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# NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

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**STATUE OF**  
**UNITY**

एक भारत, श्रेष्ठ भारत.

## 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 October to 31st October) will benefit our beloved readers.

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

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# National

## STATUE OF UNITY

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

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

**Answer :(c)**

**Related facts:**

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

**Features of ‘Statue of Unity’:**

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



**Prominent tallest statues of the world:**

- Statue of Unity (182m) Narmada, Gujarat, India
- Spring Temple Buddha (153m) Lushan, Henan province, China
- Ushiku Daibutsu (120m) Japan
- Statue of Liberty (93m) Liberty Island, New York
- The Motherland Calls(85m),Russia
- Christ The Redeemer (38 m) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

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

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

**Links:**

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

## National Register of Citizens (NRC)

**Question- National Register of Citizens was first prepared in which state of India?**  
(a) Assam (b) Manipur (c) Punjab (d) Rajasthan

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts-**

- The Supreme Court (a bench comprising **Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice R F Nariman**) ordered the continuation of filing of claims and objections by people (around 40 lakh) who were left out in the draft **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** of Assam.



**Background –**

- The **first draft** National Register of Citizens list was published on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and had names of 1.9 crore people out of the 3.29 crore total applicants in Assam recognizing them as legal citizens of India.
- The **second and final draft** of Assam's National Register of Citizens was published on 30 July 2018, in this list 2,89,83,677 out of 3,29,91,385 applicants was recognized as legal citizens of India. And remaining **40, 07,708** people did not appear in the NRC draft.

**About NRC-**

- National Register of Citizens (NRC) is a register containing names of all genuine Indian citizens residing in Assam. It was first prepared after the 1951 Census of India.
- The NRC is now being updated in Assam to include the names of those persons or their descendants who appear in the NRC, 1951, or in any of the Electoral Rolls up to the midnight of 24 March 1971 or in any one of the other admissible documents issued up to mid-night of 24 March 1971, which would prove their presence in Assam or in any part of India on or before 24 March 1971.
- The purpose of NRC is to identify illegal migrants in Assam, who entered the Indian territories after the midnight of 24 March 1971. And also to determine the citizenship of the applicants who have applied for inclusion of their names in the updated NRC.

**History of NRC-**

- In the 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century, migration happened in colonial Assam from various provinces of British India particularly after **Yandabo Treaty** (signed on 24 February 1826).
- Due to the liberal attitude of the colonial authorities resulted in the migration of peasants from Bengal to Assam in search of fertile lands.
- Considering the continuous influx of illegal migrants, the Government of India formulated the **Immigrants (Expulsion from Assam) Act, 1950**. This Act came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> March 1950 mandated for the expulsion of illegal immigrants from the state of Assam.
- For the identification of illegal immigrants, **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** was prepared for the first time in Assam.
- It was carried out under a directive of the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Guidelines and funds for NRC updates are provided by the Central Government of India, but its implementation is done through the State Government machinery under the Registrar General of India.
- It was first updated in 1951 but since then it has been not updated due to various political tensions such as Assam Movement of the 1980s, language movement and other ethnic movements.

- But now it is being updated in time bound manner after Supreme Court judgment (2014) to include **Assam Accord of 1985** to deal with the issue of illegal immigration from Bangladesh.

#### References-

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National\\_Register\\_of\\_Citizens\\_of\\_India](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Register_of_Citizens_of_India)

## ‘Ease of Living Index ’2018 under AMRUT

**Question- Which state has topped the list of ‘Ease of Living Index ’2018 under AMRUT ?**  
**(a)Andhra Pradesh. (b)odisha (c)Karnataka (d)Tamil Nadu.**

**Answer-(a)**

**Related facts-**



- **Andhra Pradesh** has topped the chart among States in terms of “Ease of Living Index” rankings launched by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- Second and Third rank in the list are **Odisha** and **Madhya Pradesh**
- These three States were awarded the three best performing States under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) at the National Dissemination Workshop on Ease of Living Index, 2018.
- The ‘Ease of Living’ Index will encourage all the cities to move towards an outcome based approach to urban planning & management and promote healthy competition among the cities.

#### About AMRUT–

- The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June 2015 with the focus to establish infrastructure that could ensure adequate robust sewage networks and water supply for urban transformation by implementing urban revival projects.
- About ₹1 lakh crore investment on urban development under Smart Cities Mission and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation of 500 cities has already been approved by the government.<sup>[</sup>

#### References-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183647>

## Swayangsiddha initiative

**Question. Which of the following states is associated with ‘swayangsiddha initiative’?**

**(a)Madhya Pradesh (b)Andhra Pradesh (c)West Bengal (d)Karnatka**

**Anwer-(c) West Bengal**

**Related facts-**



- Swayangsiddha means self-reliance. This initiative is launched by West Bengal Police to combat the menace of child trafficking and child marriage which is very much prevalent in West Bengal.
- Swayangsiddha means self-reliance. It envisions empowering young girls and boys with knowledge and skills so that they are aware, alert, able to make informed choices and are

less vulnerable to violation and abuse of their rights. It aims to combat human trafficking and prevent child marriage.

- Swayangsidha Groups have been formed in schools and colleges with interested students in the age group of 12 to 21 years. This group consists of 69% girls and 31% boys. 200 Teachers of different have chosen as mentors of this group.
- Child Protection Committee is monitoring and guiding these groups.
- This Group submits its report and shares their activities once in every two months with the help of nominated teachers.
- It is an initiative of West Bengal Police.

Links-

<http://www.swayangsidha.org/about-us/>

## UNICEF REPORT ON INFANT AND CHILD MORTALITY RATE

**Question. Which of the following statements are NOT correct regarding infant and child mortality rate?**

**(A) Under 5 mortality rate (U5MR) is 43. (B) 8.02 lacs infants died in the year 2017. (C) Infant mortality rate (IMR) is 35. (D) 7 states are likely to achieve MDG-4 GOAL.**

**Answer. D**

**Related facts-**

- There has been a consistent decline in Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Under-Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) in India.
- Six states of India though are likely to achieve the IMR and U5 MR target of MDG-4: Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the South, Maharashtra in the West, West Bengal in the East, and Punjab and Himachal Pradesh in the North.
- Currently, India has an infant mortality rate (IMR) is 35 and under 5 child mortality (U5MR) rate is 43. For India MDG-4 goal of IMR and U5MR is 39 and 26 respectively, which we to achieve it till 2030.
- About 8, 02,000 infant deaths were reported in India in 2017.



Links-

<https://data.unicef.org/country/ind/>

## Bellanddur Lake

**Question. In which of the following states Bellanddur Lake is located?**

**(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Karnataka (C) Kerala (D) Tamilnadu**

**Answer. B**

**Related facts-**

- Bellanddur Lake is infamous for its pollution located in the IT capital of the country, Bengaluru (Karnataka).
- In recent days it was flooded with froth and foam of about 10 feet height across the 900-acre lake and was spreading on the neighboring streets and localities.
- The toxic froth in Bellanddur and the other lakes of Bengaluru has persisted for at least two decades and has become a regular phenomenon of sorts whenever it rains heavily. Three other lakes – Yemalur, Varthur, and Byramangala lake – also saw heavy frothing recently.



- Chemicals and pollutants had the lakes frothing for decades but made international headlines when the lakes started breathing fire and smoke too in the recent years.

#### Links-

<https://www.ndtv.com/bangalore-news/rain-leaves-bengalurus-bellandur-lake-with-10-feet-high-snowy-froth-1921821>

## World Alzheimer's day

**Question: World Alzheimer's day is observed on-**

**(a) 21 September (b) 23 September (c) 24 September (d) 22 September**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Alzheimer's Day is observed on 21 September every year in order of raising awareness of the impact of Alzheimer's disease and dementia throughout the world.
- This day is the focus of World Alzheimer's Month, held annually every September since its inception in 2012.
- The theme for 2018 is "Every 3 Second".
- According to the report about 47 million people live with Alzheimer's
- Alzheimer's is a progressive and chronic neurodegenerative disease that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior. Symptoms usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily tasks.



**Reference:**

<https://www.alzinfo.org/articles/world-alzheimers-day/>

## Village Rockstars

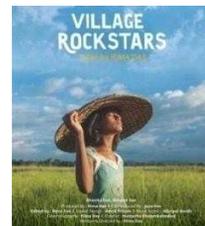
**Question. Who among the following is the director of the film 'Village Rockstars' India's official entry to Oscar for 2019?**

**(a) Nandita Das (b) Rima das (c) Satyajit Ray (d) Mira Nair**

**Answer. B**

**Related facts-**

- Film '**Village Rockstars**' is an **Assamese language** film released in 2017. It was edited, written, co-produced and directed by **Rima das**.
- This film was premiered in Toronto film festival in 2017. It has won the best feature film award at 64<sup>th</sup> National Film Award.
- The coming-of-age film had bagged the Best Feature Film trophy at the 65th National Film Awards, besides also winning Best Child Artist, Best Location Sound Recordist and Best Editing. It has won 'Swarna Kamal' award.
- Film Federation of India (FFI) has been chosen this film for India's official entry to 91 Academy Awards (Oscars). Hindi film Newton by director Amit Masurkar and starring Rajkumar Rao was India's official submission to the Oscars last year.



**Reference:**

<http://ptinews.com/news/10058529 -Village-Rockstars-is-India-s-official-entry-to-Oscars-2019.html>

## Special kit to aid rape case probe

**Question.** What is the name of the device which will be used as a Special kit to aid rape case probe?

(A)SAFE (B)SAECK (C)RCPD (D)TUNE

**Answer. B**

**Related facts-**

- Union home ministry has announced a Special kit to aid rape case probe in each police station of the country. The cost of the project will be shared between the center (Nirbhaya fund) and states in 60:40 ratios.
- The Sexual Assault Evidence Collection Kits (SAECK) or 'rape investigation kits' are designed to carry out an immediate medico-legal investigation.
- The home ministry initially will procure 3960 devices at a cost 79.20 lacs. 100 such kits will be given to each state and UTs.
- The police station will soon have special kits to collect blood and semen samples, besides other evidence, to carry out an immediate investigation into sexual assault cases, officials said on Sunday.



**References-**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/special-kits-to-aid-rape-case-probe/article25022084.ece>

## 4th India International Science Congress (IISF)

**Question-** In which of the following place the 4<sup>th</sup> "India International Science Festival" will be held?

(A)Varanasi (B)Lucknow (C)Kanpur (D)Delhi

**Answer. B**

**Related facts-**

- Resident Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the fourth "India International Science Congress" on 6th October in Lucknow. This 4-day event will be organized by Ministry of science tech, Earth sciences and Vijnana Bharti (VIBHA).
- Minister of Science and tech Harsh Vardhan has said that this year's "India International Science Festival" will be dedicated to Former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and will work for the theme "Vigyan se Vikas".
- Vajpayee is known for his slogan of "Jai Vigyan" in addition to Former PM Lalbahadur Shastri's "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan". The first and second IISF were held in New Delhi and the third in Chennai.
- IISF-4 will be attended by 10,000 delegates, including a scientist from India and abroad, startups and students mainly from the northeast
- IISF-2018 with its focal theme "Science for Transformation" will have 23 special events. The Global Indian Science & Technology Stakeholders Meet (GIST), Science & Technology for Harnessing Innovations (SATHI) – A National startup entrepreneurship summit and Student Science Village are some of the important events, being organized.
- The Science Village program is linked with the Pradhan Mantri Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana to reach out to the rural masses and propagate science and for seeking scientific solutions to the diverse challenges facing our society, particularly rural India.
- As **World record attempts** have been a key part of IISF since 2015, in IISF 2018, a World Record attempt will be made to "isolate DNA" by 500 students from class 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>



## Links-

<https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/president-kovind-to-inaugurate-india-international-science-festival-on-6-october-5255681.html>

## The 100th airport of India in Pakyong

**Question. In which of the following state India's 100<sup>th</sup> airport is located?**

(A) Manipur (B) Arunachal Pradesh (C) Nagaland (D) Sikkim

Answer. D

Related facts-

- Sikkim gets its first airport and India gets its **100<sup>th</sup> airport** as PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the **Sakyong airport in Sikkim**.
- This Greenfield airport is located 30 km away from the capital, Gangtok. Flight service will be starting from the first week of October and flights will run between Sikkim, Guwahati, and
- Under **UDAN (Ude desh ka aam nagrik)** scheme flights will run from Kolkata to Pakyang. Bagdogra airport in Siliguri (WB) was the airport which was managing the passengers earlier.
- The airport is spread over 201 acres and is located on top of a hill about 2 km above Pakyong village at 4,500 feet above sea level.



## References-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/what-you-need-to-know-about-pakyong-airport-in-sikkim-indias-100th-airport/article25026303.ece>

## Aircraft Carrier Viraat

**Question. Which of the following states is NOT interested in preserving aircraft carrier Viraat?**

(A) Andhra Pradesh (B) Maharashtra (C) Tamil Nadu (D) Goa

Answer. C

Related facts-

- Maharashtra, Goa and Andhra Pradesh have shown willingness to preserve decommissioned aircraft carrier Viraat. After the ceremony of affiliation with INS Kochi and Jammu and Kashmir light infantry regiment (JAKLI), Maharashtra government officials inspected the ship and sent a report to center. The event had marked the end of an era of Viraat being the flagship of the Indian Navy. The Centaur-class carrier spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and 27 years in the Royal Navy.
- NS Kochi is the second ship of the indigenously designed and constructed Kolkata Class guided missile stealth destroyers built by the Mazagon Dock Ltd at Mumbai.
- JAKLI was affiliated to INS Ganga, a Godavari-class guided-missile frigate which was decommissioned in March.
- The ship has completed its first term from 1959 to 1984 as HMS- Hermes and served the Indian Navy from 1987 till March



## References-

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/maharashtra-go-andhra-pradesh-want-to-preserve-aircraft-carrier-viraat-navy-official-1921294>

## BHI Rich List-2018

**Question: Who has Topped the BHI Rich List?**

**(a)Mukesh Ambani (b)Jeff Bezos (c)Warren Buffet (d)Bill Gates**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Reliance Industries Ltd Chairman Mukesh Ambani has topped the "Barclays Hurun India Rich List 2018" (BHI Rich List) for the seventh consecutive year, with his wealth estimated at Rs 371,000 crore.
- A second and third spot in the list is followed by SP Hinduja & Family of the Hinduja Group, with an estimated wealth of Rs 159,000 crore and Arcelor Mittal's LN Mittal & Family with an estimated wealth of Rs 114,500 crore.
- With 233 names, the country's commercial capital Mumbai tops the list. Delhi came second (with 163 names) and Bengaluru third (with 70 names).



**Relevant Figures:**

- The 2018 list comprises 831 richies while it marked a count of 617 in 2017.
- The cumulative wealth of these 831 individuals in the list amounts to USD 719 billion, about one-quarter of the Indian GDP of USD 2,848 billion, as per the IMF's April 2018 estimates.
- The annual list is a compilation of the super-richest Indians having a net worth of Rs 1,000 crore or more.

