khan (b) Lisa Singh (c) Christabel Chamarette (d) Pratibha Gai

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25th February 2019, Britain's World War II spy **Noor Inayat Khan** was confirmed as the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a Blue Plaque at her former London home.
- The Blue Plaque instituted by English Heritage honours notable people who lived or worked in particular buildings across London.
- Khan's plaque is set to go up at 4 Taviton Street in Bloomsbury, where she lived as a secret agent during the war.
- Khan, the daughter of Indian Sufi saint Hazrat Inayat Khan, was an agent for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II and was captured and killed by the Nazis in 1944 at just 30 years of age.
- Born in September 1914 in Moscow to an Indian father and American mother, Khan was raised in both Paris and Britain.
- She went on to become the first female radio operator to be infiltrated into occupied France, where she was tortured and killed at Dachau concentration camp.



Blue Plaque

- A blue plaque is a permanent sign installed in a public place in the United Kingdom and elsewhere to commemorate a link between that location and a famous person, event, or former building on the site, serving as a historical marker.

Links:

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/international/2019/02/25/fes59-uk-indian-woman.html>

WFI Wrestling Federation of India

Question: Who has been elected as the President of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) for the 3rd time?

(a) Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh (b) I.D. Nanavati (c) Asit Kumar Saha (d) Hamza Bin Omer

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Member of Parliament Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been elected for third time as the President of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI).
- Other office bearers include I.D. Nanavati has been elected as the Senior Vice President, V.N. Prasood as the Secretary General and Satyapal Singh Deshwal as the Treasurer.
- Asit Kumar Saha, Hamza Bin Omer, N. Phoni, N. Khalo, R.K. Hooda, Bhola Nath Singh, Karan Bhushan Singh and B.S. Landge are been elected as the Vice President respectively.
- The elections were conducted by Returning Officer, Retd. Justice R.B. Misra, of Himachal Pradesh High Court.



- Election of the Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members of WFI for the next year's term (2019-2023) was held here at the Constitution Club of India on Sunday. All Office Bearers and Members of the Executive Committee were elected unopposed.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/other-sports/brij-bhushan-sharan-elected-as-wfi-president-for-third-time/story-nRW8NoH23X04GN1d6zmhtJ.html>

First Lokayukta of Nagaland

Question: Who took oath as first Lokayukta of Nagaland?

(a) Justice Uma Nath Singh (b) Ranjan Gogoi (C) Justice Madan B Lokur
(d) Justice Markandey Katju

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The first Lokayukta of Nagaland, Justice Uma Nath Singh, took the oath of office on 22nd February, 2019.
- Nagaland Governor PB Acharya administered the oath of office to him at a function held at Raj Bhavan.
- Justice Uma Nath Singh was a former Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
- He will hold the office for a term of five years or till he attains the age of 70 years whichever is earlier.



Links:

<http://newsonair.nic.in/News?title=Justice-Uma-Nath-Singh-takes-oath-as-First-Lokayukta-of-Nagaland&id=360145>

Awards & Honors

Leeladhar Jagudi

Question: Which of the following author is announced to be honoured with Vyas Samman 2018?

(a) Hemant Joshi (b) Leeladhar Jagudi (c) Manglesh Dabral (d) Leema Dhar

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 15 March 2019, Leeladhar Jagudi was honoured with Vyas Samman 2018 by KK Birla Foundation.
- This award was presented to him for his collection of poems "Jitne Log Utne Prem".
- This book was published in 2013 and it was then selected by a Chayan Samiti presided over by litterateur Dr. Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari.
- Jagudi was born in Dhangal Village of Tehri Garhwal, Uttarakhand. He got many awards including Padma Shri and Sahitya Akademi awards.
- Vyas Samman was started in 1991 to give recognition to an outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen which has been published in last decade.
- The award carries an amount of Rs. 4 lakh.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/hindi-writer-leeladhar-jagudi-to-be-honoured-with-vyas-samman/article26538279.ece>

Abel Prize

Question: Who has been awarded the prestigious Abel Prize 2019?

(a) Karen Keskulla Uhlenbeck (b) Marcelo Ghiblax (c) John Langlands (d) Yakov Sinai

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Karen Keskulla Uhlenbeck of the University of Texas at Austin, USA is the first woman to be awarded the Abel Prize of the Mathematics on 21st May, 2019.
- This award carries a monetary award of 6 million Norwegian Kroner (NOK) (€620,000 or \$700,000).
- She won the award for her pioneering achievements in geometric partial differential equations, gauge theory etc and integrable systems, and for the fundamental impact of her work on analysis, geometry and mathematical physics.
- Uhlenbeck is a mathematician as well as a role model and a strong advocate for gender equality in science and mathematics. She is the co-founder of the Institute's Women and Mathematics program (WAM) created in 1993.



Abel prize:

- The Abel Prize is presented annually; it recognizes contributions to the field of mathematics that are of extraordinary depth and influence. This award is administered by the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters on behalf of the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.
- The Abel Prize was established in 2002 on the 200th anniversary of Niels Henrik Abel's birth, and it has been awarded to 19 laureates. Niels Henrik Abel (1802–1829) was a Norwegian mathematician. It is presented annually in Oslo by His Majesty King Harald V.

Links:

<http://www.abelprize.no/nyheter/vis.html?tid=74161>

DRDO Chairman honored with Missile System Award by US-based AIAA

Question: DRDO Chairman got Missile System Award for design, development and deployment of-

(a) Diversified strategic and tactical missile systems (b) Guided weapons

(c) Advanced avionics and navigation technologies (d) All of above

Answer :(d)

Related facts:

- DRDO Chairman G. Satheesh Reddy honored with Missile System Award for 2019 by American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (AIAA) in March, 2019.
- Reddy shared the award with Rondell J. Wilson, a former Principal Engineering Fellow of Raytheon Missile Systems.
- G. Satheesh Reddy is the first Indian to be awarded this prestigious award.



- He is also the first person to be conferred by this award outside USA in nearly four decades.

About G. Satheesh Reddy:

- G. Satheesh Reddy is the Secretary of India's Department of Defense and Chairman of Defense Research and Development organization (DRDO).
- He is the scientific advisor of Defense Ministry and the architect of advanced Missile system technologies and smart guided weapons technologies in India.
- He is the first scientist of India to receive silver Medal from the Royal Aeronautical Society, London.

Missile System Award:

- This is a prestigious annual award given by the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronauts (AIAA) to recognize excellence in Missile System Technology.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/drdo-chairman-honoured-with-missile-systems-award-by-us-based-aiaa/article26418876.ece>

FIH Hockey Star Awards 2018

Question: Who was selected as the 'Best Male Player of the Year' in the FIH Hockey Stars Awards, 2018?

(a) Mandeep Singh (b) Barry Middleton (c) Eva de Goede (d) Arthur Van Doren

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) Annual Awards, FIH Hockey Stars Awards, 2018 were announced on February 14, 2019.
- Belgium's Arthur Van Doren won the 'Best Male Player of the Year' for the second consecutive year.
- Eva de Goede of the Netherlands won the 'Best Female Player of the Year' award.
- **Other recipients includes:**
 - Rising Star of the Year (Male) – Arthur De Sloover (Belgium)
 - Rising Star of the Year (Female) – Lucina von der Heyde (Argentina)
 - Goalkeeper of the Year (Male) – Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
 - Goalkeeper of the Year (Female) – Maddie Hinch (England)
 - Coach of the year: Shane McLeod (New Zealand)
 - Rising Star of the Year (Male) – Arthur De Sloover (Belgium)
 - Rising Star of the Year (Female) – Lucina von der Heyde (Argentina)
 - Goalkeeper of the Year (Male) – Vincent Vanasch (Belgium)
 - Goalkeeper of the Year (Female) – Maddie Hinch (England)
 - Coach of the year: Shane McLeod (New Zealand)

Link:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/sports/hockey/top-stories/de-goede-van-doren-win-2018-fih-players-of-year-awards/articleshow/67997729.cms>

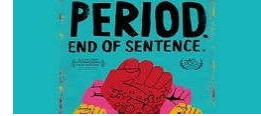
Period. End of Sentence won Oscar 2019 in the best Documentary Short category film

Question: Which movie has won the Oscar 2019 in the best Documentary Short category film?

(a) Skin (b) First Man (c) Period. End of Sentence (d) Green Book

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- Period. End of Sentence won Oscar 2019 in the best Documentary Short category film. The movie was directed by 25-year-old filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi and produced by Guneet Monga. Shaan Vyas is one of the co-producers.
- The 26-minute film, set in village, about the local women, deprived of affordable pads, finding steady income and empowerment and access to feminine hygiene.
- The women make and market their own brand of sanitary pads called fly.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/period-end-of-sentence-short-film-set-in-indian-village-featuring-original-pad-man-gets-oscar-nod/article26063485.ece>

Novak Djokovic won Laureus World Sportman of the year award

Question: Which of the following sportman has won Laureus World Sportman of the year award more than Djokovic?