**Reference:**

<http://zeenews.india.com/companies/richest-indians-2018-list-mukesh-ambani-tops-bhi-rich-list-for-7th-time-in-a-row-2143548.html>

## BSNL signs deal with Softbank, NTT to rollout 5G and IoT

**Question. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding 5G and Internet of things (IoT)?**

**(A)Peak data rate for 5G is 10 Gbps. (B)Internet of things is the network of physical devices. (C)5G will succeed the 4G LTE. (D)BSNL is planning to send 900 satellites for this purpose.**

**Answer. A**

**RELATED FACTS-**

- BSNL is collaborating with Softbank and NTT Communications for its 900 satellite constellation which will provide 5G and IoT services. BSNL has signed an agreement with NOKIA and CISCO for developing a 5G ecosystem.
- The Internet of things (IoT) is the network of physical devices, vehicles, home appliances, and other items embedded with electronics, software, sensors, and connectivity which enables these things to connect, collect and exchange data, creating opportunities for more direct integration of the physical world into computer-based systems, resulting in efficiency improvements, economic benefits, and reduced human exertions.
- 5G is the 5<sup>th</sup> generation of cellular mobile communication which has succeeded the 4G (LTE/WiMAX).it has peak data rate of 20 Gbps and user experienced data rate is 1Gbps.



- 3G was launched in India after 7 years the technology was available in other countries, 4G came after the time lag of 4 years but 5g is coming in India with the approval of international telecommunication union (ITU).

#### References-

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/telecom-news/bsnl-inks-deal-with-softbank-ntt-to-roll-out-5g-iot-service/articleshow/65919907.cms>

### Manipur gets first children –friendly police station

**Question- Children friendly police station of Manipur was inaugurated by-**  
**(A)Sumatibala Ningthoujam. (B)Ranjan Gogoi. (C)Prashant Singh. (D)Amar Mani.**

**Answer- (a)**

#### Related facts-

- In order to make police stations more children – friendly, the churachandpur district police inaugurated Manipur’s first such office inside the district women police station.
- The office was inaugurated by Sumatibala Ningthoujam , who is a chairperson of Manipur Commission for protection of Child Rights (MCPCR).<sup>3</sup>
- Children-friendly police stations have been long overdue in the state since it has a high rate of human trafficking.
- Manipur recorded second highest number of trafficked victims after Mumbai. Of the total 179 girls rescued by Goa police between 2009-2011, 31 were from Manipur.
- Data compiled by Manipur Alliance for Child Rights between 2008-2012, mentioned that 379 children including girls and human trafficking victims were rescued from different states of India.



### Karnataka to oppose Centre’s notification declaring Western Ghats as eco-sensitive

**Question- Which of the following is/are true about Ecological Sensitive Areas (ESA)-**  
**(A)Areas around the Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks and Protected Areas as requiring more protection due to their sensitiveness.**  
**(B)It has been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.**  
**(C)Both a & b.**  
**(D)None of the above.**

**Answer-(c)**

#### Related facts-

- The centre will soon issue a fresh draft notification declaring Western Ghats as an eco-sensitive area (ESA).
- Since Karnataka is not in favour of draft notification hence it is ready to reject the notification as “it will adversely affect the state’s economy.
- The first notification in 2014 had made 56,825 sq km of the Western Ghats (in six states including Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu) eco-sensitive.
- Ecological Sensitive Areas (ESA) are areas around the Wildlife Sanctuaries, National Parks and Protected Areas as more protection is required due to their sensitiveness



- An ESA could go The States around the Western Ghats have also objected to the earlier notification have claimed that it would affect their economic development due to the prohibition in activities like mining and setting up industries in that region.

#### About ESA-

- up to 10 kilometers around a protected area as provided in the Wildlife Conservation Strategy, 2002.
- These areas have been notified by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change.

#### References–

<https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/karnataka-oppose-centres-notification-declaring-western-ghats-eco-sensitive-88822>

## Union Cabinet gives approval for Budhni-Indore electrified rail line

**Question: Recently, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of a new railway line between Budhni and Indore. What is the length of this new train line (estimated)?**

**(a) 180.25 km (b) 201.8 km (c) 205.5 km (d) 208.2 km**

**Answer- (c)**

#### Related facts-

- On 19th September, 2018, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the construction of a new railway line between Budhni and Indore .
- The length of this train line is 205.5 km (Estimated).
- Total projected cost amount of this project is Rs. 3261.82 crores.
- The main objective of the project is development of the backward areas.
- This rail project will reduce travelling time from Indore to Jabalpur, Mumbai and towards Southern India.
- The distance between Indore and Jabalpur will come down by 68 k.m. in comparison to the existing route via Bhopal.
- It is proposed to construct 10 new Crossing stations and 7 new Halt stations under the proposed railway line.
- This project will establish rail connectivity with various towns and villages like Nasrullaganj, Khategoan and Kannod, where there is no rail connectivity yet.



#### Reference-

<https://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20180919N25&LocID=1&PDt=9/19/2018>

## PM inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Museum

**Question-Recently ,PM Narendra Modi inaugurates Mahatma Gandhi Museum at which place?**

**(a)Rajkot (b)Delhi (c)Mumbai (d)Lucknow**

**Answer-(a)**

#### Related facts-

- On 30 sept,2018, Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated



the Mahatma Gandhi Museum in Rajkot.

- It has been set up at the Alfred High School, which was an important part of the formative years of Mahatma Gandhi.
- It will help in spreading awareness about Gandhian culture, values and philosophy.

#### Reference-

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1548009>

## 2nd World Conference on access to Medical Products

**Question. Which of the following agencies have collaborated to organize 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on access to medical products?**

**(a)WHO and MoHFW (b)UNDP and MoHFW (c)Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Greenpeace Foundation (d)Greenpeace Foundation and UNDP**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- To enable a holistic view on access to medical products, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India with the support of World Health Organization, organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> World Conference on access to medical products with the tagline of '2nd World Conference on Access to Medical Products: Achieving the SDGs 2030' at New Delhi.
- The main objective of the **2nd World Conference 2018** is to take forward the recommendations drawn from the 1st World Conference held in 2017 and build on the work done for access to medical products in the context of SDGs (including trade agreements) in line with GPW 13(13th Global Programme of Work) of WHO, foster new approaches in innovation landscape for medical products and health technologies for accelerating research and innovation and identify knowledge, information and policy options on the interface of international trade and health to achieve **SDG 2030 goals**.
- At the function Sri J.P. Nadda, Minister of Health and Family Welfare released the Position Paper and launched the information sharing platform gateway for **South-East Asia Regulatory Network (SEARN)** developed by Centre for Development of advanced Computing, which will promote regulatory and health collaboration among the countries of South-East Asia Region.
- In the Conference the importance of traditional medical system was discussed in achieving the health goals by strengthening R&D and upholding education standards in the Indian Systems of Medicines, promoting the cultivation of medicinal plants used, and working on Pharmacopoeia .
- **Dr TedrosAdhanomGhebreyesus**, Director General, World Health Organization through his video address stated that the three interconnected strategic priorities are **Healthy Lives, Universal Health Coverage and Health Emergencies**. He also reiterated that reliable access to effective, safe, quality-assured and affordable medical products are keys to making progress towards **Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and the SDGs**.



#### Links-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184048>

## 4th India International Science Festival

**Question: Which of the following city hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> India International Science Festival?**  
(a)New Delhi (b)Lucknow (c)Bengaluru (d)Hyderabad

**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:**



- On October 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the 4<sup>th</sup>India International Science Festival in Lucknow.
- Speaking on the occasion, the President proclaimed that science has always been a part of Indian culture. Our ancestors uncovered the secrets of mathematics and the concept of zero. They had applied science in medicine and metallurgy.
- President pointed that from the Green Revolution to our space programme to the creation of a thriving biotech and pharmaceutical industry, science has driven our post -1947 modernisation.
- He further said that in the first quarter of the 21<sup>st</sup>century known by the age of **robotics and precision manufacture**, of **bioinformatics and gene editing**, in the period of **Fourth Industrial Revolution and Artificial Intelligence**, it is time for a quantum jump.
- Addressing the occasion President figured that in 2017, **patent applications by Indian start-ups rose to 909**. It was a 15-fold increase from the number in 2016 which was just **61**.
- In 2018, India's R&D investments will amount to an appreciable US\$ 83.27 billion. The government has announced **the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship Scheme**. It will promote development through innovation and has a budget of **Rs 1,650 crore for seven years initiating from 2018-19**.
- The President also pointed to the low participation of women in higher science. He noted that of the 3,446 scientists working at the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, only 632 – or 18.3 per cent – are women.

**Links:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184010>

## Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Mechanism for Issuing Regulations) Regulations, 2018

**Question: Which is not true in relation to the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Mechanism for Issuing Regulations) Regulations, 2018?**

- (a) The Issuing Regulations are effective from 22nd November, 2019.
- (b) The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) is a modern economic legislation.
- (c) The Issuing Regulations provide that for the purpose of making or amending any regulations.
- (d) Section 196(1)(s) of the Code requires the IBBI to specify mechanisms for issuing regulations, including the conduct of public consultation processes, before notification of regulations.

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- IBBI notifies the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Mechanism for Issuing Regulations) Regulations, 2018.
- The Issuing Regulations are effective from 22nd October, 2018.

- The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code) is a modern economic legislation.
- Section 196(1)(s) of the Code requires the IBBI to specify mechanisms for issuing regulations, including the conduct of public consultation processes, before notification of regulations.
- Section 240 of the Code empowers the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) to make regulations subject to the conditions that the regulations:
  - (a) carry out the provisions of the Code,
  - (b) are consistent with the Code and the rules made thereunder;
  - (c) are made by a notification published in the official gazette; and
  - (d) are laid, as soon as possible, before each House of Parliament for 30 days.
- The Issuing Regulations provide that for the purpose of making or amending any regulations, the IBBI shall upload the following, with the approval of the Governing Board, on its website seeking comments from the public-
  1. draft of proposed regulations;
  2. the specific provision of the Code under which the Board proposes regulations;
  3. a statement of the problem that the proposed regulation seeks to address;
  4. an economic analysis of the proposed regulations;
  5. a statement carrying norms advocated by international standard setting agencies and the international best practices, if any, relevant to the proposed regulation;
  6. the manner of implementation of the proposed regulations; and
  7. the manner, process and timelines for receiving comments from the public.

भारतीय दिवाला और शोधन अक्षमता बोर्ड  
Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

**Reference:**

<https://ibbi.gov.in/webadmin/pdf/press/2018/Oct/Press%20release%20mechanism%20regulations.pdf>

## Development of river Ghagra as National Waterway in Uttar Pradesh

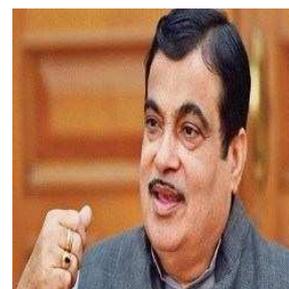
**Question: Ghagra River in Uttar Pradesh is being developed as-**

**(a)NW-40 (b)NW-20 (c)NW-14 (d)NW-10**

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On October 9, 2018, foundation stone for the development work of Ghagra River as **National Waterway (NW)-40** was laid by Shri Nitin Gadkari at Basti in Uttar Pradesh. This Project is being implemented under the **Sagarmala Programme** of Ministry of Shipping.
- The waterway from Manjhighat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad/Ayodhya along Gaghra River for a length of 354 km was declared as NW-40 during the year 2016.
- Together with NW-1 (on river Ganga), NW-40 will be provide to be a major transport modal choice for cargo and passenger movement.
- The Detailed Project Report on the development of **NW-40 envisages terminal at five locations–Ayodhya, Mahirpur (Tanda/Kalwari), Dohrighat, Tortipar and Manjhighat.**
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), under Ministry of Shipping has already initiated work in Phase –I with project cost of Rs. 11.6 crore. IWAI already has constructed the floating terminal at Tanda/Kalwari to facilitate cargo & passenger movement on River Ghagra & River Ganga under Phase I. Draft of 2 meter and width of 45 meter will be constructed in addition to floating terminals through Pontoon-Gangway at two locations- Tanda/Kalwari and Manjhighat under Phase1. The Phase 1 works are



scheduled to be completed by **2019-20**. This waterway is being classified as **class-III waterway** which envisages movement of up to **1000 ton capacity vessels**.

Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184032>

## ESIC wins 'ISSA GOOD Practice Award, Asia & the Pacific 2018'

**Question: The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has recently won which of the following award for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension?**

(a) The Achiever Award (b) The Founders Award (c) The Spirit Award (d) ISSA Good Practice Award

Ans: (d)

Related Facts:



- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) has won the '**ISSA Good Practice Award**' for Administrative Solution for Coverage Extension at "Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific" held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia recently. Shri Raj Kumar, IAS, Director General, ESIC represented Employees' State Insurance Corporation and received the Certificate of Merit on its behalf.
- The award recognizes the measures taken by ESIC for extension of coverage-**SPREE (Scheme for Promoting Registration of Employers and Employees)**.
- The Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific:
- The Regional Social Security Forum for Asia and the Pacific is a **triennial Forum**, which is the most important social security event in the Region. For the triennial Regional Forum, ISSA invites submissions for the ISSA Good Practices Award for Asia and the Pacific Region.
- The Forum provides unique opportunities to CEOs and Managers of ISSA Member Institutions to discuss key social security challenges and share their experiences. It promotes excellence in social security administration through professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services and support to enable its Members to develop dynamic social security systems.
- The ISSA (**International Social Security Association**) is the principal international organization for Social Security Organizations, Govts. and Departments of Social Security. The ISSA, founded in **1927** under the auspices of the **International Labour Organization (ILO)**, Geneva.
- The ESI Corporation hosts **ISSA Liaison Office for South Asia at New Delhi**. The Liaison Office coordinates with the Member countries and Social Security Institutions in Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Iran on activities of ISSA related to social security.

Links:-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184028>

## IAF Microlight Aircraft Met with an Accident

**Question: On 5th October, 2018; an aircraft of the Indian Air Force met with an accident. It was a-**

(a) Transport Plane (b) Microlight Aircraft (c) Jaguar (d) MiG-29



**Answer: (b)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 5th October, 2018, a **Microlight aircraft** of the Indian Air Force met with an accident.
- The aircraft crash-landed in a field near **Baghpat**.
- The Plane was airborne from Air Force Station Hindan for a routine bird reconnaissance sortie on 05 Oct 18. The aircraft met with an accident at approximately 24 Nautical Miles from Hindan Air Base.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183994>

## Nirman Kusuma programme

**Question: 'Nirman Kusuma' programme recently launched by Odisha government is related to which of the following section of society?**

**(a)Businessman**

**(b)Children of construction workers (c)Daily wage workers in farms (d)Employees of service sector**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Recently Government of Odisha has launched the programme 'Nirman Kusuma'. This program would help fulfil the dreams of a construction worker's children.
- As per this initiative the children of Construction workers will get financial assistance for their education in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) and polytechnics.
- While an ITI student will be entitled to get financial assistance of Rs. 23,600 a year; a diploma student will get 26,300 per annum. A total of 1,878 students will get benefit from the programme.
- The state government has doubled the death benefits for the construction workers. Accidental benefit has also been doubled from Rs 1 lakh to Rs 2 lakh.



**Links:**

<https://www.ndtv.com/bhubaneshwar-news/naveen-patnaik-launches-nirman-kusuma-programme-in-odisha-1928002>

## Wing Loong-2

**Question:Wing Loong-2 is recently in news. It is –**

**(a)a long-range surface to air missile (SAM) (b)a MALE unmanned aerial vehicle**

**(c)missile defence system developed by China (d)an Anti-tank missile**

**Answer:(b)**

**Related facts:**

- **Wing loong-2** also known as (Yilong / Pterodactyl) is a **medium-altitude long-endurance(MALE)** unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) developed by Chengdu Aircraft Design Institute, China.
- Recently Pakistan has planned to procure 48 drones (Wing



- Loong-2) from China, which could be largest export order for drones by China.
- It has a length of 11 meters and a wingspan of 20.5 meters, the Wing Loong- 2 can carry bombs and air to surface missiles.
- It has a maximum speed of 370 km per hour. It can fly approximately 20,000 feet above the ground and up to 4000 km.
- DRDO has also developed a medium-altitude long-endurance(MALE) unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) named Rustom.
- It does the work of surveillance and reconnaissance only contrary to wing loong which also carries ammunitions up to 480 kg.
- However, India which currently does not have armed drones, signed a deal worth \$5.43 billion with Russia for the S-400 air defence system last week. The system can engage all types of aerial targets, including drones, within a range of 400 km.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/what-is/what-is-rustom-ii-drone-5077614/>

## CSIR develops affordable Water Disinfection System “Oneer™”

**Question:Consider the following statement/s regarding “Oneer™”:**

1. It is a useful system for treatment of water and killing almost all disease-causing
2. It is developed by CSIR-IITR, Lucknow in collaboration with BARC.

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

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

**Answer:(a)**

- Council Of Scientific And Industrial Research, Indian Institute of Toxicology Research (CSIR-IITR), Lucknow has developed an innovative technology for “drinking water disinfection system” with the trademark “Oneer™”.
- It is useful for the continuous treatment of water and eliminates all disease-causing pathogens such as a virus, fungi, protozoa, and cyst to provide safe drinking water to domestic use as per international standards for potable water (BIS, WHO).
- “The technology will be helpful especially for rural people since it can be solar powered and this development is in line with the ‘Make in India’ Mission”,said by minister of science and technology.
- The Community-level model is of 450 LPH capacities which can be scaled up to 5000 to 1 lakh Ltr/day and is also maintenance and membrane free This will provide safe water at 2paise/ litre.
- According to the World Health Organization, “access to safe drinking water is essential to health, a basic human right and a component of effective policy for health protection”.



**Council of Scientific and Industrial Research:**

- CSIR is premier research institute of India. It is headed by the prime minister of India. Dr Harsh Vardhan Singh is Vice-president of the CSIR.
- IITR is a leading research institute doing research in toxicology, working under CSIR.

**Links:**

[http://iitrindia.org/Admin/Upload/News\\_21f7aa63-24bf-4bef-b1ae-f3b2a9cc839e.pdf](http://iitrindia.org/Admin/Upload/News_21f7aa63-24bf-4bef-b1ae-f3b2a9cc839e.pdf)

## RBI issues guidelines for interoperability between PPIs

**Question:** Consider the following statements regarding Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPI)-

1. PPIs can only be used to purchase goods only
2. Paytm, PhonePe and Freecharge are some popular PPIs
3. Interoperability will be done between PPIs through UPI

**Which of the above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**

- Reserve bank of India (RBI) has released the guidelines for interoperability between Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPIs) such as wallets and cards.
- This will allow users of popular payment wallets such as Paytm, FreeCharge, PhonePe and PayZapp among others to transfer money from one wallet to another.
- Interoperability will be done between PPIs through Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- **Prepaid Payment Instrument (PPIs):**
  - Prepaid payment instruments are those which facilitate the purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments. The value stored on such instruments represents the value paid for by the holder, by cash, by debit to a bank account, or by credit card.
  - Banks and Non-Bank Finance Companies (NBFC), who comply with the eligibility criteria, would be permitted to issue all categories of prepaid payment instruments.
  - Only banks provide Mobile Banking Transactions are permitted to launch mobile-based prepaid payment instruments.



**Unified Payment Interface (UPI) :**

- UPI is a payment system launched by National Payments Corporation of India in August 2016.
- It facilitates fund transfer between two bank accounts on the mobile platform, without having to provide any detail of the beneficiary's account.
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) is a system that powers multiple bank accounts into a single mobile application, merging several banking features, seamless fund routing & merchant payments into one hood.

**Links:**

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11393&Mode=0>

## Government modifies guidelines of PMFBY

**Question:** Which of the following statement is not correct regarding Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna?

- (a) The scheme was started on 16 April 2016
- (b) The scheme is mandatory for farmers who have taken institutional credit
- (c) It covers damage to crops due to wild animal attacks all over India
- (d) There is a 5% premium on Rabi crops



**Answer :(c)**

**Related facts:**

- Recently union government has decided to cover crop loss due to wild animal attacks under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna in selected districts on an experimental basis.
- The modified guidelines, on a pilot basis, included perennial horticulture crops under the crop insurance scheme. While hailstorms, unseasonal and cyclonic rainfall would be considered for assessing post-harvest losses, natural fire, landslide, inundation and cloudburst have been included in localized calamities.
- Under this scheme **insurance companies** have to bear **5 %** of their earning and concerned **state's government** has to pay an interest of **12 %** in case of delay in the release of states to share subsidy in premium to insurance firms.
- **Gram Sabhas** across the country have been asked to inform the farmers about the enrolment and benefits of PMFBY at the beginning of Rabi season.

**Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna:**

- Government of India had launched a crop insurance scheme namely Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna on April, 2016.
- The government had roll back earlier insurance schemes such as National Agriculture Insurance Scheme (NAIS), weather-based crop insurance scheme and modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS).
- It envisages a uniform premium of only 2% for Kharif crops and 1.5% for Rabi crops .The premium for commercial and horticulture crops will be 5%. The scheme is mandatory for the farmers who have taken institutional credit (banks, micro-finance, NBFCs).
- It is optional for farmers who have not taken institutional credit from banks or other NBFCs.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/crop-damages-in-animal-attacks-put-under-pmfby-on-pilot-basis-agri-minister-118100700560\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/crop-damages-in-animal-attacks-put-under-pmfby-on-pilot-basis-agri-minister-118100700560_1.html)

## Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launches a Task Force for Closing the Skills Gap in India

**Question: On 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018; Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched Task Force for Closing the Skills Gap in India in collaboration with the-**  
**(a)World Economic Forum (b)ILO (c)UNEP (d)UNDP**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018, Petroleum Minister Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched **Task Force for Closing the Skills Gap in India**, in collaboration with the **World Economic Forum**.
- The goal of the Task Force is to develop an action plan to address skills gaps in India and make the Indian workforce ready for jobs of future
- It will also bring together leaders from business, Government, civil society, and the education and training sectors to accelerate the future-proofing of education and training systems in the country.



- **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan** will co-chair the task force along with **Shri Salil Parekh**, CEO and MD, Infosys.
- Shri Pradhan also released reports on **‘Future of Work in India’**, an enterprise survey on future of work in India and **‘Young India and Work’**, a survey of youth aspirations in India.
- The “Closing the Skills Gap” Task Force will be a significant step to accelerate the impact on skills development.
- Shri Pradhan **World Economic Forum** and **Observer Research Foundation** for coming out with reports on these important areas particularly related to the aspirations of Indian youth.
- The Task Force is the second country-led public-private collaboration of the World Economic Forum’s **Closing the Skills Gap Project** after South Africa.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183990>

## Third pole

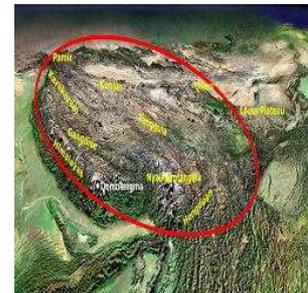
**Question: Which of the following area on earth is known as Third Pole?**

**(a)Iceland (b)Greenland (c)The Himalaya-Hindu Kush range and Tibetan plateau (d)Rocky and Andes**

**Answer :(c)**

**Related facts:**

- The region that encompasses the Himalaya- Hindu Kush mountain range and the Tibetan plateau is widely known as the **Third Pole** because its ice field contains the largest reserve of fresh water outside the polar region. In this polar region 10 of Asia’s largest rivers, including the Yellow and Yangtze river (China), the Irrawaddy (Myanmar), the Ganges and the Mekong have their origin.
- This region is the source of the 10 major river system that provide irrigation, power, and drinking water for over 1.3 billion people in Asia through river basins in China, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is nearly 20% of the world’s population.
- These water resources play an important role in global atmospheric circulation, biodiversity, rain-fed and irrigated agriculture and hydropower.
- With climate change we are witnessing a rapid decline in glaciers which cause massive repercussions to livelihoods downstream. **509 small glaciers disappeared in the past 50 years**and even the biggest ones are shrinking rapidly.
- Climate change is a global challenge. But the impacts are local of this menace. First effects were seen in polar region of Svalbard.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/Trouble-at-Third-Pole/article16886001.ece>

## 840 Higher Educational Institutes enrolled in Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

**Question: How many new Higher Educational Institutes enrolled under UBA 2.0?**

**(a)840 (b)688 (b)150 (d)200**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- New **840** Higher Educational Institutes enrolled in **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)** as a part of celebrations to mark **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**.
- Under “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan” scheme **Phase I, 688 Institutes** were selected and they were involved in various activities aimed to enrich rural India.
- This includes field visits, house to house survey, identifying the felt needs of the rural masses, developing technology or process to improve their lives.
- Now, in the next phase, on a challenge mode, **840 institutions** have been selected and will be part of **UBA 2.0**. Out of these 840 institutes, **521** are Technical Institutions and **319** are Non-Technical Institutions.
- Unnat Bharat Abhiyan aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with at least (5) villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.
- Objectives of the scheme are (i) To engage the faculty and students of Higher Educational Institutions in understanding rural realities; (ii) Identify and select existing innovative technologies, enable customization of technologies, or devise implementation methods for innovative solutions, as required by people; and (iii) To allow Higher Educational Institutions to contribute to devising systems for smooth implementation of various Government Programs
- 
- The time frame for UBA 2.0 implementation is: **Year 2017-18 – 750 Institutes; Year 2018-2019 – 3000 Institutes; Year 2019-20 – 4500 Institutes.**



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183896>

## First India-Israel Innovation Centre

**Question: In which of the following city first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub was launched?**

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018; the country’s first India-Israel Innovation Centre (IIIC), an entrepreneurial technology hub, was launched in Bengaluru.
- The IIIC was launched by Ramanan Ramanathan, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, Ariel Seidman, Deputy Consul-General of Israel, Moshe Porat, Founder and CEO, Mesh Labs, and Varad Krishna, Founding Partner of IIIC.
- The IIIC is a significant step towards facilitating penetration of Israeli companies in India. It aims to forge local partnerships and joint ventures between the companies of India and Israel.



- It will provide an ecosystem to support entrepreneurship, a partnership with vendors, mentoring and non-formal community development.
- In this way, it will assist the growth of the companies in different verticals and covers business, technology, investors and customers.
- Start-ups that are part of IIC will be given mentorship, guidance and opportunities to participate at all IIC's global events and experience networking avenues with potential customers.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/india-israel-innovation-centre-opens-in-bengaluru/article25187261.ece>

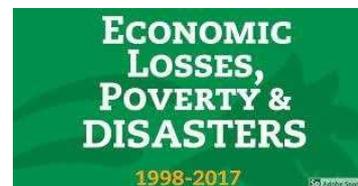
## India on 4th position in UNISDR report on economic losses due to climate related disasters

**Question: At what position India is placed as of report on economic losses due to climate-related disasters released by UNISDR?**

**(a)5<sup>th</sup> (b)1<sup>st</sup> (c)2<sup>nd</sup> (d)4<sup>th</sup>**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**



- On 10<sup>th</sup> October 2018 the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) released the data on economic losses due to climate-related disasters reviewing the last twenty years from 1998 to 2017.
- India is placed at the 4<sup>th</sup> position among the top 10 countries which suffered big economic losses marking a figure of \$80 billion in the period of 1998 to 2017.
- It is to be noted that the US has topped the list as it suffered the loss of \$945 billion.
- Top five countries which suffered absolute economic losses during this period are US, China, Japan, India and Puerto Rico with losses of \$945 billion, \$492 billion, \$376 billion, \$80 billion and \$72 billion respectively.

**Links:**

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/natural-disasters-cost-india-80-billion-in-20-years-un-report/articleshow/66156074.cms>

## Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge

**Question: India's longest river bridge 'Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge' will be built in which state?**

**(a)Arunachal Pradesh (b)Sikkim (c)West-Bengal (d)Assam**

**Answer : (d)**

**Related facts:**

**About Dhubri-Phulbari Bridge:**

- India's longest river bridge will be built across the Brahmaputra, connecting Dhubri in Assam to Phulbari in Meghalaya.
- It will cut road travel by 203 km as also travel time.
- It will be built jointly by the government's highway construction wing, the National Highways and Industrial Development Corporation Ltd with cost of Rs 4000 crores.
- JICA (Japanese funding Agency) has approved a loan for this project as part of road infrastructure improvement package in the



north-east. This 19.3 km bridge is expected to build by 2026-27.

- **The advantage of the bridge:**
- The bridge will complete the missing link of NH127B from Assam to Meghalaya.
- **Other important fact:**
- At present, the country's longest river bridge **Dr Bhupen Hazarika Setu** between Dhola and Sadiya in Assam is 9.15 km.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/20km-assam-bridge-to-cut-travel-by-200km/articleshow/66288987.cms>

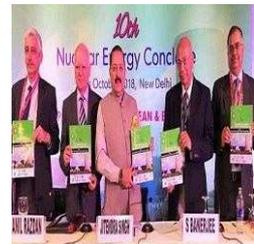
## 10th Nuclear Energy Conclave

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

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



Link:

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

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

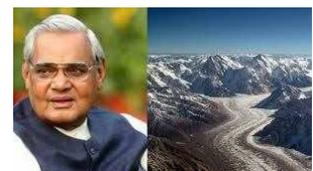
**Question: Recently four peaks of Himalayan range were named after which of the following former Prime Minister of India?**

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

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Four peaks of the Himalayan range have been named after India's former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee who died on August 16, 2018 at the age of 93.
- Recently Joint expedition called **“Mission Atal”** was taken to mountaineering and scaled these four peaks. This 15-day expedition was led by a team from Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council and Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM).
- The team was flagged off on October 4 from Dehradun by Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat. The heights of the four peaks scaled by the team



measuring 6,557, 6,566, 6,160 and 6,100 metres were renamed as Atal-1, Atal-2, Atal-3 and Atal-4, respectively.

- These peaks are situated on the right flank of Gangotri glacier near Sudarshan and Saifi peaks in Raktvan valley.