(a) Roger Federer (b) Usain (c) Rafel Nadal (d) Serena Williams

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic won the Laureus World Sportman of the year award on 18th February, 2019.
- He won the Sportsman of the Year award after claiming victory at both the US Open and Wimbledon.
- He has won this award for fourth time having won it in year 2012, 2015 and 2016 previously.
- Roger Federer is the only sportman who won this prize more than four times.
- The awards are presented by Monaco based Laureus Sport for Good Foundation is, since 2000 in 7 different categories.

Links: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Laureus_World_Sports_Award_for_Sportsman_of_the_Year

<https://www.bbc.com/sport/47286364>

7th National Photography Awards

Question: Who has been conferred the Life Time Achievement Award at the 7th National Photography Awards?

(a) Arun Sreedhar (b) Gurdeep Dhiman (c) SL Shanth Kumar (d)

Ashok Dilwali

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- On 19th February 2019, 7th National Photography Awards were conferred by Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore at National Media Centre in New Delhi.
- A total of 13 awards were given comprising of one Lifetime Achievement Award, one award each in Professional Photographer of the Year category and Amateur Photographer of the Year category and 5 Special Mention Awards in both Professional and Amateur categories.
- This year's theme for the Professional Photographers is 'Women led Development'.

Awardees:

- Lifetime Achievement Award –Ashok Dilwali
- Professional Photographer of the Year – SL Shanth Kumar
- Amateur Photographer of the Year – Shri Gurdeep Dhiman
- Special Mention Awards (Professional) –Arun Sreedhar, P.V. Sunderrao, Kailash Mittal, Mihir Singh, Ranita Roy.
- Special Mention Awards (Amateur) –V. Ravi Kumar, S. Neelima, Manish Jaisi, Mahesh Balasaheb Lonkar, Avijit Datta.

About National Photography Awards:

- National Photography Awards are organized by Photo Division under Ministry of I&B. These awards are conferred under three categories – Lifetime Achievement Award, Award for Professional Photographers, and Award for Amateur Photographers.
- Lifetime Achievement Award carries a cash prize of Rs.3,00,000 while Professional Photographer of the Year and Amateur Photographer of the Year award carries cash prize of Rs.1,00,000 and Rs.75,000 respectively.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188732>

Tagore award for Cultural Harmony for the Years 2014, 2015 & 2016

Question: Name the person who was awarded the prestigious Tagore award for Cultural Harmony for the Year 2016?

(a) Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (b) Chhayanaut (c) Ram Vanji Sutar (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 18th February, 2019, President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony for the years 2014, 2015 and 2016 to Mr. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (exponent of Manipuri dance), Chhayanaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh) and Mr. Ram Vanji Sutar (Bangla arts. Renowned sculptor and scholar) respectively.

- The awardees were selected by a jury headed by the Prime Minister and include Chief Justice of India Justice Ranjan Gogoi, former Chief Election Commissioner Mr. N Gopaldaswami and the President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations Mr. Vinay Sahasrabudhe.
- Since 2012, Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was instituted by the Government during the commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore (1861–1941).
- The first award was given in 2012 to Pandit Ravi Shankar. Music conductor Zubin Mehta received the award for the year 2013.
- Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Tagore’s teachings as timeless and stated that the world stands to learn a great deal from his works. He recognised the folk arts and traditional dances as indicative of Indian culture.
- This award is presented every year and carries an amount of one crore rupees, a citation in a scroll, a plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft or handloom item.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188705>

Academy Awards 2019

Question: Which film has won the academy awards for Best Picture category?

(a) The Shape of Water (b) Green Book (c) Black Panther (d) Bohemian Rhapsody

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Green Book won the Oscar for the Best Picture for the year 2019
- Skin wins the 2019 Oscar for Short Film (live action).
- Indian film, Period: End of Sentence has won the award in Documentary (short film) category.
- **Others winners are as follows:**



Actor(Leading Role)	Rami Malek
Actress(Leading Role)	Olivia Colman
Animated Feature Film	Spider Man: Into the Spider- Verse
Short Film Animated	Bao
Documentary (feature)	Free Solo
Documentary (short film)	Period: End of Sentence
Directing	Alfonso Cuaron (Roma)

Foreign Language Film	Roma (Mexico)
Music Original Score	Ludwig Goransson (Black Panther)
Music Original Song	Lady Gaga (Shallow form A Star Is Born)

Links:

<https://oscar.go.com/>

Operations & Campaign

Pulse Polio Programme for 2019

Question: Who launched the countrywide Pulse Polio Programme for 2019 on March 9, 2019?

(a) Venkaiah Naidu (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) Narendra Modi (d) Maenka Gandhi

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- President Ram Nath Kovind launched the Pulse Polio programme for 2019 by administering polio drops to children less than five years old at the Rahstrapati Bhawan. This was done in the presence of J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- President administered the polio drops on the eve of the National Immunization Day which was observed on March 10, 2019.
- More than 17 crore children of less than five years across the country will be given polio drops as part of the drive of Government of India to sustain polio eradication from the country.
- As per the Health Minister, government has introduced several new vaccines like Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine, Rotavirus vaccine, and Measles-Rubella vaccine in the recent past. Government has also introduced the injectable Inactivated Polio Vaccine into its routine immunization program.
- Government has also launched Mission Indradhanush to provide immunization coverage to more than 90% full immunization coverage.
- This programme has also led to decrease in Infant Mortality Rate from 39 in 2014 to 32 per 1000 lives in 2017.



Pulse Polio Program:

- As per World Health Assembly resolution in 1988 for eradication of polio. Pulse Polio Immunization programme was launched in India in 1995. Children in the age group of 0-5 years administered polio drops during National and Sub-national immunization rounds (in high risk areas) every year. About 172 million children are immunized during each National Immunization Day (NID).
- The Pulse Polio Initiative was started with an objective of achieving hundred per cent coverage under Oral Polio Vaccine. It aimed to immunize children through improved social mobilization, plan mop-up operations in areas where poliovirus has almost disappeared and maintain high level of morale among the public.

- WHO on 24th February 2012 removed India from the list of countries with active endemic wild polio virus transmission.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189364>

EXERCISE SAMPRITI

Question: Between 2 and 15 March, 2019, the joint military exercise 'SAMPRITI-2019' will be organised between the armies of?

- (a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Bangladesh (c) India and Russia
(d) India and Thailand

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 will be conducted at Bongobondhu Cantonment, Tangail, Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019.
- The Bangladesh contingent was represented by 36 East Bengal Battalion, while Indian side was represented by Ninth Battalion the Rajputana Rifles.
- Exercise Sampriti-2019 is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh. This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- The exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies. The exercise will involve tactical level operations in a counter insurgency and counter terrorism environment under the UN mandate.
- In addition to understanding each other in tactical level operations, emphasis will also be laid for greater cultural understanding to strengthen military trust and cooperation between the two nations.
- A company group from Bangladesh Army and an equal number from Indian Army are taking part in the two-week long exercise that will see them hone their tactical and technical skills in countering the insurgency, counter-terrorism and aid to civil authorities for disaster management in a UN peacekeeping scenario involving a combined deployment at a battalion level.



Link:

<https://www.indianarmy.nic.in/Site/PressRelease/PressRelease.aspx?n=bniEtbbo9LN7kb4q3kupGg==&NewsID=BJHVlci/TCnuW9dyJOKXIQ==>

Shisht Bharat Campaign

Question: Shisht Bharat Campaign is related to which of the following Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions
(b) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (c) Ministry of Home Affairs
(d) Ministry of Labour & Employment

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 21 February 2019, a Dr. Angeli Qwatra Safety Trainings Initiative 'Shisht Bharat Campaign' was launched in Delhi NCR.
- At the launch of campaign, Dr. Jitendra Singh Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances



& Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space insisted on building values of morality, civic sense, politeness, decorum and dignity in order to nurture coming generations.

- The theme of the event was to discuss the importance of moral science education in schools and colleges and to include Moral Science as a subject in the educational curriculum.
- During the event, prizes of the essay competition organized on the above topic were also distributed and Panel discussion was also held on the importance of civic sense and moral values.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188839>

Commission & Committee

Structured scheme for providing insurance cover to advocates

Question: Recently the Central Government has set up a five-member committee to examine the issues related to framing of a comprehensive insurance scheme for advocates. This committee will have to give its report within-
(a) 4 months (b) 5 months (c) 6 months (d) 3 months

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 8th March 2019; the Central Government has set up a five-member committee to examine the issues related to framing of a comprehensive insurance scheme for advocates relating to untimely death and medical insurance.
- To draw a comprehensive framework for the scheme, Law and Justice Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad set up the panel under the chairmanship of Secretary Legal Affairs.
- The committee will submit its reports within three months.
- Other members of the committee will include a senior representative from the Department of Financial Services and representative of Department of legal affairs.
- The committee will also have one representative each from Bar Council of India and State Bar Councils.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189335>

Planning & Project

Agreement for the National Rural Economy Transformation Project

Question: Government of India and World Bank signs __ agreement for the National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) to boost Rural Incomes across in India.
(a) 250 million dollar, 13 states (b) 275 million dollar, 15 states
(c) 300 million dollar, 22 states (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2019, World Bank and the Government of India signed a 250 million dollar agreement.
- The National Rural Economic Transformation Project (NRETP) will help women in rural households shift to a new generation of economic initiatives by developing viable enterprise for farm and non-farm products.