#### Links:

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

## Krishi Kumbh-2018

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

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

**Gujarat**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

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



#### Objectives of Krishi Kumbh 2018:

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

#### Why Uttar Pradesh? :

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

#### Links:

<https://krishikumbhup.org/>

## RTI: India slips to 6th position

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

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

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

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



**Links:**

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

## International

### Longest sea-crossing bridge of the world

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 23 October 2018, Chinese president **Xi Jinping** inaugurated a 55- km long bridge that will escalate the integration of Hong Kong and Macao with the rest of China.
- The **world's longest sea-crossing bridge** will be at the heart of an Integrated **Greater Bay Area (GBA)** covering 11 major neighboring cities, which include Hong Kong, Macao, Guangzhou and Shenzhen.
- The giant **GBA** comprising 68 million people are expected to rival **San Francisco Bay Area** of the US, as well as the **Tokyo Bay Area of Japan**.
- The bridge has been built to combat super typhoons, a magnitude 8 earthquake, as well as hits by supersized cargo ships.
- It took about a decade to build the \$20 Billion Bridge. It was built



using 400,000 tons of steel, enough to build 60 Eiffel Towers.

- In the past, travelling between **Zhuhai** and **Hong Kong** would take up to four hours – the new bridge cuts this down to 30 minutes.
- This bridge is not a continuous one it has a section **7 km underground sea tunnel** to allow uninterrupted flow of shipping above, along the super busy Pearl River Delta, is also part of bridge's design.

#### Links:

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

## Global Competitiveness Index

**Question: Which of the following Agency /Organization is responsible for publishing the Global Competitiveness Index?**

- (a) World Bank (b) World Economic Forum (c) International Monetary Fund  
(d) World Intellectual Property Organization

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Recently published Global Competitiveness Index by World Economic Forum, India has gained 5 spot from its previous year's rank and achieved 58<sup>th</sup>
- United States, Singapore and Germany were on consecutive first, second and third position while Chad is the lowest ranking economy as per report of 140 countries.
- This year's index is based on 12 pillars (drivers of productivity) and 98 indicators. The **12 Pillars** are as follows: 1) Institutions 2) Infrastructure 3) ICT adaption 4) Macroeconomic stability 5) Health 6) Skills 7) Product Market 8) Labour Market 9) Financial System 10) Market Size 11) Business Dynamism 12) Innovation Capability.
- The new index sheds light on an emerging set of drivers of productivity and long-term growth in the era of the **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)**.
- Competitiveness is not only associated with higher incomes but also better socioeconomic outcomes, including life satisfaction.



#### Global Competitiveness Index:

- World economic forum has been releasing the index since 2004. This index is developed by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Elsa V. Artadi.
- Almost 40 years after its first annual assessment of the global economy, the Forum's 2018 report uses new methodology to understand the full impact of the 4IR (Fourth Industrial Revolution), and finds factors including human capital, agility, resilience, openness and innovation becoming increasingly important.

#### World Economic Forum (WEF):

- The World Economic Forum is the international organization for public-private co-operation. Forum is best known for its annual meeting in Davos-Klosters (Switzerland).
- It was established in 1971 as a not-for-profit organization and is headquartered in Cologny, Geneva, Switzerland.
- It gained formal status in January 2015 under the Swiss Host-State Act, confirming the role of the Forum as an International Institution for Public-Private Cooperation.

## 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference

**Question: Which of the following statement is not correct regarding 27<sup>th</sup> IAEA Fusion Energy Conference?**

- (a) It was organised on 22-27<sup>th</sup> October, 2018 (b) It was held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat  
(c) The IAEA was created in 1957 (d) S. President, Richard Nixon was behind its genesis

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The 27<sup>th</sup> International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) was organized on 22-27 October 2018 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- Noted Indian physicist and former chairman of Atomic Energy Commission **R Chidambaram** inaugurated the biennial Fusion Energy Conference (FEC).
- The 27th IAEA Fusion Energy Conference (FEC 2018) aims to provide a forum for the discussion of key physics and technology issues as well as innovative concepts of direct relevance to the use of nuclear fusion as a source of energy.
- The nodal agency for this project in India is **Institute of Plasma Research (IPR)**, Gandhinagar, which has jointly organized the event with IAEA.



**Fusion energy and technology:**

- Fusion is the process where two lighter atomic nuclei combine to form a heavier nucleus and at the same time release huge amount of energy which is clean, abundant and safe source of energy for the future.
- Nuclear energy can be considered near-renewable, zero-carbon fuel option.

**International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA):**

- The International Atomic Energy Agency established in 1957 is the world's foremost forum for scientific and technical cooperation for the peaceful use of nuclear technology.
- The IAEA works for the safe, secure and peaceful application of nuclear science and technology, contributing to international peace and security and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.
- US President Dwight D Eisenhower was the man behind the genesis of agency.
- Its headquarters is in Vienna, Austria.

**Links:**

<https://www.iaea.org/events/fec-2018>

## India ranks 115 in Human Capital Index

**Question: India is ranked 115<sup>th</sup> among 157 countries in the Human Capital Index report published recently. This report was published by which of the following organization?**

- (a) ADB (b) World Bank (c) IFAD (d) ITU

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 11 October 2018 Human Capital Index was released by the World Bank under the 2019 World Development Report.



- This is the first Human Capital Index report of the World Bank in which 157 countries are assessed on the parameters like child mortality, health and education.
- Singapore is on the first spot while Chad secured the 157<sup>th</sup> (lowest) rank.
- India has been ranked 115<sup>th</sup> in this index.
- It is to be noted that Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka have been placed at 106<sup>th</sup>, 102<sup>nd</sup> and 74<sup>th</sup> position respectively in this index.
- The World Bank gave India a score of 0.44 out of 1.0, lower than the average for its income-level countries.
- It shows that the children born in India today will be 44 per cent productive when they grow up if they enjoy complete education and full health.
- Girls are slightly better in this Index, attaining 0.45 points than boys, who scored 0.43 points.

**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-ranks-115-in-world-bank-s-human-capital-index-govt-dismisses-report-118101200056\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/india-ranks-115-in-world-bank-s-human-capital-index-govt-dismisses-report-118101200056_1.html)

## C40 Mayors Summit

**Question: Which of the following city will host C40 Mayors Summit 2019?**

**(a)Copenhagen (b)New York (c)Bern (d)New Delhi**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19<sup>th</sup> October 2018; Lord Mayor of Copenhagen, Frank Jensen announced that the City of Copenhagen will host the C40 Mayors Summit in October 2019.
- 
- The 17 Mayors that make up the C40 Steering Committee selected Copenhagen as the host city for the landmark climate event next year.
- This summit takes place every three years, bringing together the Mayors and leaders of the 96 member cities of the C40 network from across the globe.
- Copenhagen is aiming to become world's first carbon-neutral city by 2025 and this city is now targeting to be a true global leader in climate action.
- The Copenhagen Summit will celebrate and share the most effective climate solutions being delivered in cities worldwide.
- Mayors, CEOs, philanthropists, investors, scientists and citizens will come together to shift global markets and create a sustainable, prosperous and healthy future for the world's great cities.
- Previous C40 summits have been hosted by London, New York, Seoul, Sao Paulo, Johannesburg and Mexico City.



**Links:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/copenhagen-to-host-c40-mayors-summit-118101900716\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/copenhagen-to-host-c40-mayors-summit-118101900716_1.html)

## 17th CHG meeting of the SCO

**Question: 17th Council of Heads of Government (CHG) meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in-**

**(a)Dushanbe, Tajikistan (b)Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (c)Tashkent, Uzbekistan, (d)Ashgabat, Turkmenistan**

**Answer :(a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 11th to 12th October 2018; the 17th Council of Heads of Government, CHG meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.
- From India side this meeting was attended by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. This was the second CHG meeting since India became a full member of SCO in June 2017.
- It is worth to note that she also attended the CHG meeting, which was held in Sochi, Russia last year. Mrs Swaraj's program in Dushanbe marks participation in the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting, both in the restricted as well as extended formats.
- The SCO CHG meeting is a forum that enables India to engage with SCO member countries and observer states of Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran and Mongolia.
- It is the first major meeting since Kyrgyzstan took over as chair of the organisation.
- The leaders discussed about prospects for further development of SCO and exchanged in-depth views on current international and regional issues.



**Links:**

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=353844>

## UNEP Champions of the Earth Award

**Question-Prime Minister Modi has been selected for 'UNEP Champions of the Earth' award 2018. He pledged to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by-**  
**(A)2022 (B)2024 (C)2021 (D)2923**

**Answer-(a)**

**Related Facts**

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has received the 'UNEP Champions of the Earth' award 2018.
- The award will be presented by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra; New Delhi on October 3. This award will be given to him at a special ceremony.
- The award announced on 26<sup>th</sup> September, on the sidelines of 73<sup>rd</sup> UN General Assembly at New York City.
- Prime Minister Modi has been selected in the leadership category for his pioneering work in championing the International Solar Alliance and for his unprecedented pledge to eliminate all single-use plastic in India by 2022.
- The annual 'Champions of the Earth' prize is awarded to outstanding leaders from government, civil society and the private sector whose actions have had a positive impact on the environment.



**See also the links below:-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183902>

## IBSAMAR- 6

Question- Consider the following statements regarding IBSAMAR-

1. There are four countries involved in IBSAMAR.
2. It is a joint naval exercise.
3. It is held bi-annually.

Which of the above statements is/are true?

(A)1 and 2 only (B)1 and 3 only (C)2 and 3 only (D)All of the above

Answer-c

Related facts-



- Recently in Simon's town, South Africa IBSAMAR's sixth edition has been kicked off; it is being held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>
- IBSAMAR, a joint Multi – National Maritime Exercise between the Indian, Brazilian and South African Navies.
- Last edition of IBSAMAR was held in Goa (19-26 Feb, 2016).
- 
- Its aim is to undertake collective training for participating and mutual understanding, as well as sharing of best practices.

From Indian side following contingent and fleet have taken part:

- Guided missile frigate Tarkash.
- Guided missile destroyer Kolkata.
- Long range maritime patrol aircraft P81.
- SeaKing and Chetak helicopters.
- A MARCOS contingent.
- This exercise will include harbor and sea phase exercise and will include-
  - Antipiracy exercise.
  - Navigation and seamanship evolutions.
  - Surface weapons firing. Force protection exercises.
  - Anti-air and anti-submarine exercise as well as flying operations.
  - IBSAMAR are a series of joint maritime exercise between the navies of India, Brazil, and South Africa. First exercise took place in 2008, after which It is being held bi-annually.
  - **MARCOS is a special force unit of Indian navy previously known as marine commando force (MCF). It is created for conducting special operations such as amphibious warfare, close quarter combat, counter terrorism and direct rescue etc. this contingent was main part of Operation Cactus in Maldives (1988) and Operation Pawan (1987) as a part of IPKF in Sri Lanka.**

References-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183900>

## China leads world in solar power production

Question. Consider the following statements regarding solar power generation in the world:

1. China generates more than half of the world solar power.

2. India is at 3<sup>rd</sup> place in solar power production.
3. India, China and the USA top three nations contributes two-third of the total global solar power production.

Of the above which is/are correct?

(A)1 & 2 (B)2 & 3 (C)3 only (D)All of the above

Answer. B

Explanation:

- China is the first country to cross 100 GW of cumulative installed capacity. By 2016 the total installed capacity of the world was 303 GW.
- China , USA and India are the top three countries in the world contributes more than 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of the total installed capacity of solar power generation.
- Longyangxia dam solar park is the largest solar farm (30sq km) of the world is also located in china.
- India is the founder member of International solar alliance (ISA). India under its national solar mission has proposed to produce 100 GW of solar power.Currently India has installed capacity of 20 GW.
- Ramayan Upadhyay



Links:

<https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/02/countries-behind-global-renewable-energy-growth/>

## Assembly of ISA, IORA, and REINVEST

Question. Which of the following statements are NOT true regarding meet of ISA, IORA, and REINVEST?

- (A)This is the first assembly of ISA
- (B)Antonio Gutierrez will be the chief guest in the meet
- (B)IORA is an association of oil exporting nations
- (C)Reinvest is a meet of Renewable energy

Answer. C

RELATED FACTS-

- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy is organizing the First Assembly of International Solar Alliance (ISA); the 2<sup>nd</sup>Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Renewable Energy Ministerial Meeting and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Renewable Energy Investment Meeting and Expo, (REINVEST- 2018) from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in New Delhi.
- The three events will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations on 2<sup>nd</sup>October 2018 in Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA), an Indian initiative, was launched jointly by Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India and François Hollande, President of France on 30 November 2015 in Paris.
- India will be hosting 2<sup>nd</sup>IORA Renewable Energy Ministerial meet from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> October In this meeting, Ministers and delegates from all 21 member-countries are expected to participate. India, Australia, Iran IR, Indonesia Thailand, Malaysia, South Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Sri Lanka, Tanzania,



Bangladesh, Singapore, Mauritius, Madagascar, UAE, Yemen, Seychelles, Somalia, Comoros, and Oman are members of IORA.

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> RE-INVEST aims at accelerating the worldwide effort to scale up renewable energy and connect the global investment community with Indian energy stakeholders. The 2<sup>nd</sup> RE-INVEST is expected to be attended by Ministerial Delegations from across the world, including ISA and IORA Member Countries, over 600 global industry leaders, and 10,000 delegates.

Links-

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547184>

## Exhibition “India –Uzbekistan Dialogue of culture”

**Question. What of the following countries do not surrounds Uzbekistan?**

**(A)Afghanistan (B)Pakistan (C)Turkmenistan (D)Kyrgyzstan**

**Answer. B**

**Related facts-**

- The Exhibition was dedicated to the state visit of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev to the Republic of India that will begin early next week. The exhibition was held from 24-25 September.
- National Museum, Ministry of Culture, Government of India in Collaboration with the Embassy of Uzbekistan; Rampur Raza Library, Rampur; Khuda Baksh Oriental Public Library, Patna and the National Association of Electronic Mass Media of Uzbekistan were involved in the exhibition.
- For the first time “coins, Archaeological artifacts, manuscripts and paintings of the shared cultural heritage of India and Uzbekistan made in the Kushan and another era of the shared history” has been exhibited.
- Uzbekistan is a doubly landlocked country of central Asia surrounded by 5 landlocked countries- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and Turkmenistan.



Links-

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547201>

## Ibrahim Mohammad Solih

**Question. Who among the following was elected as new President of Maldives?**

**(A)Abdulla Yameen (B)Ibrahim Mohammad Solih (C)Mohammad Nasheed (D)Dunya Yaumoon**

**Answer. B**

**Related facts:**

- Maldivian politician and leader of Maldivian Democratic Party have won the presidential election defeating the current president Mohammad Nasheed.
- Ibrahim Mohammad Solih is due to succeed Yameen on 17<sup>th</sup> November 2018.
- Total 2, 62, 135 voters have cast their vote. Voter turnout was about 85%. Maldivian Democratic Party got more than 58% of the votes and Progressive Party of Maldives got a little over 41 % votes.
- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih was first elected to the Parliament in 1994 at the age of 30.



- He also led the Maldives Political Reform Movement from 2003 until 2008. This movement led to the adoption of a new modern constitution and multi-party democracy for the first time in the country's history.

#### References-

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldivian\\_presidential\\_election,\\_2018](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maldivian_presidential_election,_2018)

### Maldives next president

**Question. Who among the following has elected as new president of Maldives?**

- (A) Abdulla Yasmeen (B) Ibrahim Mohammad Salih (C) Mohammad Nasheed  
(D) Dunya Maroon

**Answer. B**

**Related facts:**

- **Presidential elections** were held in the Maldives on 23 September 2018.
- Maldivian politician and leader of Maldivian Democratic Party have won the presidential election defeating the current president Mohammad Nasheed.



#### Links-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/maldives-election-the-will-of-the-people-has-spoken-says-ibrahim-mohamed-salih/article25023596.ece>

### Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), 2018

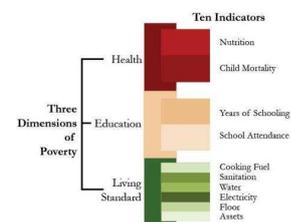
**Question- Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) 2018 released by the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) and –**

- (a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).  
(b) United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).  
(c) International Labour Organization (ILO). (d) None of the above.

**Answer-(a)**

**Related facts-**

- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI) have released the 2018 Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).
- India has reduced its Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) by almost half between 2005-06 and 2015-16.
- According to MPI, there are **271 million** people in India have come out of the clutches of poverty in this period. It demonstrates that India has made tremendous progress in reducing poverty.



#### About Multi-dimensional Poverty Index (MPI)-

- It is an index that looks beyond income poverty to take into account deprivations in **health, education, and living standards**.
- MPI measures multiple deprivations in the same households in education, health and living standards and 10 indicators, namely nutrition, child mortality, years of schooling, school attendance, sanitation, cooking fuel, drinking water, electricity, housing and assets.

- Person who found to face deprivations in at least a third of the MPI's components are multidimensionally poor.
- About 196 million MPI poor people in India, accounting for more than half of all multidimensionally poor in India, live in the four states of Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

#### References-

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/undp-report-lauds-indias-strides-in-reducing-poverty-in-past-decade/>

## Global TB report 2018

Question-‘Global TB report’ is published by-

(a)World Health Organization. (b)International Labour Organization.  
(c)World Food Organization. (d)None of the above.

Answer- (a)

Related facts-

- Global TB Report 2018 is been published by **World Health Organization** (WHO) every year since 1997.
- The main aim of the report is to provide a comprehensive and up-to-date assessment of the TB epidemic, and of progress in prevention, diagnosis and treatment of the disease at global, regional and country levels.
- According to the report, among the 10 million people who developed tuberculosis in the year 2017, India accounted for 27 % of it.
- India has highest number of people having tuberculosis among the top 30 high TB burden countries in the world.
- Of these 10 million people who developed TB, 5.8 million are men, 3.2 million women and one million children.



#### About Tuberculosis-

- Tuberculosis is an infectious disease caused by bacteria (**Mycobacterium tuberculosis**) that affects the **lungs**. It can also spread to other parts of the body, such as, Brain and Spine.
- It can spread through air from person to person. It is an airborne pathogen.
- There are two kind of tuberculosis-
- **Latent tuberculosis**– In this type, bacteria remain in the body in an inactive state. They cause no symptoms and are **not contagious**. But they can become active.
- **Active tuberculosis**– In this type, bacteria cause symptoms and can be transmitted to others.
- Diagnosis of active TB is based on chest X-rays, as well as microscopic examination and culture of body fluids. Diagnosis of latent TB relies on the tuberculin skin test (TST) or blood tests.

#### References-

[http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/tb/publications/global_report/en/)

## Economics

### FDI in Telecom Sector

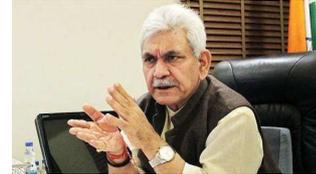
**Question.** Consider the following statements regarding FDI in the telecom sector?

1. India is the largest telecom market in the world.
2. Total FDI was \$6.2 billion in the telecom sector in 2017-18

**Which of the above statements is/are correct?**

(A)1 only (B)2 only (C)All of the above (D)None of the above

**Answer. D**



**Related facts-**

- FDI in Telecom Sector jumped five times in the last three years from \$1.3 billion in 2015-16 to \$ 6.2 billion in 2017-18 said the minister of state for communication.
- He said keeping all future technologies in mind and their potential; draft National Digital Communication Policy (NDCP) 2018 has been formulated.
- Presently 100 percent FDI is there in the telecom

**Links-**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547175>

## Scientific

### Defense/Science Short Notes

#### Spacecraft BepiColombo

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

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

**Answer :(b)**

**Related facts:**

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



**Details of this Mission:**

- It is the first European mission to Mercury and the first to send two spacecraft to make complementary measurements of the planet and its environment at the same time.

- The ESA-built Mercury Transfer Module (MTM) that will carry the orbiters to Mercury using a solar electric propulsion and gravity assist flybys.
- The two orbiters are ESA's Mercury Planetary Orbiter (MPO) and JAXA's Mercury Magnetospheric Orbiter (MMO).
- The two orbiters will be able to operate some of their instruments during the cruise phase, to try and collect data at Venus.

#### Challenges before the Mission:

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

#### Links:

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

## Illumination Satellite

**Question: Which country is planning to launch an artificial moon by 2020?**

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

**Answer:(d)**

**Related facts:**

**Why in News?**



- China is planning to launch its own 'artificial moon' by 2020 to boost the glow of the real moon eight times, it will replace streetlamps and lower electricity costs in urban areas.

#### About the Illumination Satellite:

- The first man-made moon will be launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan. The satellite will reflect light from the sun that will replace streetlamps in urban areas for 50 sq km saving an estimated USD 170 million a year in electricity costs for Chengdu. It will also help in rescue efforts in disaster zones during blackouts through the extraterrestrial source of light.

#### Other related missions of China:

- **Chang'e-4** lunar probe is aimed to be launched later in this year. It is named after moon goddess in Chinese mythology. If it succeeds then it will be the first rover to explore the dark side of the moon.

#### Earlier efforts:

- Russian scientists in the 1990s reportedly used giant mirrors to reflect light from space in an experimental project called Znamya or Banner.

#### Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2018/oct/17/chinese-city-plans-to-launch-artificial-moon-to-replace-streetlights>

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

## Bacteria to degrade toluene

**Question: Which of the following bacteria showed toluene-degrading abilities?**

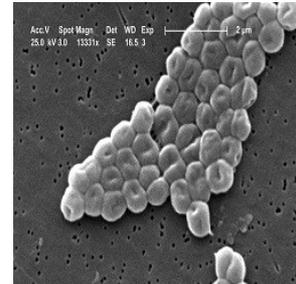
**(a) Bacillus (b) Gonococcus (c) Acinetobacter Junii (d) None of the Above**

**Answer : (c)**

**Related facts:**

**About the bacteria:**

- **Acinetobacter Junii** is a species of bacteria, it can be pathogenic. Its type strain is ATCC 17908. This bacterium has been linked to nosocomial (in hospital) infections including catheter-related blood stream infections and cellulitis.
- The bacteria *Acinetobacter Junii* (*A. Junii*) were isolated from the soil samples and studied for their toluene-degrading abilities.
- About 80% of toluene (50ppm) in a liquid medium was degraded within 72 hours.
- These bacteria changed the morphology of toluene to escape toxicity.
- The bacteria were able to degrade these petrochemical wastes in the laboratory in both soil and water samples.
- Researchers also tested the bacterial strain for the degradation of benzene, phenol, and xylene and they showed effective results towards degradation of these compounds.
- The bacteria use up this toluene as their carbon source in the presence of oxygen.



**What is Toluene?**

- Toluene is a petrochemical waste that gets released without treatment from industries such as refineries, paint, textile, rubber and paper etc.
- It has been reported for serious health problems to aquatic life, and studies show that it has genotoxic and carcinogenic effects on human beings.

**Why in News?**

- Researchers from the University of Delhi and IIT-BHU have successfully degraded toluene into less toxic by-products using the bacteria.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/bacteria-to-degrade-toluene/article25272923.ece>

## HAZMAT

**Question: The HAZMAT program has been developed to study-**

**(a) Jupiter (b) Sun (c) Earth atmosphere (d) Red Dwarf stars**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- The HAZMAT (Habitable Zones and M dwarf Activity across Time) program is an ultraviolet survey of red dwarfs at three different stages; young, intermediate and old.
- According to a recent study by the NASA's Hubble Space Telescope, violent flares from the host star may affect the habitability of a planet associated with it by



affecting their atmosphere.

- It is noticeable that Hubble is observing such stars through a large program known as HAZMAT.
- M dwarf is an astronomical term for a red dwarf star, the smallest most abundant longest-lived type of star in our galaxy.
- According to NASA stellar flares from red dwarfs are particularly bright in ultraviolet wavelengths, compared with sun-like

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/superflares-from-young-stars-may-imperil-planets-nasa/article25259601.ece>

## NASA's New Horizons Mission

**Question:** NASA's ambitious inter-planetary (deep-space probe) mission New Horizons is on course to flyby an object in Kuiper belt named as-

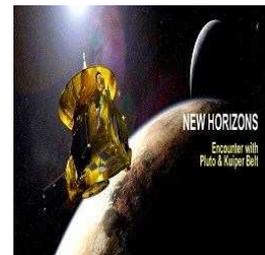
**(a) Proxima Centauri star (b) Benu Asteroid (c) Ultima Thule (d) Ceres dwarf planet**

**Answer: (c)**

- NASA's ambitious deep-space probe is on its course to fly by the farthest observed object in solar system '2014 MU69' and expected to reach on New Year's Day in 2019, then it will known as 'Ultima Thule'.
- This term was used in medieval times which means "beyond the known world".

**New Horizons Mission:**

- New Horizons mission was launched was on January 19, 2006. It proceeded to Jupiter for gravity and scientific studies in February 2007 and in summer 2015 conducted a six-month-long reconnaissance flyby study of Pluto and its moons. It culminated with Pluto closest approach on July 14, 2015.
- New Horizons seeks to understand where Pluto and its Moons "fit in" with inner rocky planets and the outer gas giants (terrestrial and Jovian planets of the solar systems).
- Using Hubble telescope, new horizons team have discovered four previously moons of Pluto: Nix, Hydra, Styx and Kerberos. The same space telescope has discovered the 'Ultima Thule'.



**Kuiper Belt:**

- Kuiper Belt is a region that extends from the orbit of Neptune (at 30 AU) to approximately 50 AU from the Sun.
- The Kuiper Belt is named after a scientist named **Gerard Kuiper**.
- There are bits of rock and ice, comets, and dwarf planets. Besides Pluto, two other interesting Kuiper Belt Objects are Eris and Haumea.

**Note-** Astronomical unit (AU) is the unit of distance, equals the average distance between sun and earth i.e. 150 million kilometres.

**Links:**

<https://www.space.com/39963-new-horizons-flyby-target-nickname.html>

## Canine Distemper Virus

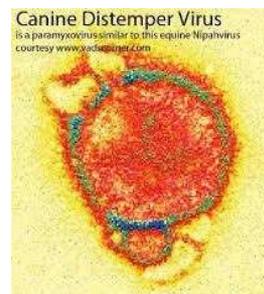
**Question: Which of the following national park was recently in news being affected by Canine Distemper Virus (CDV)?**

**(a)Keoladeo national park (b)Gir national park (c)Dudhwa national park (d)Corbett national park**

**Answer:( b)**

**Related facts:**

- Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) that has caused the death of five Asiatic lions in Gir Forest, Gujarat has been completely recovered by the scientists from ICMR-NIV for the first time in India.
- In the past, CDV has wiped out 30% of the lion population in the Serengeti Forests in East Africa.
- Considering the threat posed by CDV, ICMR has requested centre to take immediate steps to save Asiatic lions, which are heading towards extinction.
- As a precautionary measure, 300 shots of CDV vaccine are being imported from the US.



**Canine Distemper Virus (CDV):**

- Canine distemper virus is a highly contagious viral disease that primarily affects dogs. The virus is not a risk to either human health (does not present any symptoms) or food safety.
- Canine distemper virus (CDV) is an enveloped, single-stranded RNA virus that is part of the Paramyxovirus family, specifically the Morbillivirus class of viruses and is closely related to the measles virus, which affects humans.
- It can also be found in other wildlife such as foxes, wolves, coyotes, racoons, skunks, mink and ferrets.

**Links:**

[http://info.virox.com/hubfs/VAH\\_Resources/PDFs/Factsheet\\_CanineDistemperVirus\\_April2016.pdf](http://info.virox.com/hubfs/VAH_Resources/PDFs/Factsheet_CanineDistemperVirus_April2016.pdf)

## Dharma Guardian-2018

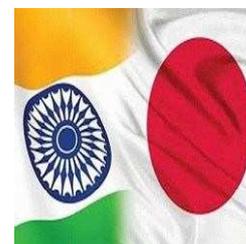
**Question:Which of the following country will take part with India in the first-ever joint military exercise 'Dharma Guardian'?**

**(a)South Korea (b)Japan (c)Mauritius (d)Brazil**

**Answer:(b)**

**Related facts:**

- To promote military cooperation between India and Japan, both countries will hold first-ever joint military exercise 'DHARMA GUARDIAN-2018'.
- Exercise will be held at Counter Insurgency Warfare School in Vairengte, Mizoram from November 1 to 14, 2018.
- The Indian contingent will be represented by 6/1 Gorkha Rifles while the Japanese contingent will be represented by 32 infantry regiment of the Japanese ground self-defence
- This exercise will emphasize increasing interoperability between forces of both the countries and will facilitate tracking the worldwide phenomenon of terrorism.



- This exercise will enhance the military capabilities of both the forces through joint training & planning, tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats that may be encountered during an urban warfare scenario.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/armies-of-india-and-japan-to-hold-first-ever-joint-exercise-from-november-1/articleshow/66278391.cms>

## Successful night trial of Prithvi-II missile

**Question: On October 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, India's Strategic Forces Command successfully test-fired which of the following missile during night time?**

**(a)Prithvi-II (b)Prithvi-I (c)Agni-II (d)Agni-IV**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- On October 6<sup>th</sup> 2018, India's Strategic Forces Command successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable missile **Prithvi-II** during night time.
- As part of a user trial by the Army it was launched from a test range in Chandipur near Balasore, Odisha. Prithvi-II is a surface-to-surface missile and has a strike range of 350 km.
- It was launched from a mobile launcher from **launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR)** at Chandipur near Balasore.
- Earlier, it was successfully test-fired during night time on 21 February this year from the ITR at Chandipur.
- The missile is capable of carrying **500 to 1,000 kilograms** of warheads and is thrust by **liquid propulsion twin engines**.
- The state-of-the-art missile uses **advanced inertial guidance system** with manoeuvring trajectory to hit its target.
- Prithvi II is a nine-metre-tall, single-stage liquid-fuelled first missile to have been developed by the DRDO under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme**.