- A key focus of the project will be to promote women-owned and women-led farm and non-farm enterprises across value chains; enable them to build businesses that help them access finance, markets and networks; and generate employment.
- The NRETP is an additional financing to the 500 million dollar National Rural Livelihoods Project (NRLP) approved by the World Bank in July 2011.
- The NRLP which is currently being implemented across 13 states, 162 districts and 575 blocks, has so far mobilized more than 8.8 million women from poor rural households into 750,000 self-help groups (SHGs).



Links:

<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2019/03/05/usd250-million-agreement-signed-to-boost-rural-incomes-across-13-states-in-india>

Vijay Gokhale on three-day US visit

Question: Name the personality to whom Foreign Secretary Vijay Gokhale is likely to meet in a visit to US recently?

(a) Mike Pompeo (b) Donald Trump (c) Hillary Clinton (d) Barak Obama

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:



- Vijay Gokhale will meet US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and other senior leaders of the US Congress.
- He arrived in US in connection with the bilateral Foreign Office Consultation and Strategic Security Dialogue with Donald Trump administration.
- He will be visiting Washington DC in connection with the bilateral foreign office consultation and strategic security dialogue with US counterparts, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs David Hale and Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Andrea Thompson respectively.

Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/foreign-secretary-vijay-gokhale-on-three-day-us-visit-from-march-11-likely-to-meet-mike-pompeo-5619974/>

Cabinet approves MoU between India and UK on cancer research initiative

Question: Recently Memorandum of Understanding was approved between India and UK on-

(a) Cancer research initiative (b) Promoting sports (c) Minerals research initiatives (d) Terrorism

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- On 7 March 2019, Union Cabinet approved **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** between **India and UK** on cancer research initiative.
- The MoU was signed on 14th November 2018.
- The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative will identify issues of affordability, prevention and care of cancer by bringing together leading Indian and UK experts across clinical research, demographic research, new technologies and physical sciences.



- Over **5 years**, the **total research funding** for the Initiative shall be **10 million pounds (approx. Rs. 90 crores)**.
- **CRUK's** share for such funding shall be **5 million pounds (approx. Rs. 45 crores)**. **DBT (Department of Biotechnology)** shall match such funding by **5 million pounds (approx. Rs.45 crores)**.
- The India-UK Cancer Research Initiative sets forth a roadmap for catalyzing collaborations that align the best researchers, scientists, healthcare organizations and institutions to a multi-disciplinary research platform leading to high value, low cost outcomes for cancer care.
- The **India-UK Cancer Research Initiative is a collaborative 5-year bilateral research initiative** by the **Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Ministry of Science & Technology, India and Cancer Research UK (CRUK)** that will focus on **affordable approaches to cancer**.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1567809>

Foundation Stone of Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan

Question: PM lays foundation stone of Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan at which place?

- (a) Adalaj, Gujarat (b) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (c) Bangalore, Karnataka
(d) Amethi ,Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 5 March 2019, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Shikshan Bhavan and Vidhyarthi Bhavan at Annapurna Dham Trust in Adalaj, Gujarat.
- Prime Minister stated that India had the rich tradition of communities taking lead, to solve the challenges faced by an era.
- He mentioned about communities coming together to improve education and irrigation.
- He urged the people of Gujarat to work on food processing. He further added that such value addition would benefit both farmers and industries.
- Paying homage to Maa Annapurna, Prime Minister informed that the Annapurna Dham Trust should give society the strength to ensure gender equality and prosperity for everyone.



Links:

https://www.pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-lays-foundation-stone-of-shikshan-bhavan-and-vidhyarthi-bhavan/

Loan Agreement for Mumbai Metro Rail Project

Question: A Loan Agreement of how much amount has recently been signed for the Mumbai Metro Rail System, between the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India?

- (a) \$996 Million (b) \$1000 Million (c) \$926 Million (d) \$1026 Million

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of India signed a \$926 Million Loan Agreement for the Mumbai Metro Rail System on 26th February, 2019.
- This money would be utilized to operationalize two lines for the Mumbai Metro Rail System that will ease the distress of millions of commuters each day and help provide a cleaner, less congested city.
- It will help fund lines 2A (Dahisar to D.N. Nagar), 2B (D.N. Nagar–Bandra–Mandale), and 7 (Dahisar [East] to Andheri [East]), totaling about 58 kilometers (km). The project will fund 63 six-car trains, signaling and safety systems, and help establish a new dedicated metro operations organization to manage the entire metro network in Mumbai.
- The Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) will implement the project's civil works and other related components for the lines 2A, 2B, and 7.
- Once operational by the end of 2022, an estimated 2 million passengers a day will use the two new lines, travelling in improved safety and comfort.
- It will also reduce emissions from vehicles, with carbon dioxide emissions expected to fall by about 166,000 tons a year.
- This project is the Single Largest Infrastructure Project Loan in ADB history. The Project also marks ADB's first co-financing with the Shanghai-based New Development Bank, which will provide \$260 million toward the metro systems project.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189132>

Union Home Minister to launch various Women Safety initiatives

Question: What are initiatives recently launched by the Union Home Minister regarding women safety?

- 1) Emergency Response Support System (ERSS)
- 2) Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO)
- 3) Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal (SCIM)
- 4) Anti Romeo Squad



Choose the correct statement/s:

- (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4 (d) 4 only

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Union Home Minister to launch various Women Safety initiatives in 16 States/UTs and Mumbai city which include the launch of:

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS); Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO) and Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal (SCIM):

- The 16 states/UTs are Andhra Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, UP, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Andaman, Dadar Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu and J&K.
- These initiatives will provide effective deterrence against the offence of rape; the Government has enacted the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2018.

Emergency Response Support System (ERSS):

- ERSS is a pan-India single number (112) based response system for persons in distress. All the states have to set up a Emergency Response Centre (ERC). It will have a team of trained Call-takers and Dispatchers to handle emergency requests relating to assistance from Police, Fire & Rescue, Health and other emergency services.
- ERSS also provides a 112 India mobile App for making distress calls by any person.
- For Women and Children, 112 India App provides a special SHOUT feature which alerts registered volunteers in the vicinity of victim for immediate assistance.
- The Central Government is funding Rs.321.69 crore to the States/UTs for ERSS as part of Nirbhaya Scheme Project.

Investigation Tracking System for Sexual Offences (ITSSO):

- The ITSSO is meant for Law Enforcement Agencies in the country.
- At all levels- National, State, District and Police Station that allows State to undertake real-time monitoring and management for completion of investigation in rape cases in 2 months.
- ITSSO is one of such measures developed by MHA towards Smart Policing.

Safe City Implementation Monitoring Portal (SCIM):

- Government has identified eight cities for implementation of Safe City projects in first phase at a cost of Rs.2,919 crore.
- The cities are Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Lucknow & Mumbai. The projects are funded under Nirbhaya Fund scheme.
- **Important features of the Safe City projects include:**
- Identification of crime Hot-spots in each city. Saturating such Hot-spots with increased CCTV surveillance. Automated Number Plate Reading (ANPR) and drone-based surveillance also being deployed in few cities as per requirement. Setting up women police out-posts for facilitating ease of access by any aggrieved woman to report incidence or seek assistance. Patrols by Women police in vulnerable areas. Setting up Women Help Desks in Police Stations with facility for trained Counsellors.
- Augmentation of existing women support centers like Asha Jyoti Kendra or Bharosa centers etc. Implementing Safety measures in buses, including Cameras. Improving Street Lighting

in identified Hot Spot areas. Setting up Toilets for women. Undertaking social awareness programmes on women safety and gender sensitivity.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188692>

India and Bangladesh signed MOU for training 1800 Bangladesh civil servants

Question: With which of the following country India has signed MOU to train their civil servants?

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

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 8th February, 2019 during the visit of the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh A. K. Abdul Momen to India, a MOU was signed between the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), Government of India and the Ministry of Public Administration, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.
- The MOU was signed at the National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG) an institute under the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DAR&PG), Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Govt. of India.
- The Bangladesh Civil Servants will be trained in e-Governance and service delivery, public policy and implementation, information technology, decentralization, urban development and planning, Ethics in Administration and challenges in implementation of SDGs.
- India and Bangladesh have signed an MOU for training 1800 Bangladesh Civil Servants over next 6 years.
- This is the second time that NCGG will train Bangladesh Civil Servants. Under the first MOU signed 5 years ago, 1500 Bangladesh Civil Servants have already been trained in NCGG.

Link:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1563534>

Suresh Prabhu inaugurated Aviation Infra Projects in 7 States

Question: Suresh Prabhu recently inaugurated Aviation Infra Projects across the country. This project covers which of the following states?

1) Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu 2) Assam and Punjab 3) Manipur and Rajasthan

The correct answer is:

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1, 2 and 3 (d) 1 only

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- On 22nd February, 2019, Civil Aviation Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated several infrastructure projects across the country via video link in New Delhi.
- These airports includes Trivandrum & Calicut airports in Kerala, Mangaluru airport in Karnataka, Madurai airport in Tamil Nadu, Rupsi airport in Assam, Jaipur airport in Rajasthan, Amritsar airport in Punjab, Imphal airport in Manipur.
- Airport Authority of India (AAI) was connected with the event in different locations through video link which was attended by dignitaries of States.
- Rs. 620 crore is being spent on eight AAI airports in the country to upgrade and revamp airports infrastructure.