**Links:**

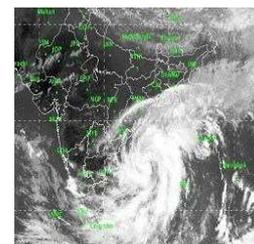
<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/successful-night-trial-of-prithvi-ii-missile/articleshow/66102762.cms>

## Cyclone Titli

**Question:Recently a cyclone 'Titli' hit the Odisha and Andhra coast in first week of October, which statement is NOT true regarding 'Titli'?**

- (a)Cyclonic storms 'Luban' also developed at the same time**
- (b)INCOIS has informed about the storm well in advance**
- (c)This tropical storm developed in Arabian Sea**
- (d)This is for the first time that twin storms have developed**

**Answer:(c)**



### Related facts:

- The rare phenomena of twin cyclone – ‘Luban’ and ‘Titli’ – occurring at the same time, over the **Arabian Sea** and the **Bay of Bengal** respectively, are marked after **40 years**.
- The **Indian National Centre for Oceanic Information Services (INCOIS)** has forecasted about the cyclone **TITLI** in **Bay of Bengal**.
- This storm has impacted the Gopalpur and Kalingpatanam in Odisha and north Andhra Pradesh on 11<sup>th</sup>
- **Luban** storm is a severe cyclonic storm over the westcentral Arabian Sea and is likely to move towards Yemen and south Oman coasts by Sunday.
- The onset of Northeast Monsoon may happen only after the life cycle of these systems are completed.

### Naming cyclones:

- Hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones are all the same, different names are given for **tropical storms** in different parts of the world as such, **Hurricane** in the Atlantic, **Typhoon** in the Pacific and **Cyclone** in the Indian Ocean. If the speed of the storm’s wind reaches or crosses **74 mph**, it is then classified into a **hurricane, cyclone or typhoon**. Storm get name if it achieve the speed of **39 mph**.
- The purpose of naming Cyclone is to make easier for people to understand and remember the tropical cyclones/hurricane in a region, thus to facilitate disaster risk awareness, preparedness, management and reduction.

### Guidelines for naming cyclones–

- A name should be short and readily understood when broadcast.
- The names must also be neutral, not culturally sensitive and it should not convey any unintended and potentially inflammatory meaning. The name of the storm is usually retired if it has caused widespread death and destruction.

### Links-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/twin-cyclones-may-benefit-the-state/article25185064.ece>

## Successful Flight Test of Astra

**Question: Indigenously developed Astra is a-**

- (a) BVR Air-to-Air Missile (b) BVR Land-to-Air Missile (c) BVR Land-to Land Missile (d) BVR Air-to-water Missile

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 26 September 2018 successful test of the indigenously built missile Astra was done by Indian Air Force from Su-30 aircraft from Air Force Station, Kalaikunda.
- Astra is the first indigenously developed Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) of length 3.8m, diameter 178mm, and weight 154 kg.
- It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).



**Features of Missile:**

- It is intended to engage and destroy aerial targets with high maneuverability and supersonic speeds.
- The missile's advanced air combat capabilities allow it to engage multiple high-performance targets.
- It is the best in class weapon system and has undergone more than twenty developmental trials.
- The Mk-I variant of the Astra missile was first tested in May 2003, from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur, Odisha.

**References:**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547472>

## India's mars probe completed 4 years in orbit

**Question. When the India's first inter-planetary mission was launched to the red planet 'Mars'?**

**(A)24 September 2014 (B)25 September 2013 (C)5 November 2013 (D)10 November 2013**

**Answer. C**

**Related facts-**

- India's first inter-planetary mission Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM) was launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to the red planet 'Mars'.
- MOM was launched with PSLV-C25 rocket. MOM has completed four years orbiting the red planet, according to ISRO. It was successfully placed itself into Martian orbit on September 24, 2014, in its first attempt.
- MOM is built with full autonomy to take care of itself for long periods without any ground intervention. The spacecraft came out of communication 'blackout' during this period.
- MOM is the only Martian artificial satellite which could image the full disc of Mars in one view frame and also image the far side of the Martian moon Deimos.
- MOM is unique in a way that it made India as the first country to achieve the feat of successfully launching a satellite to Mars in its maiden attempt. The mission has also helped scientists successfully prepare a global atlas of Mars.



**Links-**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/10065555\\_India-s-Mars-probe-completes-four-years-in-orbit-ISRO.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/10065555_India-s-Mars-probe-completes-four-years-in-orbit-ISRO.html)

## Sagarmatha Friendship-2 Military Exercise

**Question: Sagarmatha Friendship-2 is a Military Exercise between which of the following countries?**

**(a) India & Nepal (b) India & China (c) Nepal & China (d) Nepal & USA**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Sagarmatha Friendship-2 is the second joint Military Exercise between Nepal and China. This is a platoon



level training that will be led by captains from Nepal Army and Chinese People's Liberation Army.

- It is a 10 days military exercise which will start from 17<sup>th</sup> September and will be held in Chengdu, the capital of China's southwestern Sichuan Province.
- This second joint military exercise aims at sharing experiences, skills and professional knowledge as well as sharing expertise in disaster management and fighting terrorism.
- Around 15 personnel are likely to participate from both sides.

#### **About Sagarmatha Friendship-1:**

- The first joint exercise was conducted at the Army's Para Training School in Maharajgunj, Nepal in April 2017.
- It has nursed in developing mutual understanding and cordiality between armies of both the countries to tackle the terrorist activities and strengthening military ties.

#### **About Surya Kiran:**

- Nepal has been conducting battalion-level exercises named 'Surya Kiran' with the Indian Army for the last 13 years, engaging some 300 personnel from both sides.

References-

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2018-07-21/nepal-china-military-drill-in-sept.html>

## **Sports**

### **Tennis**

#### **Novak Djokovic won Shanghai Masters 2018**

**Question: Which of the following player has recently won the Shanghai Masters title consecutively four times?**

**(a)Borna Coric (b)Novak Djokovic (c)Roger Federer (d)Rafael Nadal**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Novak Djokovic bagged Shanghai Masters title consecutively fourth time by defeating Borna Coric of Croatia at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China.
- He achieved this success with a 6-3, 6-4 win over Borna Coric.
- The second-seeded Djokovic has won all four Shanghai finals he has contested in his career (2012, 2013, 2015 and 2018).
- Djokovic holds an 11-0 overall record wins in finals of men's single tennis tournaments played in China.
- In China he also won the Beijing tournament six times and the 2008 year-end Tennis Masters Cup held in Shanghai.



**Links:**

<https://sports.yahoo.com/djokovic-wins-record-fourth-shanghai-masters-title-112147502-ten.html>

## Cricket

### Indian woman cricketer to score 3 sixes in an over

**Question: Who is the first Indian woman cricketer to score 3 sixes in an over?**

**(a) Harmanpreet Kaur (b) Jemimah Rodrigues (c) Poonam Yadav (d) Mithali Raj**

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts-**

- On September 19, 2018, Indian women cricketer Jemimah Rodrigues scored a new record with three sixes in one over.
- He became the first Indian woman cricket player to have three sixes in one over.
- The 18-year-old along with wicketkeeper Taniya Bhatia (46 off 35).
- In this match, Jemimah scored 36 runs on 15 balls.
- In this match India defeated the Sri Lanka by 13 runs.



**Reference-**

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/cricket/story/1st-women-s-t20i-jemimah-rodrigues-india-vs-sri-lanka-1344086-2018-09-19>

## Football

### SAFF Suzuki Cup 2018

**Question: Who has won the SAFF Suzuki Cup 2018?**

**(a)India (b)Nepal (c)Maldives (d)Bhutan**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- SAFF Suzuki Cup is a football championship between the South Asian countries sponsored by Suzuki.
- Maldives defeated defending champions India by 2-1 to lift the SAFF Suzuki Cup 2018 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It was organized between 4-15 September. Prior to this, Maldives had grabbed this title in 2008.
- India had clashed three times with the Maldivese. in 1997, 2008, 2009 in order to hold this prestigious Cup.
- Indian team was led by Subhasish Bose while Akram Abdul Gani was the Captain of Maldivian team.



**Awards:**

**Most Valuable Player-Mohamed Faisal (Maldives)**

**Top Goalscorer-Manveer Singh (India)**

**Fair Play Award-Bhutan**

**Reference:**

<https://www.maldivesfootball.com/story/SAFF-Suzuki-Cup-Preview-Maldives-vs-India-344>

# Badminton

## Yonex Japan Open-2018

**Question: Who bagged the Men's Singles title in the Yonex Japan Open-2018?**

(a) Kento Momota (b) Lin Dan (c) Lee Yong-Dae  
(d) Hashiru Shimono

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- BWF World Tour Super 750 Series Daihatsu Yonex Japan Open 2018 held from 11-16 September in Japan.

**Results:**

**Men's Singles-**

- Winner-Kento Momota (Japan)
- Runner Up-Khosit Phetpradab (Thailand)



**Women's Singles-**

- Winner-Carolina Marin (Spain)
- Runner Up-Nozomi Okhura (Japan)

**Men's Doubles-**

- Winner-Marcus Fernaldi Gideon & Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (both Indonesia)
- Runner Up-Li Junhui & Liu Yuchuan (both China)

**Women's Doubles-**

- Winner-Yuki Fukushima & Sayaka Hirota (both Japan)
- Runner Up-Chen Qingchen & Jia Yifan (both China)

**Mixed doubles-**

- Winner-Zheng Siwei & Huang Yaqiong (both China)
- Runner Up-wang Yilyu & Huang Dongping (both China)

**References:**

<https://bwfbadminton.com/results/3152/daihatsu-yonex-japan-open-2018/draw/xd>

# Golf

## PGA Tour Championship

**Question: Tiger wood bagged Tour Championship. This was his-**

(a) 80<sup>th</sup> PGA Tour Title (b) 81<sup>st</sup> PGA Tour Title (c) 82<sup>nd</sup> PGA Tour Title  
(d) 84<sup>th</sup> PGA Tour Title



**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Tiger Woods bagged the PGA Tour Championship at East Lake Golf Club in Atlanta on 23 September.
- This was 80<sup>th</sup> PGA title of his glittering He is also the 14-time major winner.
- This victory is first in 5 years since the 2013 WGC Bridgestone Invitational in Akron, Ohio.
- During his title drought reign, his ranking fell below 500 for the first time as a professional with a low of 1199 in December 2017.

**Links:**

<https://edition.cnn.com/2018/09/23/golf/tiger-woods-tour-championship-spt-intl/index.html>

## **Formula One** Singapore Grand Prix

**Question: Who among the following Formula One driver has won the recently concluded “Hungarian Grand Prix, 2018”?**

**(a) Daniel Ricciardo (b) Sebastian Vettel (c) Lewis Hamilton (d) Max Verstappen**

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes bagged top spot in the Singapore Grand Prix organized between 14-16 Sep 2018 in Marina Bay Street Circuit, Singapore.
- Max Verstappen (Netherlands) of Red Bull team maintained the second
- In this competition, the Italian team Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel (Germany) finished third.



**References:** <https://www.formula1.com/en/results.html/2018/races/993/singapore.html>

## **Sports Miscellaneous** Youth Olympic Games-2018

**Question: Which of the following country hosted the 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer Youth Olympic Games?**

**(a) Argentina (b) Chile (c) Brazil (d) South Korea**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Third summer Youth Olympic Games (YOG) were held in Buenos Aires, Argentina from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup>
- Total 3,997 athletes have taken part from 206 countries in the games. A total of 241 events were held under 32 sports.
- Mascot of the 2018 Youth Olympic Games was **#Pandi**. The logo of the Games was ‘**live the future**’.
- Russia finishes with first rank on medal tally with a total of 59 medals (29 gold, 18 silver, 12 bronze). China and Japan bagged the consecutive second and third spot respectively.



- India finishes with 16<sup>th</sup> rank on the medal standings. A total of 13 medals were clinched comprised of 3 gold, 9 silver and 1 bronze medal. Indian weightlifter Jeremy Lalrinnunga grabbed the first ever gold medal in weightlifting battling under the men's 62 kg weight category.
- India shooters Manu Bhaker and Saurabh Chaudhary had won the gold medal under 10 m air pistol category in their individual events.
- Akash Malik became the first Indian archer to grab medal in Youth Olympic Games. He bagged silver medal to mark this history.

#### About Youth Olympic Games:

- Youth Olympic Games (YOG) is a multi-sport event held every 4 years. For the first time it was held in Singapore in year 2010. Next summer YOG will be held in **Dakar, Senegal**.
- The concept of Youth Olympic Games (YOG) was coined by Austrian industrial manager Johann Rosenzopf in 1998 to make youth active and healthy.
- Till date total, 3 summers and 2 winter youth Olympics have been held.

#### List of summer and winter youth Olympics to date-

- 1<sup>st</sup> summer -Singapore, 2010
- 1<sup>st</sup> winter- Innsbruck, Austria, 2012
- 2<sup>nd</sup> summer- Nanjing, China, 2014
- 2<sup>nd</sup> winter-Lillehammer, Norway, 2016

#### Links:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth\\_Olympic\\_Games](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Youth_Olympic_Games)

## Income Tax bags PSG Trophy

**Question: Income Tax bagged PSG Trophy 2018 by defeating which of the following?**

**(a) Vijaya Bank (b) Integral Coach Factory (c) Indian Army (d) IAF**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Income Tax (Chennai) bagged the 54th All India basketball tournament for men for the PSG Trophy defeating Vijaya Bank (Bengaluru) by 82-78 in finals at the PSG Indoor Sports Complex, Coimbatore. Indian Bank (Chennai) maintained third spot.
- Jeevanandham was the man of the final as he shot three crucial baskets before the final whistle to win the title. He was awarded the 'Player of the Tournament'.
- The Tournament comprises eight leading teams viz. Indian Army (Delhi), who finished runner-up in 2017, Indian Bank (Chennai), Indian Railways, Income Tax (Chennai), Vijaya Bank (Bengaluru), Customs (Kochi), ICF (Chennai) and IAF (Delhi)..
- Defending champion Indian Overseas Bank is not participating in the tournament.
- This tournament was a five day event held from 9-13 September 2018.
- The matches were played on league basis till September 11 and semi-finals and finals were held on September 12 and 13 respectively.
- The winner was awarded with prize money of Rs one lakh, runner-up with Rs 50,000 while the best player received Rs 10,000.

## World Shooting Championship-2018

**Question: 52<sup>nd</sup> World championship was hosted by which of the following city?**

**(a)Changwon (b)Granada (c)Doha (d)Palembang**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The 52<sup>nd</sup> ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation)World Championship was organized from 31<sup>st</sup> to August -15<sup>th</sup> September 2018 at the Changwon International Shooting Range in Changwon, South Korea.
- A total of 1806 athletes competed in 59 shooting sport events and four disciplines, representing 90 nations and piling up 3457 starts. India fielded 142 shooters that includes 63 juniors.
- China (20 gold,15 Silver & 8 Bronze) catch up the top spot while Korea(11 Gold,14 Silver,11 Bronze) settled at second count.
- India was at the third position having a total of 27 medals (11 Gold, 9 Silver & 7 Bronze).
- This championship marks a giant leap by the Indians who had won merely silver and bronze at previous ISSF World Championship held in Granada, Spain.
- India previous best was recorded in 2006 in Zagreb when it clinched gold medals through Abhinav Bindra, Manavjeet Singh Sandhu and Junior Navnath Fartade.