- Aviation connectivity will not only help in promoting tourism but will also boost trade.
- Airports at Rupsi Assam and Imphal in Manipur will open up the entire South East Asia sector and airports at countries like Nepal and Bangladesh for tourism and trade.
- India has the fastest growing aviation sector in the world.
- Civil Aviation Minister has recently launched UDAN 3.1 and invited bids for Airlines to fly over as many as 28 to 30 routes in order to cover the North Eastern region of India hilly terrain of Uttarakhand, Jammu, Himachal Pradesh and establish intra Island connectivity at Andaman and Lakshadweep Islands.
- Global aviation Summit 2019 held in Mumbai in January this year the Vision 2040 document with the theme “Flying for all” was released.
- The vision of UDAN scheme to open Indian skies and achieve its objective of SAB UDE – SAB JUDE.

Link:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1565974>

Israel Moon Mission

Question: Which of the following company of Israel launched world’s first privately funded moon mission spacecraft on February 22, 2019?

a) SpaceX b) Falcon c) Ureva d) SpacEL

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Israel's non-profit organisation SpaceIL and state-owned Israel Aerospace Industries launched world's first entirely private funded spacecraft of Moon mission on February 22, 2019.
- The spacecraft was launched from Florida's Cape Canaveral by Falcon 9 rocket of SpaceX.
- This made Israel the fourth country after Russia, US and to make a soft landing on the moon.
- The name of spacecraft is Beresheet, Hebrew for Genesis. It weighs 585 kg and is approximately 5 ft tall.
- This spacecraft will trip for 7 weeks and is expected to touch down by April 11, 2019.
- The spacecraft also carries instruments for measurement of lunar magnetic field, which will help in understanding moon's formation.
- Lunar mission started many decades ago. The Soviet Union landed its Luna 2 mission on the moon in 1959. Three years later, the United States landed Ranger 4 on the moon.

Link:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/02/22/middleeast/israel-moon-spacecraft-beresheet-launch-scli-intl/index.html>

India Cooling Action Plan

Question: Consider the following statement in respect to the India Cooling Action Plan and choose the correct option:

1) This plan was launched by Union Environment Minister Dr. Harshvardhan on March 8, 2019

2) India became one of the first countries to launch this comprehensive plan

3) This plan provides long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand

4) This plan will go on to help India in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Options:

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

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan released the India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) on March 8, 2019 in New Delhi.
- India is one of the first countries in the world to develop a comprehensive Cooling Action plan which has a long term vision to address the cooling requirement across sectors and lists out actions which can help reduce the cooling demand.
- India Cooling Action Plan (ICAP) provides an integrated vision towards cooling across sectors encompassing inter alia reduction of cooling demand, refrigerant transition, enhancing energy efficiency and better technology options with a 20 year time horizon.
- **The India Cooling Action seeks to:**
 - I. reduce cooling demand across sectors by 20% to 25% by 2037-38,
 - II. reduce refrigerant demand by 25% to 30% by 2037-38,
 - III. Reduce cooling energy requirements by 25% to 40% by 2037-38,
 - IV. recognize “cooling and related areas” as a thrust area of research under national S&T Programme,
 - V. Training and certification of 100,000 servicing sector technicians by 2022-23, synergizing with Skill India Mission. These actions will have significant climate benefits.
- **The following benefits would accrue to the society over and above the environmental benefits:**
 - I. Thermal comfort for all – provision for cooling for EWS and LIG housing,
 - II. Sustainable cooling – low GHG emissions related to cooling,
 - III. Doubling Farmers Income – better cold chain infrastructure – better value of produce to farmers, less wastage of produce,
 - IV. Skilled workforce for better livelihoods and environmental protection,
 - V. Make in India – domestic manufacturing of air-conditioning and related cooling equipment’s,
 - VI. Robust R&D on alternative cooling technologies – to provide push to innovation in cooling sector.
- Linkages of cooling with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are well acknowledged. The cross-sectoral nature of cooling and its use in development of the economy makes provision for cooling an important developmental necessity.

Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568158>

ICAR signs MoU with CSIR

Question: Recently ICAR has signed MoU with which one of the following organisation to collaborate in the area of food and agriculture?

- (a) CSIR(Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research)
- (b) DST (Department of Science & Technology)
- (c) CBT (Centre Of Biotechnology)
- (d) FCI (Food Corporation Of India)

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) and the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) have agreed to collaborate in the area of Food and Agriculture.
- Both the sides agreed to collaborate and work together on mutually agreed areas of agri-foods, medicinal and aromatic plants, nutraceuticals, precision agriculture, big data analysis, use of artificial intelligence, genetic modifications in cotton, application of sensors in agriculture, post-harvest management and agricultural mechanization.
- A MoU was signed on 25th February, 2019 by Secretary of Department of Agricultural Research and Education and Director General of ICAR Trilochan Mohapatra and Shekhar C Mande, Secretary of Department for Scientific & Industrial Research and Director General of CSIR.



ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research):

- The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is an autonomous organization under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE), Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Government of India.
- It was **established on 16th July, 1929**. The Union Minister of Agriculture serves as its president.
- The Council is the apex body for co-ordinating, guiding and managing research and education in agriculture including horticulture, fisheries and animal sciences in the entire country.
- With 101 ICAR Institutes and 71 Agriculture Universities and it is the largest network of agricultural research and education institutes in the world.

CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research):

- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), a premier national R&D organization of India, is among the world's largest publicly funded R&D organization.
- CSIR's pioneering sustained contribution to S&T human resource development is acclaimed nationally.
- Human Resource Development Group (HRDG), a division of CSIR realizes this objective through various grants, fellowship schemes etc.

Links:

<https://icar.org.in/>

Cabinet approved Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor of RRTS

Question:What is the aim of Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor?

- (a) To de-congest the national capital
- (b) To expand the route of Delhi-Ghaziabad
- (c) Both (a) & (b)
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the construction of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) covering a distance of 82.15 kms. (68.03 kms. elevated and 14.12 km. underground) at a total completion cost of Rs. 30,274 crores; Central financial assistance of Rs. 5,634 crores; Institutional arrangement and legal framework for the project and Conditions of sanction of the project.
- The Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut Corridor of Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) was approved on 19th February 2019.
- Implementation of the RRTS would provide much-needed additional public transport infrastructure to National Capital Region to address issues of congestion, air-pollution and catalyze balanced and sustainable regional development.
- The RRTS is a first-of-its-kind, rail-based, high-speed regional transit system to be implemented in India. Once operational, it will be the fastest, most comfortable and safest mode of commuter transport in the National Capital Region (NCR).
- RRTS to design speed of 180 kmph using state of the art technologies for Track Structure, Rolling Stock & Signaling System; the techno-commercial agreement is signed with ADIF, Spain
- The project is proposed to be undertaken by a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) namely the National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) as a joint ownership of the Centre and State Governments with equal contribution.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1565296>

Projects in Yamuna towns approved under Namami Gange

Question: What is the net worth of Project in Yamuna towns, approved under Namami Gange?

(a) Rs. 1387.71 Cr (b) Rs. 1397.71 Cr (c) Rs. 1487.71 Cr (d) Rs. 1587.71 Cr

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- In its 20th Executive Committee meeting held on 15th February, 2019, sewerage, infrastructure and other projects worth Rs. 1387.71 Cr in Yamuna towns approved under Namami Gange.
- The projects involve construction and renovation of sewage treatment plants, online monitoring systems of sewage treatment plants and other infrastructure projects.
- National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) also approved projects on tributaries for Firozabad, Etawah, Baghpat, Meerut, Agra and Chunar.



Enumeration of Status of Districts:

- Etawah: Sewage infrastructure project worth Rs 140.6 crores were given the go-ahead by the EC.

- Firozabad: Sewerage infrastructure projects worth Rs 51.08 crores have been approved by the EC
- Baghpat: Projects worth Rs 77.36 crores has been approved for sewerage infrastructure.
- Meerut: The EC has approved projects worth Rs. 681.78 crores.
- Agra: The EC has approved sewerage infrastructure projects worth Rs 317.2 crores.
- Chunar: The EC has approved a project worth Rs. 2.70 crores for Faecal Sludge Management and Pollution Abatement in Chunar city.
- Moreover, Reviving aquatic biodiversity in the Ganga River is one of the key focus areas of the Namami Gange Programme. Important projects have been approved by the Executive Committee to restore aquatic life in the Ganga.
- A project addressing the Urban Drivers of River Health in the Ganga River Basin was awarded to the National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA).

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188691>

All India Citizens Survey of Police Services

Question: All India Citizens Survey of Police Services is announced by-

- (a)Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) (b)Ministry of External Affairs
(c)Ministry of Law and Justice (d)Ministry of Finance**

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- Ministry of Home Affairs has commissioned the Bureau of Police Research and Development to conduct a pan-India survey called All India Citizens Survey of Police Services.
- The survey will be conducted through the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
- The survey is aimed to understand public perceptions about Police, gauge the level of non-reporting of crimes or incidents to Police, the position on ground relating to crime reporting & recording, timeliness and quality of police response and action, and to assess citizens' perception and experience about women and children's safety.
- The outcome of the survey is expected to bring out useful suggestions for stakeholders in formulating and implementing appropriate policy responses and changes in the functioning of police at the cutting edge and for improving crime prevention and investigation, transformation in community policing, improvement in the access to the justice and increased appropriate resource allocation for police in a systematic manner.
- The survey will commence in March, 2019 and cover a representative sample of 1.2 lakh households spread over 173 districts across the country. All States and UTs would be included in this survey. The survey will be completed in 9 months.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188837>

Conference

Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue – 2019

Question: Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019 held on 5th & 6th March 2019, was organized by-

(a) CII (b) Indian Navy (c) ASEAN (d) Japan

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:



- On 5th & 6th March 2019; the second edition of Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) – 2019 was held at the Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi.
- It was organized in continuation of process of engaging global strategic community in an annual review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.

IPRD – 2019:

- It was organized by Indian Navy and its knowledge partner National Maritime Foundation.
- It witnessed active participation of globally-renowned domain experts and policy-makers from thirteen countries of Indo-Pacific- Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, China, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Seychelles, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.
- It was build upon foundation laid by inaugural edition and examined five new themes:
 - I. Practical solutions for achieving cohesion in region through maritime connectivity.
 - II. Measures to attain and maintain free-and-open Indo-Pacific.
 - III. Regional approach to region's transition from 'Brown' to 'Blue' economy.
 - IV. Opportunities and challenges arising from maritime impact of 'Industry 4.0'.
 - V. How twin conceptualisations of 'SAGARMALA' and 'SAGAR' might best be made mutually-reinforcing on a regional level.

Concept and Aim of (IPRD):

- Its idea was first conceptualised and conducted in 2018, as apex level conference of Indian Navy. It was organised by National Maritime Foundation as its knowledge partner.
- Its permanent theme is review of India's opportunities and challenges in the Indo-Pacific region.
- Its aim is to focus attention on Indo-Pacific, as maritime geographical-entity, while deliberating aspects of great relevance to regional geopolitics.

- It provides platform for substantive and insightful discussions pertaining to geopolitical developments affecting maritime domain of Indo-Pacific and provides policy-relevant inputs to policy-makers and public at large.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189144>

Fin Tech Conclave 2019

Question: Which of the following institution is organizing the Fin Tech Conclave 2019?

(a) Ministry of Science & Technology (b) ISRO (c) NASA (d) NITI Aayog

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- India's think-tank organisation NITI Aayog organised a day long Fin Tech Conclave 2019 on March 25, 2019 at New Delhi.
- The Conclave was inaugurated by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das. It hosted more than 300 representatives from the leading financial institutions.
- The central bank of the country has appointed 5-member committee under the chairmanship of Nandan Nilekani to further deepen digital payments and enhance financial inclusion through Fintech.
- The objective of the conference was to shape India's continued growth in Fintech, build the narrative for future strategy and policy efforts, and to deliberate steps for comprehensive financial inclusion.
- The Conclave featured representatives from across the financial space – central ministries, regulators, bankers, startups, service providers and entrepreneurs.
- Financial technology (Fintech) is computer programs and is a new technology innovation that aims to compete with traditional financial methods in the delivery of financial services.



Links:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/business/niti-aayog-organise-fin-tech-conclave-2019>

Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019

Question: On 19th February, 2019; Regional Maritime Safety Conference 2019, began in Mumbai. It was organized in India for the time.

(a) First (b) Second (c) Third (d) Fourth

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 19th February, 2019; the 1st Regional Maritime Safety Conference- 2019, began in Mumbai.
- The two-day conference deliberated on issues related to assuring maritime safety in the India-ASEAN sub-region, safeguarding the shores and promoting maritime trade.
- The inaugural edition was organized by the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), in coordination with Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of External Affairs.
- The conference addressed a range of issues that affect regional maritime safety, including transport safety, maritime law, ship building, transportation of hazardous goods, marine oil spill, pollution and environmental safety.
- Addressing the gathering, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Shipping, Shri Sanjay Bandopadhyay said that maritime trade is very important for India, which has a coastline



nearly 7,500 km long and that India has been engaging very actively with ASEAN countries in the maritime sector.

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's initiative of Act East Policy, whereby a policy underpinned by concrete actions and deliverables was adopted by both sides. The partnership has blossomed on the all three pillars of polity and security, economy and socio cultural dimensions.
- The high point of the partnership was when India hosted all ten leaders of the ASEAN countries at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi from 25th to 26th January, 2018.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1565194>

Bio Asia 2019 Asia's Largest Life Sciences and Healthcare forum held in Hyderabad

Question: Asia's Largest Life Sciences and Healthcare forum Bio Asia 2019 held in which city?

(a) Nagpur (b) New Delhi (c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad

Answer: (d)

Related facts:



- The 16th edition of BioAsia 2019, the annual global life sciences confluence was inaugurated by Governor of Telangana ESL Narasimhan and the event was hosted by the Government of Telangana.
- The theme for this edition is "Life Sciences 4.0 – Disrupt the Disruption", that will focus on healthcare being re-imagined as a result of technological disruption.
- Over the past 15 years, BioAsia has helped attract investments to the tune of about Rs.15,000 crores and organized around 16,000 business partnering meetings during the event. Eminent leaders and senior government officials from around 95 countries have attended the event and close to 250 MoUs & Lols have been exchanged at the forum.
- This edition of BioAsia has South Korea as the Partner Country with South Africa and Spain being the international partners for the event. 4 other Indian States have joined with BioAsia in organizing the next BioAsia including Karnataka, Odisha, Assam and Gujarat making it truly a National initiative.

Link:

<https://www.biospectrumindia.com/news/72/12906/bioasia-2019-disruption-in-healthcare-lifesciences-and-biotech.html>

Heat Wave 2019

Question: A two-day national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave was conducted in which of the following city?

(a) Nagpur (b) Hyderabad (c) Mumbai (d) Chandigarh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 27th February, 2019, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra conducted a two-day national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave in Nagpur.
- Workshop helped States & Districts to prepare and implement Heat Action Plans.

- This project emphasized upon the need to focus on mid and long-term mitigation measures, to identify new islands of heat wave and to find local solutions for local problems.
- In the Indian subcontinent, global warming impacts have come sooner and hit harder than predicted according to report by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- Members and senior officials from NDMA, experts on heat wave, early warning and forecasting agencies, State governments and research institutions participated in the workshop.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188997>

Commerce Minister addresses India-Russia Forum on SMEs

Question: Interactive Forum of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) between India and Russia is named as-

- (a) Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership (b) Special and Privileged Partnership
(c) Sharing strategic partnership (d) Privileged partnership

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Union Minister, Suresh Prabhu, addressed Interactive Forum of Small and Medium Enterprises between India and Russia in Bengaluru on 21st February, 2019. The forum is titled Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership.
- The two nations enjoy a multi-dimensional cooperation extending to all areas of bilateral relationship – political, security, trade and economy, defence, education, science & technology, culture and people to people.
- By 2030 India is expected to be the third largest economy in the world with a huge section of middleclass consumers. In order to reach that position the country requires more and improved infrastructure, access to energy, quality goods and services and a modern agriculture sector.
- The Government of India has already announced the setting up of a fast track, single-window mechanism for Russian companies. This mechanism would be in addition to the Russia Desk that had been set up to promote Russian investment in India.
- The two countries are expected to cooperate in sectors such as energy resources, gold and diamonds, infrastructure development, digital technologies, research & development, pharma & biotechnology and agriculture among others.



Links:

<http://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1565802>

Law & Justice

Centre allows state governments to put enemy properties to Public Use

Question: Centre allowed state governments to put enemy properties to Public Use under which of the following act?

- (a) The guidelines for disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2018
(b) Enemy Property Order, 2016 (c) Disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2017
(d) None of the above

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- The Centre has allowed State Governments to take some enemy properties for public use.
- The guidelines for disposal of the Enemy Property Order, 2018 has been amended to facilitate “usages of enemy property by the State Government exclusively for public use”.
- When wars broke out between India and China in 1962, and India and Pakistan in 1965 and 1971, the central government took over properties of citizens of China and Pakistan in India under the Defence of India Acts.
- These Acts defined an ‘enemy’ as a country that committed an act of aggression against India, and its citizens.
- The properties of enemies in India were classified as enemy property.
- The properties included land, buildings, shares held in companies, gold and jewellery of the citizens of enemy countries.
- The responsibility of the administration of enemy properties was handed over to the Custodian of Enemy Property, an office under the central government.
- Of the total properties left behind by those who took Pakistani citizenship, 4,991 are located in Uttar Pradesh, the highest in the country. West Bengal has 2,735 such estates and Delhi 487.
- The highest number of properties left by Chinese nationals is in Meghalaya (57). West Bengal has 29 such properties and Assam seven.
- The estimated value of all enemy properties is approximately Rs 1 lakh Crore.
- The Enemy Property Act was enacted in 1968 and which regulates such properties and lists the custodian’s powers.
- The act was amended in 2017 to ensure that the successors of those who migrated to Pakistan and China will have no claim over the properties left behind in India.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/centre-allows-state-governments-to-put-enemy-properties-to-public-use/articleshow/68355838.cms>

Official Secrets Act

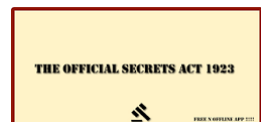
Question: Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding Official Secrets Act?