### Medalists Catalogue:

Event	Date	Medal	Name
25m Standard Pistol (Men)	14 Sept	Silver	Gurpreet Singh
50m Pistol Men	4 Sept	Gold Mitharval	Om Prakash
Double Trap Men	8 Sept	Gold	Ankur Mittal
10m Air Rifle Women	3 Sept	Silver	Anjum Moudgil
10m Air Rifle Men Junior	7 Sep	Gold	Hriday Hazarika
10m Air Pistol Men Junior	6 Sept	Gold	Saurabh Chaudhary
10m Air Pistol men Junior	6 Sept	Bronze	Arjun Singh Cheema
25m Stand Pistol Men Junior	14 Sept	Gold	Vijayveer Sidhu
25m Pistol Men Junior	13 Sept	Gold	Udhayveer Sidhu
50m Pistol Men Junior	2 Sep	Gold	Arjun Singh Cheema
50m Pistol Men Junior	2 Sep	Bronze	Gaurav Rana
Skeet men Junior	11 Sept	Bronze	Gurnihal Singh

Garcha			
10m Air Rifle Women Junior	7 Sept	Silver	Elavenil Valarivan
10m Air Rifle Women Junior	7 Sept	Bronze	Shreya Agrawal
Trap Women Junior	3 Sept	Silver	Manisha Keer

**Medalist by Team Event:**

Event	Date	Medal	Country
10m Air Pistol Men Team	6 Sept	Silver	India
Double Trap Men Team	8 Sept	Bronze	India
10m Air rifle Women Team	3 Sept	Silver	India
10m Air Pistol Men Junior Team	6 Sept	Silver	India
25m Standard Pistol Men	14 Sept	Gold	India
Junior Team			
25m Pistol Men Junior Team	13 Sept	Gold	India
50m Pistol Men Junior Team	2 Sept	Gold	India
Trap Men Junior Team	6 Sept	Silver	India
10m Air Rifle Women Junior Team	7 Sept	Gold	India

Skeet Men Junior Team	11 Sept	Silver	India
10m Air Rifle Mixed Team 2	5 Sept	Bronze	India
Junior Team			
10m Air Pistol Mixed Team	4 Sept	Bronze	India 1

## Short Notes

### Personalities

#### GD Agrawal Passes away

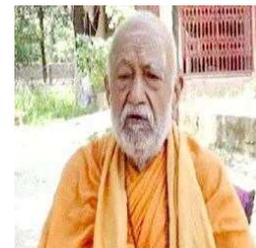
**Question: Professor GD Agrawal is related to which of the following environmental movement in India?**

**(a) Silent Valley Movement (b) Appiko Movement (c) Ganga Aandolan (d) Narmada Bachao Aandolan**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Environmentalist and **Ganga Activist** Professor GD Agrawal (87) also called Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand died of cardiac arrest at AIIMS Rishikesh on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2018.
- He was on a fast-unto-death in Haridwar's **Matri Sadan ashram** on the issue of conservation of river Ganga.
- He began his fast unto death on 22<sup>nd</sup> June this year, demanding the passage of **Ganga protection bill**, scraping of all proposed and under construction hydropower projects on the Ganga, a total ban on sand mining in the river-bed of the Ganga in Haridwar and formation of a council to look into issues related to the river.
- Agrawal was a former IIT Kanpur professor and the first member secretary of Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). He was baptized as Swami Gyan Swaroop Sanand in July 2011.
- On 2<sup>nd</sup> October this year, water conservationist Rajendra Singh, along with a team started a 105-day yatra from Gomukh in Uttarakhand to Gangasagar in West Bengal to support Agrawal fast.
- Priests at Matri Sadan have decided to donate his body to Banaras Hindu University.



**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/activist-gd-agarwal-who-was-on-indefinite-fast-to-save-ganga-dies-of-heat-attack-5397603/>

## Osamu Shimomura passes away

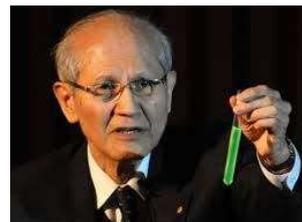
**Question:** Marine biologist Osamu Shimomura was awarded Noble prize for discovery and development of which of the following?

- (a) Nature of chemical bond (b) Green fluorescent protein  
(c) Design and synthesis of molecular machine (d) Directed evolution of enzyme

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**

- Japanese-born Marine biologist **Osamu Shimomura**, who won the Noble prize in Chemistry died on 19 Oct 2018. He was 90 years old.
- Osamu Shimomura and two Americans shared the 2008 Noble prize for the discovery and development of a jellyfish protein that later contributed to cancer studies.
- Shimomura was born in Kyoto in 1928 and studied in Nagasaki where he survived the August 9, 1945 U.S. Atomic bombing.
- In 1960, he moved to Princeton University, where he isolated the protein known as **Green fluorescent protein** in samples of thousands of jellyfish taken from the U.S. west coast.
- This protein lets off a glow when it is illuminated with ultra violet light and has become a key tool in studying biological process in cells.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/nobel-chemistry-laureate-shimomura-passes-away-at-90/article25285780.ece?homepage=true>

## India appoints new ambassador to China

**Question:** Who has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to China?

- (a) Sardeep Ahluwalia (b) Rajdeep Singh (c) Vikram Misri (d) Gautam Bambawale

**Answer:** (c)

**Related facts:**

- On 28 September 2018 Vikram Misri has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to China.
- Currently, he is serving as the Ambassador of India to Myanmar since August 31, 2016.
- He will replace serving ambassador Gautam Bambawale at this post.
- Misri is a 1989-batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer.



**Links:**

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30445/Vikram+Misri+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+the+Peoples+Republic+of+China>

## Chhotu Ram

**Question:** Which of the following statement is not correct regarding Chhotu Ram?

- (a) He is co-founder of National Unionist Party in Punjab  
(b) He was also awarded with title Rao Bahadur  
(c) Recently PM has inaugurated a 64 feet tall statue of Chhotu Ram



**(d)He is related to construction of Indira Gandhi Canal**

**Answer :(d)**

**Related facts:**

- Recently PM has inaugurated a 64 feet tall statue of **Deenbandhu Sir Chhotu Ramin** his native village Sampala in Haryana's Rohtak District.
- He was a social reformer, a strong voice for the oppressed and the deprived. He was he was popularly known as **Deen Bandhu and Rahabar-e Azam**.
- Chhotu Ram was also awarded the title of '**Rao Bahadur**'.
- Sir Chhotu Ram was born on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 1881 was regarded as Messiah of peasants and was instrumental in empowering farmers in pre independence era and getting pro-farmers law enacted.
- He was a co-founder of the **National Unionist Party** which ruled the United Punjab Province in pre Independent India and kept Congress and Muslim League at bay.
- His legacy has been evoked by the formation of a new party, the **National Unionist Zamindara Party** by guar farmers in Rajasthan in 2013.
- His major achievement was the passage of **Punjab Land Revenue (Amendment) Act, 1929**, which remains a landmark social legislation till date. He was also the propounder of the concept of compensating the farmer for at least the expenses incurred by him on farming; the concept has now evolved into '**Minimum Support Price**'.

**Links-**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184061>

## Bishwanath Dutt

**Question-present Bishwanath Dutt passed away He was-**

**(a) Actor (b) Statesman (c) Musicians (d) Game Administrator**

**Answer- (d)**

**Related facts-**

- Bishwanath Dutt, former BCCI president, died on September 24, 2018 He was 92 years old.
- He became the President of BCCI in 1989.
- He was also the head of the Cricket Association of Bengal (CAB).
- Apart from this he was also the Secretary of Indian Football Association.



**References-**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/cricket/biswanath-dutt-bcci-president-dead-5371596/>

## Kalpana Lajmi

**Question- Recently Kalpana Lajmi passed away she was-**

**(a) Litterateur (b) Film Director and Producer (c) Actress (d) Historian**

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts-**

- On 23rd September, 2018, the famous film director and producer Kalpana Lajmi passed away. She was 64 years old.
- In the year 1986, he started making a film with 'Ek Pal'.



- Kalpana Lajmi got a different identity from the 1993 film 'Rudali', for which she was awarded National Film Award.
- Apart from this, Dimple Kapadia, who played a leading role in the film, also received the National Film Award for Best Actress.
- Raveena Tandon got the National Film Award for Best Actress for the film 'Daman: A Victim of Marital Violence', made in the year 2001.
- In the year 2006, Sushmita Sen and Mithun Chakraborty starrer "Chingari" was her last film.

#### References-

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/hindi/bollywood/news/filmmaker-kalpana-lajmi-passes-away/articleshow/65918815.cms>

## Anna Rajam Malhotra

**Question: Anna Rajam Malhotra passed away recently. She was**

- (a) First lady IAS officer (b) First lady therapy (c) First woman naval officer (d) First female air military officer**

**Answer- (a)**

#### Related facts

- On 17th September, 2018, the first woman IAS officer of independent India, Anna Rajam Malhotra, died in Mumbai. She was 91 years old.
- she joined the Indian Administrative Service in 1951.
- She was born in 1927 in Ernakulum district of Kerala.
- She was wife of former RBI Governor R.N Malhotra.
- She is known for her contribution for the establishment of the country's modern port of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT). She was also the President of JNPT.
- She was awarded Padma Bhushan by the Central Government in 1989.



#### References-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/mumbai/indias-first-woman-ias-officer-dead/article24971462.ece>

## Tjinder Mukherjee

**Question: Recently, Tjinder Mukherjee took charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of which insurance company?**

- (a) SBI Life Insurance (b) National Insurance Company Ltd. (c) Life Insurance Corporation (d) Oriental Insurance Company Ltd.**

**Answer- (b)**

#### Related facts

- On September 14, 2018, Tjinder Mukherjee, National Insurance Company Ltd. Took over as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD)
- Earlier she was General Manager and Chief Underwriting Officer of New India Assurance Company Ltd.
- **National Insurance Company Ltd.**
- Established-year 1906



- Nationalization-1972 Headquarters-Kolkata

#### References-

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/national-insurance-gets-new-cmd/article24956280.ece>

## James Foster

**Question: Which former England wicketkeeper recently announced the retirement of all forms of cricket after the last season?**

**(a) Jonny Bairstow (b) Matt Prior (c) James Foster (d) Tim Ambrose**

**Answer- (c)**

**Related facts-**

- On September 14, 2018, the Essex County Club and England's former wicketkeeper James Foster announced his retirement from all forms of cricket after the final season.
- Foster's contract with Essex has ended.
- Wicketkeeper James Foster made his Test debut against India in 2001 in Mohali.
- Foster's international career at a glance-
- Test-7 matches, 226 runs at an average of 34.55 in 12 innings, with highest score of 48 runs.
- ODI-11 matches, 41 runs at an average of 57.74 in 6 innings, highest score of 13 runs.
- International T20, 5 match, 37 runs at an average of 115.62 in 5 innings, highest score 14 runs (unbeaten).



#### References-

<http://www.espnricinfo.com/story/ /id/24671183/james-foster-retires,-coaching-career-beckons>

## Yusaku Maejawa

**Question- Yusaku Maejawa, the first space traveler for American Private Space Company SpaceX belongs to-**

**(a) Philippines (b) Japan (c) Mexico (d) South Korea**

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts-**

- On September, 2018, the American private space company Space X announced the first space tourists as Japan's Yusaku Maejawa.
- Yusaku Maejawa is a Japanese billionaire and celebrity.
- He can be sent on this trip by the year 2023.
- He will be the first person to go to the moon after the Apollo campaign that was sent in 1972.



#### References-

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/09/18/yusaku-maejawa-just-purchased-every-seat-on-the-spacex-flight-to-the-moon-who-is-he/?noredirect=on&utm\\_term=.ca77f2910bc7](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/morning-mix/wp/2018/09/18/yusaku-maejawa-just-purchased-every-seat-on-the-spacex-flight-to-the-moon-who-is-he/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.ca77f2910bc7)

## Jasdev Singh

**Question: Jasdev Singh was-**

**(a) Sports Commentator (b) Writer (c) Scientist (d) Sprinter**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Renowned sports commentator Jasdev Singh passed away on 25 September 2018 after prolonged illness. He was 87 years old.
- He was popularly known as the voice of Indian Hockey. He was outstanding commentator of All India Radio and Doordarshan.
- He had covered 9 Olympics, 6 Asian Games & countless Independence Day & Republic Day broadcasts.
- Jasdev was bestowed with the Padma Shri in 1985 and Padma Bhushan in 2008.



**Reference:**

<https://naidunia.jagran.com/sports/other-famous-sports-commentator-jasdev-singh-died-2586450>

## Komal Lahiri

**Question: Komal Lahiri has been appointed as the Grievance Officer of India of which of the following?**

**(a) Whatsapp (b) Instagram (c) Twitter (d) LinkedIn**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Mobile messaging app Whatsapp has appointed Komal Lahiri as a grievance officer for
- She will look the public complaints or concerns regarding Whatsapp services.
- She is Senior Director of Global Customer Operations and Localisation at WhatsApp Inc since March 2018. Earlier, she has also worked as a senior director at Facebook and Instagram.
- This move is in compliance with the Supreme Court notice and Government of India attempt to set up a grievance officer in India, establish a corporate entity and comply with country's law.



**About Whatsapp:**

- WhatsApp Messenger is a freeware and cross-platform messaging and Voice over IP (VoIP) service owned by Facebook.
- Whatsapp was acquired by Facebook in 2014 for US\$19 billion, its largest acquisition to date.
- Headquarter- Menlo Park, California
- Founder- John Koum & Brian Acton
- CEO- Chris Daniels

**Reference:**

<https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/meet-komal-lahiri-whatsapps-grievance-officer-for-india-how-she-would-fight-fake-news/1326031/>

## Massimo Costantini

**Question: Massimo Costantini was coach of which of the following sport?**

**(a)Table Tennis (b)Badminton (c)Hockey (d)Tennis**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Massimo Constantini, the man behind Indian Table Tennis success resigned from his post due to personal problems.
- He has served as a coach for both Men's and Women's Table Tennis.
- He was reappointed in 2016 and his guidance brought gold in the Men's Team and Women's Team events in Goldcoast Commonwealth Games, as well as yielded Manika Batra to the Women's Singles title.
- His valuable supervision can be better judged by the Indian Table Tennis success in recently concluded Asian Games.