- 1) An ‘Official Secrets Act’ is designed to keep certain kinds of information confidential information involving the affairs of state, diplomacy, national security
- 2) India’s Official Secrets Act (OSA) dates back to 1923, unsurprisingly a creation of the colonial regime
- 3) The primary critique of the Act is that it flips the constitutive logic of a democratic republic, where the state is supposed to be transparent to its citizens
- 4) The scope of the Right to Information Act diluted by the ‘Official Secrets Act’

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Remarks made by the Attorney-General in the Supreme Court on March 6, 2019 of looking into “criminal action” against those responsible for making “stolen documents” on the Rafale deal public, have brought the Official Secrets Act into focus.



Meaning of OSA:

- An ‘Official Secrets Act’ is a generic term that is used to refer to a law — originally invented by the British, and then exported across the Commonwealth — that is designed to keep certain kinds of information confidential, including, but not always limited to, information involving the affairs of state, diplomacy, national security, espionage and other state secrets.
- India’s Official Secrets Act (OSA) dates back to 1923, unsurprisingly a creation of the colonial regime.

- The 1923 Act includes penalties for spying (which, in turn, includes even “approaching” or being “in the vicinity of” a prohibited place, publishing any “sketch” or “plan” that might be useful to the enemy, with a prejudicial purpose.).
- It punished people who knowingly receive such information — a provision clearly designed to capture investigative journalism.

DRAWBACK:

- The primary drawback of the Act is that it flips the constitutive logic of a democratic republic, where the state is supposed to be transparent to its citizens.

OSA relation to RTI:

- The scope of the OSA has been somewhat diluted, thanks to the Right to Information Act. Section 22 of the RTI Act expressly says it overrides the OSA.

Future of OSA:

- As recently as 2006, the Home Ministry recommended substantial changes to the OSA, in line with the privacy regime established by the RTI. From time to time, there are calls to repeal the OSA and replace it with a National Security Act that is more consistent with the aspirations of an open, democratic republic.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/the-lowdown-on-the-official-secrets-act/article26482550.ece>

The President of India approves the Amendments in Indian Stamp Act

Question: On 21st February, 2019; The President of India gave his assent to the Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act of-
(a) 1890 (b) 1899 (c) 1860 (d) 1885

Answer: (b)

Related facts:



- On 21st February, 2019; The President of India, today, gave his assent to the Amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.
- It was introduced as part of the Finance Act 2019 and was in fulfillment of the commitment made by the Union Government in the last Union Budget 2018-19 to take reform measures with respect to Stamp Duty regime on financial securities transactions in consultation with the States and make necessary amendments to the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.
- The Finance Bill 2019 was passed by both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, on 12th and 13th February, 2019 respectively.

Purpose:

- The amendments propose to create the legal and institutional mechanism to enable states to collect stamp duty on securities market instruments at one place.
- It will be done by one agency (through the Stock Exchanges or Clearing Corporations authorized by the stock exchange or by the Depositories) on one Instrument.
- A mechanism for appropriately sharing the stamp duty with relevant State Governments based on state of domicile of the buying client is also proposed.

Background

- The present system of collection of stamp duty on securities market transactions has led to multiple rates for the same instrument.
- It resulted in jurisdictional disputes and multiple incidences of duty, thereby raising the transaction costs in the securities market and hurting capital formation.
- This has also given scope for rate shopping and evasion of duty.

Government made the following Point:

- To facilitate ease of doing business and to bring in uniformity and affordability of the stamp duty on securities across States and thereby build a pan-India securities market.
- To create the legal and institutional mechanism to enable states to collect stamp duty on securities market instruments at one place by one agency (through Stock Exchanges or Clearing Corporations authorized by it or by the Depositories) on one Instrument.
- To develop a mechanism for appropriately sharing the stamp duty with relevant State Governments.
- Central Government, after due deliberations, in exercise of powers under Entry 91 of the List I and Entry 44 of List III of the 7th Schedule of Indian Constitution, has decided to amend the Indian Stamp Act, 1899.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1565839>

Teacher’s Cadre Ordinance

Question: The newly approved Teacher’s Cadre Ordinance, 2019 will be treating University/ College as-

(a) Units (b) Departments (c) Units and Departments both (d) None of the above

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- The Union Cabinet under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the proposal for promulgation of “The Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Teachers’ Cadre) Ordinance, 2019” on March 7, 2019.
- This ordinance will consider the University/ College as a unit instead of ‘Department/ Subject’.
- This decision is expected to improve the teaching standards in the higher educational institutions to attract all eligible talented candidates.
- This decision will allow filling up of more than 5000 vacancies by direct recruitment in Teachers’ Cadre duly ensuring that the Constitutional Provisions of Articles 14, 16 and 21 shall be complied with and stipulated reservation criteria for the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes and Socially and Educationally Backward Classes are met with.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189264>

Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Bill

Question: Consider the following statement related to PRANAM bill:

- 1) Assam State Government has launched the PRANAM Commission
- 2) It ensures that no State Government Employee ignores their elderly parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings.

Choose the incorrect option:

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

Answer (d)

Related facts:

- Assam State Government has launched the PRANAM Commission on 26th February, 2019, a panel set up to look after the issues concerning a Bill brought in for protection of parents of state government employees.
- The Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring (PRANAM) Bill, stated to be the first-of its-kind Bill in the country. The objective of the bill is to ensure that no state government employee ignores their elderly parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings.
- The PRANAM Bill makes it mandatory for the state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently-abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income.
- In case of any complaint 10 or 15 % of the employee's salary will be deducted by the government and paid to the parents or differently-abled siblings.
- The employees of private companies and the central government working in the state would also be covered by the bill at a later stage.



Links:

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/assam-himanta-biswa-sarma-sarbananda-sonowal-assam-employees-parents-responsibility-and-norms-for-accountability-and-monitoring-bill-pranam-bill/261590>

Tele-Law: Mobile Application & Dashboard and Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application

Question: Tele-Law: Mobile Application & Dashboard and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services) Mobile Application is launched by-

(a) Ministry of Law and Justice (b) Ministry of Labour & Employment

(c) Ministry of Home Affairs (d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer (a)

Related facts:

- On 19 February 2019, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Union Minister for Law and Justice and IT launched Tele-Law: Mobile Application and Dashboard & Nyaya Bandhu Mobile Application in New Delhi.
- Department of Justice (DoJ) has successfully endeavored to spearhead its two key programmes namely Tele –Law: Mainstreaming Legal Aid through Common Service Centers; and Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono Legal Services), through leveraging with different technology based channels to boost legal advice and aid in the country.
- The Tele Law Dashboard is an online platform to connect beneficiary with the panel lawyer through video conference, telephone and chat. The Tele Law: Mobile Application will facilitate pre-registration of case.
- Nyaya Bandhu (Pro Bono) Mobile Application will facilitate registration of a lawyer volunteering to provide pro bono legal services.
- To promote the expansion and penetration of Tele-Law online legal advice and consultation in the far flung and remote corners in the entire country, a mobile application has been developed for Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs).
- This mobile application will enable the PLVs to perform on field pre – registration of cases with a facility to seek appointment from the Panel lawyer on preferred date and time, in coordination with Village Level entrepreneur (VLE) at the CSC.
- This mobile application is integrated with a Dashboard created to confirm and register the pre-registered cases, to enable online interface between the beneficiary and the panel lawyer stationed at SLSAs through video conferencing and telephone facility available at



each CSC and to measure the progress of advice enabled to the beneficiary, to all its key stakeholders that include Department of Justice (DoJ), CSC- e Governance Services India Limited (CSC e-Gov), National Legal Service Authority (NALSA) in a decentralized manner.

- To increase opportunities and benefits under these programmes, DoJ in collaboration with DAVP is carrying out extensive outreach and publicity campaign.

Links:

<http://doj.gov.in/gallery/launch-tele-law-mobile-application-dashboard-and-nyaya-bandhupro-bono-legal-servicesmobile>

Year, Day & Week World Tuberculosis Day

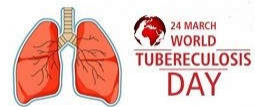
Question: What was the theme of World Tuberculosis Day 2019?

(a) It's Time (b) Eradicate TB (c) TB free World by 2030 (d) Light up the world for TB

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Tuberculosis Day is observed every year on 24th March. It is observed to commemorate the anniversary of Dr. Robert Koch's discovery of the Tuberculosis (TB) bacteria in 1882. The theme of World Tuberculosis Day this year is It's Time.
- India has committed to end TB by 2025. India shares the highest burden of TB in the world.
- Tuberculosis (TB) is a communicable disease caused by infection with Mycobacterium tuberculosis (Mtb). TB typically affects the lungs, but it can also affect other parts of the body, including the kidney, spine and brain.
- Tuberculosis is the leading infectious cause of death worldwide. As per WHO report in 2017, 10 million people became ill with TB, and 1.6 million people died of TB disease including 230,000 children.
- Heinrich Hermann Robert Koch was a German physician and microbiologist. For his research on tuberculosis, Koch received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1905. The Robert Koch Institute is named in his honor.



Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1569297>

NCRB 34th Inception Day

Question: National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) celebrated its 34th Inception Day on which date?

(a) March 11, 2019 (b) February 11, 2019 (c) March 22, 2019 (d) April 11, 2019

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On March 11 2019, National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) had celebrated its 34th Inception Day.
- Rajiv Gauba, Union Home Secretary was the Chief Guest and Rajiv Jain, Director; IB (Intelligence Bureau) was the Guest of Honour on this occasion.
- Prizes to the winners of NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) Sports & other events had been given along with Commendation Certificates to the various NCRB officers for their sincerity and dedication towards their work in the Bureau.



- Meritorious children of NCRB (National Crime Records Bureau) employees had also received prizes, during the occasion.
- A Cultural Program was organised on this occasion, where NCRB Staff & their family members and a dance program from “Nriya Manjari” had enlightened the Guests with their performances.

About National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB):

- NCRB was formed in 1986 mandated to empower the Indian Police with Information Technology and is responsible for collecting, maintaining and analyzing the crime data of the country.
- It facilitates Investigating Officers with updated IT tools and information in Investigation of Crimes.
- NCRB is the Nodal Agency for authentic source of data on crime, accidents, suicides, and prisons for policy matters and research.
- Bureau is also apex nodal agency for all Finger Print related matters including accreditation of Finger Print Experts in the country.
- Bureau is implementing & monitoring agency for implementation of Crime & Criminal Tracking Network System (CCTNS), a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan of Government of India.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1568463>

International Women’s Day 2019

Question: What was the theme of International Women’s Day 2019?

- (a) Think equal, build smart, innovate for change (b) Innovate for change
(c) Equality for Women (d) Equal employment to all

Answer: (a)

Related facts:



- On 8 March 2019, International Women’s Day was observed worldwide highlighting women role and rights in the global growth scenario.
- The theme for International Women’s Day 2019 is “Think equal, build smart, innovate for change”.
- The theme will focus on innovative ways in which we can advance gender equality and the empowerment of women, particularly in the areas of social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure.
- This year the theme for International Women’s Day campaign is #Balance for Better, which is described as a “call-to-action for driving gender balance across the world” and “More Powerful Together”.
- The themes stress upon the need for more men to get involved in the fight against gender equality and feminism.
- The first National Woman’s Day was acknowledged by the U.S. on February 28, 1909.
- In 1975, during International Women’s Year, the United Nations began celebrating International Women’s Day on 8 March.

- In 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. Goal 5 is “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.

Links:

<https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

Janaushadhi Diwas

Question: For giving impetus & creating awareness about use of generic medicines, Central Government has decided to celebrate Janaushadhi Diwas, across India on which of the following date?

(a) 7 March (b) 6 March (c) 11 March (d) 5 March

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- 7th March 2019 was observed as ‘Janaushadhi Diwas’ across India giving impetus & creating awareness about use of generic medicines.
- Information regarding initiative was notified by Mansukh Mandaviya Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers.
- The Government has taken important steps to make affordable and quality generic medicines popular among the people through Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP). The minister also added that the country would have at least 1 PMBJP Kendra by 2020.



Arena of the Program:

- Over 5050 Janaushadhi stores are functional across 652 districts in the country. Around 10-15 lakh people have benefited from generic medicines per day. Market share of generic medicines has grown from 2% to 7% in last 3 years.
- These medicines are cheaper by 50% to 90% of average market price.
- Four big warehouses in Delhi, Guwahati, Bengaluru and Chennai have been opened so as to ensure adequate availability of Janaushadhi medicines at all PMBJP Kendras.

Implementation of the Program:

- BPPI (Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India), under the administrative control of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers, Government of India is implementation agency for the PMBJP.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189210>

National Science Day 2019

Question: What is the theme of National Science Day 2019?

- (a) Science for the People and the People for Science
 (b) Science and technology for better future
 (c) Science and technology for sustainable development (d) Innovation in science in India

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- National Science Day is observed annually on 28th February across India to commemorate the discovery of 'Raman Effect' by Indian physicist CV Raman on this day in year 1928.
- The theme of National Science Day 2019 is '**Science for the People and People for Science**'.
- The motive behind the celebration of the Day is to spread a message about science and its importance in the daily life of the people.
- This year celebrations of the Day were organised by the Department of Science & Technology (DST). The first National Science Day was then celebrated on February 28th, 1987.
- For his path-breaking discovery, CV Raman was knighted in 1929 and awarded the Nobel Prize in 1930.
- This was the first Nobel Prize won by an Indian or any Asian in the field of Science.



Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/national-science-day-2019-india-celebrate-raman-effect-on-february-28/articleshow/68195498.cms>

National Deworming day

Question: National Deworming day is celebrated on-

(a) 9 February (b) 10 February (c) 11 February (d) 12 February

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) conducted its eighth round of National Deworming Day (NDD). NDD is observed bi-annually on 10th February and 10th August in all States and UTs followed by mop-up activities.



National Deworming day:

- India's first National Deworming Day took place on the 10th of February, 2015, to treat intestinal worm infections in all children aged 1-19.
- It will mobilizes health personnel, state governments and other stakeholders to prioritize investment in control of soil transmitted helminthes (STH) infections, one of the most common infections.
- All the children are provided deworming tablet in school and anganwadis.
- Besides the deworming tablet, various health promotion activities related to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) are organised in schools and anganwadis.
- India accounts for over one quarter of the world's infected children through soil-transmitted helminth infection.
- The NDD program is a cost effective program at scale that continues to reach of crores of children and adolescents with deworming through a safe medicine Albendazole.

Links:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1563589>

Books

Book A Social Revolution on Radio

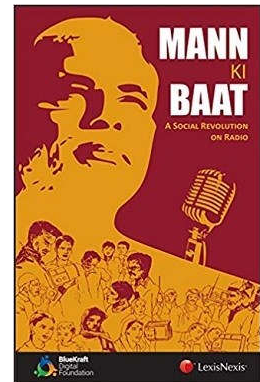
Question: Which of the following statement is not true?

- (a) Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Shri Arun Jaitley released a book titled 'Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio'
- (b) The book is based on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's heart to heart talk with the citizens of India on Doordarshan
- (c) It is based on total of 50 episodes of Maan Ki Baat
- (d) Mann Ki Baat on radio was aired first on 3rd October, 2016

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 2 March, 2019; Union Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs Arun Jaitley released a book titled Mann Ki Baat – A Social Revolution on Radio in a function organized in National Media Centre, New Delhi.
- The book is based on 50 episodes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's heart to heart talk with the citizens of India broadcast on All India Radio.
- The book sheds light on various aspects of Prime Minister's outreach through the Mann Ki Baat programme on radio and remarkable response it continuously received from the people.
- It should be noted that Mann Ki Baat on radio had aired first on 3rd October, 2014.



Link:

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1567138>

Coffee Table Book: “Cruising New Heights – Flying For All”

Question: Coffee Table Book – “Cruising New Heights – Flying For All” released recently, depicts-

- (a) Achievements in Conservation of Siberian Cranes
- (b) Achievements in Conservation of Wild Parrot
- (c) Achievements of Ministry of Civil Aviation
- (d) Achievements of Indian Air Force

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- On 7th March 2019, Suresh Prabhu released a Coffee Table Book – “Cruising New Heights – Flying For All” on achievements of Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- Other significant personalities such as Pradeep Singh Kharola, Secretary, MoCA, senior officials of the Ministry, Shri BS Bhullar, DG, DGCA and Heads of Organisations under the Ministry also graced the occasion.
- The book will serve as a reference material which brings out challenges, reforms agenda, performance and highlights and future roadmap clearly setting short term and long term goals.



- The book brings out various innovative policy initiatives and global events undertaken by the Ministry of Civil Aviation in order to develop aviation in the country.

Link:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=189307>

Book Law Justice and Judicial Power: Justice P N Bhagwati's approach

Question: Who is the author of the book Law Justice and Judicial power?

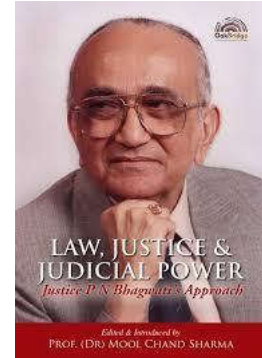
(a) Justice Ranjan Gogoi (b) Pro. Mool Chand Sharma (c) Justice P N Bhagwati

(d) Justice D Y Chandrachud

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 8th February, 2019, President Ram Nath Kovind has received the first copy of the book titled Law, Justice and Judicial Power-Justice P. N. Bhagwati's Approach from Chief Justice of India, Shri Justice Ranjan Gogoi.
- The book is written by Mool Chand Sharma.
- This book is a collection of essays on the life and work and approach to justice – of the Late Justice P.N. Bhagwati.
- He is called the father of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in India. The concept of the PIL began as an instrument for the poor and those who could not afford the expense of a lengthy litigation process.
- In his 26 years on the bench – 13 in the Gujarat High Court and 13 in the Supreme Court, culminating in his term as the Chief Justice of India – he made profound contributions. These contributions helped in building a more responsive judicial system and building a better, fairer India.
- The PIL tradition is an Indian contribution to the practice of law and the process of justice delivery. This has been admired by other democracies and other legal systems as well.



Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188277>

Miscellaneous

ABU International Dance Festival 2019

Question: In which of the following city Second Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) International Dance Festival held recently?

(a) Mumbai (b) Paris (c) New Delhi (d) Los Angeles

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Second Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) International Dance Festival was organized from 7 -9 March 2019 in New Delhi.
- ABU aims to introduce the unique diversities of the Asia Pacific region through dance as an international language.
- It held in association with Prasar Bharati represented by All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- 120 dancers from 11 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Fiji, Maldives, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and India) presented 20 dance items/forms in the festival.



- It should be noted that the Asia Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) is a non-profit, non-government professional associations of broadcasters in the Asia Pacific region.
- It currently has 272 members in 76 countries and regions and has a reach of about 3 billion people across the world.

Link:

<http://www.uniindia.com/second-abu-international-dance-festival-starts-in-delhi/india/news/1522846.html>

India grounds Boeing 737 MAX 8 planes

Question: Which aircraft did India ban after the Ethiopian airlines crash?

(a) Boeing 737 MAX 8 (b) Raffle (c) F-16 (d) Mig-21

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India has closed its **airspace** to the **Boeing 737 MAX 8** aircraft and has grounded the planes.
- **Spice Jet** is the only **Indian airline** that operates **12 Boeing 737 MAX 8** aircraft.
- **Boeing 737 Max 8** aircraft in light of the **Ethiopian Airlines crash**, in which **157** people were killed.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-bans-boeing-737-max-8-planes-after-ethiopian-airlines-crash/article26515350.ece>

Envoys of Six Nations presents credentials to President of India

Question: The term ‘High Commissioner’” refers to an Ambassador in a-

(a) Commonwealth country (b) Developing country (c) Developed country (d) G-20 countries

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 13 March 2019; ambassadors of **six nation viz. Chile, Bulgaria, the Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal and Montenegro** and the **High Commissioner of Seychelles (Common Wealth Nation)** presented their credentials to the President of India at a ceremony held at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.



Difference between Ambassador and High Commissioner:

- Ambassadors and High Commissioners are both diplomats, who are responsible for representing their home country in a foreign country.
- The term ‘High Commissioner’” refers to an Ambassador in a Commonwealth country.
- As we know that Commonwealth countries are those countries which were under the British rules for years in past.
- If a Commonwealth country such as India seeks to establish an office for diplomacy sake, such as an embassy in another Commonwealth country, such as China, they the embassy would be referred to High Commission and the Ambassador would be known as High Commissioner.
- However, if India is seeking to establish diplomacy relations with the United States (not a Commonwealth Country), then the terms Embassy and Ambassador would be used.

Links:

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

Cyclone Idai

Question: Cyclone Idai has affected around 3 million peoples in which of the following continent?

(a) Oceania (b) Australia (c) Africa (d) South America

Answer :(c)

Related facts:



- On 14 March 2019, Tropical Cyclone **Idai hits Mozambique** followed by landfall near the port city of Beira.
- Afterwards, the vicious cyclone hits Malawi and Zimbabwe causing devastating floods, killing and injuring thousands of people and ruining crops in the prone region.
- On 19th March, **Mozambique's President, Filipe Nyusi**, announced three days of national mourning and later declared a **National Emergency**.
- As per updates about **3 million peoples** are adversely impacted by the devastating cyclone in South African countries disheveling the life and property.

Links:

<https://edition.cnn.com/2019/03/19/africa/cyclone-idai-mozambique-zimbabwe-intl/index.html>

Cyclone Trevor

Question: Which country was hit by cyclone Trevor recently?

(a) Zimbabwe (b) Peru (c) Australia (d) Indonesia

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Australia's northern coast was hit by Cyclone Trevor which made landfall on March 23, 2019.
- Cyclone Trevor caused torrential rain and winds of up to 250 km/h. It is a category four cyclone.
- Another cyclone named Veronica also hit the northwest coast of Australia with the speed of about 95km (60 miles) on March 25, 2019.
- Heavy rain and large waves of Cyclone Veronica threatened to cause widespread flooding in Western Australia.



Links:

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-australia-47688551>

Bureau of Energy Efficiency Star Rating

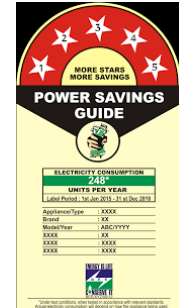
Question: Recently, which two appliances have been included in Bureau of Energy Efficiency rating?

**(a) Washing Machines and Microwave (b) Washing Machines and Cooler
(c) Fan and Cooler (d) Air washing machines and Cooler**

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On March 8, 2019, Ministry of Power has announced that two more electrical appliances microwave ovens and washing machines to be assigned star ratings based on their energy efficiency metrics.
- The programme of star rating of Microwave Ovens and Washing Machines will be implemented on a voluntary basis and will be valid up to December 31, 2020.
- Star Ratings are provided to all kind of major appliances in the form of labels.
- These star ratings are given out of 5 and they provide a basic sense of how energy efficient each product is, just in a single glance.
- The manufacturers are officially required to put these labels as per the Standards and Labelling Program introduced in 2006.
- Appliances which need to have an energy rating label mandatorily Frost-free refrigerator, Tubular Fluorescent Lamps, Room Air-Conditioners, Distribution Transformer, Colour TV, CST AC, Direct Cool Refrigerator and Electric Geyser.
- The appliances with the lowest energy consumption in a product category are given the most stars and those with the highest energy consumption are given the least.



Facts about Bureau of Energy Efficiency & its Objectives:

- Bureau of Energy Efficiency is a statutory body set up under the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.
- The Bureau of Energy Efficiency assists the government in forming policies and strategies with a thrust on self-regulation and market principles with the primary objective of minimizing the energy intensity of the Indian economy within the overall structure of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/microwave-ovens-washing-machines-to-have-energy-efficiency-rankings/article26475202.ece>

Google unveiled it's new App 'Bolo'

Question: On 6th March 2019, Google unveiled it's new App Bolo that aims to help-
(a) Banks (b) Research Students (c) Secondary Students (d) Primary School Children

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- On 6th March 2019, tech giant Google unveiled its's new App Bolo, which aims to help primary school children to learn and read in Hindi and English.
- This App uses Google's speech recognition and text- to speech technology.
- The App features an animated character Diya, who assists children to read stories aloud.



- This App will be available on Google Play Store in India for all smart phones running Android 4.4 (Kit Kat) or other higher version.
- App Bolo is being piloted in about 200 villages in Uttar Pradesh.

Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/google-launches-bolo-to-tutor-children-to-read-hindi-english/article26444808.ece>

Infosys today announced the launch of InfyTQ

Question: Infosys announced the launch of InfyTQ which is related to?

- (a) Digital platform for employee (b) Digital platform for engineering students in India
(c) Digital platform for entrepreneur (d) None of the above

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Infosys announced the launch of InfyTQ, a next-generation digital platform which will offer best learning and engagement experiences for engineering students in India.
- InfyTQ is a free platform open to all engineering students in their third and fourth year across India. InfyTQ will be available on both mobile and desktop and is equipped with a plethora of content, courses, and news to establish talent readiness at an industry level through online assessments and certification.
- With InfyTQ, students will benefit from the always-on, anytime, anywhere learning, catered through a continuous transfer of digital skills and expertise from the Infosys innovation ecosystem.
- The learning courses will be centered on conceptual and practical aspects of technology to ensure a thorough understanding of the fundamental building blocks.
- The platform will evolve and offer advanced learning materials and enable virtual programming environments for certain sets of students to further hone their technical skills. In addition, the platform also offers courses on professional skills.



Link:

<https://www.infosys.com/newsroom/features/Pages/launches-infyfq-learning-app-students.aspx>

IRCTC iPay

Question: Which App is launched by Indian Railways recently for ease of payment in booking?

- (a) IRCTC iPay (b) IRCTC Pay (c) Railpay (d) ePay

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- With the launch of IRCTC iPay App on 28th February, 2019, IRCTC will have full control of the payment system because of its direct relationship with acquiring banks, card networks and other partners.
- This exclusive digital payment gateway will provide an improved online digital payment convenience and ease of doing business to passengers availing online travel related services through the IRCTC website.
- IRCTC iPay will provide payment options like credit card, debit card, UPI — Unified Payment Interface, International Card. The option of IRCTC's prepaid card cum wallet, auto debit will be available shortly.



- In case an online transaction is unsuccessful or some other error occurs, IRCTC can directly get in touch with the bank instead of relying on an intermediate source which usually delays the process.

Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/irctc-launches-payment-aggregator-irctc-ipay/article26396510.ece>