**Reference:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/costantini-not-to-renew-his-contract/article25041268.ece>

## Ajit Mohan

**Question: Who has been appointed as the new facebook India head?**

**(a)Ajit Mohan (b)Rakesh Mehta (c)Prashant Singh (d)Dhananjay Pandey**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Ajit Mohan has been appointed as the new Managing Director(MD) and vice-president of Facebook India.
- Prior to Facebook, he was the Chief Executive Officer of Hotstar, the online streaming platform owned by Star India since 2016.
- He will govern the respective post after former managing director Umang Bedi.
- **Mohan will align teams and govern Facebook's overall strategy in India and will be responsible for driving the company's continued investment in India.**



**References:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/facebook-appoints-former-hotstar-ceo-ajit-mohan-as-india-md-vp/article25029994.ece>

## Charles K. Kao

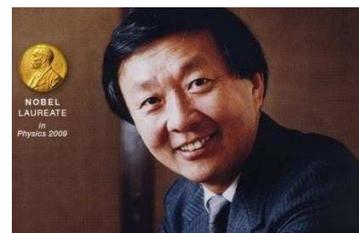
**Question: Charles Kao was awarded Nobel Prize in-**

**(a)Physics (b)Peace (c)Literature (d)Medicine**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Eminent Scientist Charles Kuen Kao passed away on 23 September after the prolonged illness. He was 84 years old.
- He was battling with Alzheimer's disease diagnosed in 2004. Later he, together with his wife, created the Charles



K. Kao Foundation for Alzheimer's Disease in 2010 to help other patients and raise public awareness about this progressive disease.

- He was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics in 2009 for his work on fiber optics bringing revolutionary changes to modern telecommunication technology.
- He studied at the University of London where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree and his D. in electrical engineering.

#### References:

<http://chinaplus.cri.cn/news/china/9/20180923/187553.html>

## SAIL NEW CHAIRMAN

**Question. Who among the following is appointed as SAIL's new chairman?  
(A)Anil Kumar Chaudhary (B)Prashant Kumar (C)Dilbagh Singh (D)Anil Bajjal**

**Answer. A**

#### Related facts-

- Anil Kumar Chaudhary has taken charge as new chairman of Steel Authority of India (SAIL), prior to this he was director of sail.
- An associate member of the Institute of Cost Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI), Chaudhary is an alumni of the Faculty of Law Studies (FLS), from where he completed his bachelor's degree in law.
- SAIL is a maharatna company, currently, there are 8 maharatna public sector undertakings-
  - Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited
  - GAIL (India) Limited
  - NTPC Limited
  - Steel Authority of India Limited
  - Coal India Limited
  - Indian Oil Corporation Limited
  - Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited
  - Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited



#### Links-

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/anil-kumar-chaudhary-takes-charge-as-chairman-of-steel-authority-of-india-118092200479\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/anil-kumar-chaudhary-takes-charge-as-chairman-of-steel-authority-of-india-118092200479_1.html)

## Goodwill Ambassador for Nepal tourism

**Question. Who among the following Bollywood actress appointed as Ambassador for Nepal tourism?**

**(a)Hema Malini (b)Sonali Bendre (c)Jaya Prada (d)Manisha Koirala**

**Answer. C**

#### Related facts-

- According to a press release from the ministry of tourism, culture and civil aviation Jaya Prada has been appointed as Goodwill Ambassador for four years.
- The appointment of Jaya Prada as goodwill ambassador will strengthen the relationship between India and Nepal and promote the tourism activities in both the countries.



- The government of Nepal has announced the year 2020 as 'Visit Nepal year' with a target of at least 20 lakh visitors every year.
- Tourism is an important source of revenue and employment generation in Nepal. India is the biggest source market for Nepal tourism.

#### Links-

<https://www.aninews.in/news/world/asia/indian-cine-artist-jaya-appointed-nepals-tourism-goodwill-ambassador201809221702080001/>

## B S Mubarak

**Question: Who has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Guatemala?**

**(a) T Rajeshwari (b) T Venkatesh (c) Rajneesh Kumar (d) B S Mubarak**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- According to a press release by Ministry of External Affairs on 20 September 2018, S. Mubarak has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guatemala.
- Currently, he is Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs.
- At this post, he will replace Sajeev Babu Kurup who has been the ambassador of India to Guatemala since 2015.
- It is worth to note that the capital of Guatemala is Guatemala City and its currency is Quetzal



#### Links:

<https://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/30418/B+S+Mubarak+appointed+as+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+Republic+of+Guatemala>

## K N Vyas

**Question: Recently, K N Vyas has been appointed as the Chief of –**

**(a) Atomic Energy Commission (b) Law Commission of India  
(c) Medical Counseling Committee (d) National Commission on Farmers**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- Renowned Scientist Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas has been appointed as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission on September 19, 2018. He replaced Shekhar Basu on this post.
- At present, he is Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Center (BARC).



#### About Atomic Energy Commission:

- Atomic Energy Commission has been engaged in the development of nuclear power technology, applications of radiation technologies in the fields of agriculture, medicine, industry and basic research.
- The Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) came into being on August 3, 1954, under the direct charge of the Prime Minister through a Presidential Order.

- Its headquarter is in Mumbai.
- According to the Resolution constituting the AEC, the Secretary to the Government of India in the Department of Atomic Energy is ex-officio Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

#### References:

<https://dae.nic.in/?q=node/394>

## Prashant Kumar

**Question: Prashant Kumar was recently appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (C.F.O) of which public sector bank?**

- (a) Bank of Baroda (b) Punjab National Bank (c) State Bank of India  
(d) Union Bank Opu India

**Answer- (c)**

#### Related facts

- On September 17, 2018, Prashant Kumar has been appointed as the new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) of State Bank of India (S.B.I.).
- At this post, he replaced Anshula Kant.
- Prior to this, he was Deputy Managing Director (Human Resources) and Corporate Development Officer of SBI.
- He has also worked as DMD and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the State Bank of India.



#### Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/prashant-kumar-takes-charge-as-sbi-cfo/article24966736.ece>

## S. Jaishankar

**Question: Recently S. Jaishankar joined the US India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) board. He was former-**

- (a) Home Secretary (b) Defense Secretary (c) Foreign Secretary  
(d) National Security Advisor

**Answer (c)**

#### Related facts:

- On September 17, 2018, former Foreign Secretary Subrahmanyam Jaishankar was added to the US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) board.
- Currently, he is the president of Global Corporate Affairs for the Tata Group.
- He was the Foreign Secretary of India from January 2015 to January 2018.
- He is widely respected for playing a significant role in negotiating the Indo-U.S. civilian nuclear agreement.



#### About US- India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF):

- The US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) is a non-profit organization, with the primary objective of strengthening the U.S.-India bilateral and strategic partnership.

- It aims to achieve the goals of driving economic growth, job creation, innovation, inclusion, and entrepreneurship by mutual cooperation

**Links:**

<https://www.usispf.org/pr/usispf-announces-new-board-additions>

## Captain Raju

**Question: Captain Raju passed away recently. He was-**  
**(a) Environmentalist (b) Agricultural scientist (c) Actor (d) Painter**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Veteran Malayalam actor Captain Raju passed away on September 17, 2018. He was 68 years old.
- Earlier he was a Captain in the Indian Army. He has starred in over 500 films in Malayalam, Hindi, Tamil, Telugu 'Kannada' and English languages.
- Some of his notable movies comprise *Nadodikattu*, *Oru VadakkanVeeragadha* and *Pavam Krooran*.
- Malayalam film 'Masterpiece' is the last movie that features Captain Raju.



**References:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/movies/noted-malayalam-actor-captain-raju-passes-away/article24965447.ece>

## Satya Prakash Malaviya

**Question: Satya Prakash Malaviya was former Union-**  
**(a)Coal minister (b)Petroleum Minister (c)MHRD Minister (d)Coal minister**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Former Union petroleum Minister Satya Prakash Malaviya died on 16 September 2018 after prolonged illness.
- He has served as the petroleum minister in the cabinet headed by former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar.
- He has also served as the Environment minister of Uttar Pradesh Cabinet.
- He was born at Malviyanagar in the city of Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- He began his political career as a member of Praja Socialist Party. He later joined the Congress led by Sonia Gandhi.



**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/former-union-minister-satya-prakash-malviya-passes-away/article24960557.ece>

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/former-union-minister-satya-prakash-malviya-passes-away/articleshow/65827467.cms>

## Justice Ranjan Gogoi

**Question: Justice Ranjan Gogoi has served as Chief Justice of which of the following High Court?**

**(a) Orissa High Court (b) Uttarakhand High Court (c) Bombay High Court**

**(d) Punjab & Haryana High Court**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**



- Justice Ranjan Gogoi is appointed as the next Chief Justice of India. He will succeed current CJI Justice Dipak Misra as of his superannuation.
- He will serve country as 46th CJI from 3rd November 2018. His tenure will end in November 2019.

**About Justice Ranjan Gogoi:**

- He was born on 18<sup>th</sup> November 1954. He is son of Keshab Chandra Gogoi, former Chief Minister of Assam.
- He practised in the Gauhati High Court on constitutional, taxation and company matters and was appointed as a Permanent Judge of the Gauhati High Court on February 28, 2001.
- On September 9, 2010, he was transferred to the Punjab & Haryana High Court and as a Chief Justice on February 12, 2011.
- He was appointed as a Judge of the Supreme Court of India on April 23, 2012.

**Controversy:**

- He criticized Chief Justice Deepak Misra on various issues, especially on the manner of allocation of cases to certain benches by calling a press conference.
- Justices J Chelameswar (since retired), Madan B Lokur and Kurian Joseph have also attended the press conference.
- These types of allegations were posted for first time in Indian Judiciary indicting its glorious past.

**Tenure:**

- There is no fix tenure of Chief Justice of India. Once appointed, CJI remains in office until the age of 65 years i.e. till superannuation.

**Procedure for Appointment as CJI:**

- The Chief Justice of India is appointed by the President under clause (2) of Article 124 of the Constitution.
- For appointment as Chief Justice of India, one should be the senior most Judge of the Supreme Court and considered fit to hold the office. The Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs would, at the appropriate time, seek the recommendation of the outgoing Chief Justice of India for the appointment of the next Chief Justice of India.
- Whenever there is any doubt about the fitness of the senior most Judge to hold the office of the Chief Justice of India, consultation with other Judges as envisaged in Article 124 (2) of the Constitution would be made for appointment of the next Chief Justice of India.
- After receipt of the recommendation of the Chief Justice of India, the Union Minister of Law, Justice and Company Affairs will put up the recommendation to the Prime Minister who will advise the President in the matter of appointment.

## New Chairman of Indian Bank's Association

**Question- Who has been appointed as a new Chairman of Indian Banks Association?**  
(a)Sunil Mehta. (b)Madhav Nair. (c)Rajnish kumar. (d)Deepak mishra.

**Answer- (a)**

**Related facts-**

- Indian Banks Association (IBA) has elected Managing Director and Chief Executive of Punjab National Bank, Sunil Mehta, as the new chairman of India Bank's Association for the year 2018-19.
- It has also elected Bank of India's Managing Director and Chief Executive, Dina Bandhu Mohapatra, as the deputy chairman.



**About India bank's Association-**

- It was established on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India is based in Mumbai with an initial membership of 22 Banks. Currently IBA is represented by 237 Banks.
- It is managed by a Managing Committee, and the current Managing committee consists of 1 Chairman, 3 Deputy Chairmen, 1 Honorary Secretary and 26 Members.

**References-**

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/business/economy/310818/indian-banks-association-elects-pnbs-sunil-mehta-as-chairman.html>

## Awards & Honors

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

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

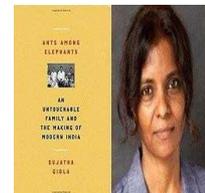
(a) We That Are Young (b) How to Travel Light (c) Remnants of a Separation

(d) Ants Among Elephants: An Untouchable Family and the Making of Modern India

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

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



## Links:

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

## Carnot Prize

**Question: University of Pennsylvania's top prize (Carnot prize) will be given to India for significant reform in which sector?**

**(a)Energy Sector (b)Space sector (c)Manufacturing sector (d)Service sector**

**Answer :(a)**



- **University of Pennsylvania** announced the **2018 Carnot prize** to India for its effort in eliminating energy poverty with sustainable solutions.
- **Minister of Railways** and **Coal Sri Piyush Goel** will receive university's top prize in energy policy for the leadership in reforming India's power sector through various initiatives.
- The ministry is being recognised for directing a fast-track effort to electrify 18,000 villages in remote parts of India.

### India's efforts:

- The rural electrification drive gave a significant breakthrough to a mission of **'24x7 Affordable, Environment-Friendly Power for all'** as India eliminated decades of darkness in more than 19000 villages till April
- In the last four years, energy efficiency has become a people's movement in India. With the vision of **"one world, one sun, one grid"** of PM Modi India is playing a significant role as a committed leader in all energy goals.
- **UJALA Scheme the world's largest LED distribution scheme** and **Saubhagya Programme**, the last mile connectivity to every household in the villages is being electrified with 51% of the 3.1 crore rural households.

### About Carnot prize:

- The **CARNOT PRIZE** is the Kleinman Center's annual recognition of distinguished contributions to energy policy through scholarship or practice.
- The Carnot prize is named in memory of French scientist Sadi Carnot, who in 1824 published Reflections on the Motive Power of Fire, which is recognised as the first statement of what is known as the second law of Thermodynamics.
- Carnot recognised that the power of the steam engine would produce a great revolution in human development.

## Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184273>

## Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018

Question: As per the ranking undertaken by Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018-

- I. Haryana was ranked as the best State while Satara District of Maharashtra was ranked as the best district.
- II. Uttar Pradesh was rewarded for maximum citizens' participation.
- III. As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, 6786 villages in 685 Districts across India were covered

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

(a) I (b) ii (b) All (c) Only i & ii

Answer: (c)

Related facts:



- **Swachh Survekshan Grameen Awards 2018** was given by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to top ranked states and districts at the concluding session of Mahatma Gandhi International Sanitation Convention at Rashtrapati Bhawan Cultural Centre.
- These awards are based on the **National Swachh Survekshan Grameen 2018** commissioned by Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- This ranking was done on the basis of a comprehensive set of parameters including **surveys of public places like schools, Anganwadis, PHCs, Haat/ Bazaars** As part of Swachh Survekshan Grameen, **6786 villages in 685 Districts** across India were covered. **27,963 public places** namely schools, Anganwadis, public health centers, haat/ bazaars/religious places in these 6786 villages were visited by an independent agency for survey.
- The collection of data from Direct Observation was based on physical observation of the sanitation status in public places by the survey agency. More than **5 crore** people participated in the **SSG 2018** and provided their feedback.
- The ranking of states and districts who received awards are as below:

### Top 3 States

- 1<sup>st</sup> Haryana; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gujarat; 3<sup>rd</sup> Maharashtra.

### Top 3 Districts

- 1<sup>st</sup> Satara, Maharashtra; 2<sup>nd</sup> Rewari, Haryana; 3<sup>rd</sup> Pedapalli, Telangana

### States with maximum citizen participation

- 1<sup>st</sup> Uttar Pradesh; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gujarat; 3<sup>rd</sup> Maharashtra

### Districts with maximum citizens' participation

- 1<sup>st</sup> Nashik, Maharashtra; 2<sup>nd</sup> Solapur, Maharashtra ; 3<sup>rd</sup> Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183949>

## Noble Prize- 2018

**Question: 2018 Nobel prize in medicine has been awarded for discovery of significant therapy of which of the following disease?**

**(a) AIDS (b) Cancer (c) Hepatitis (d) Zika**

**Answer : (b)**

**Related facts:**

- **James P. Allison** and **Tasuku Honjo** have been awarded this year's Nobel prize in physiology or medicine for their discovery of cancer therapy by inhibition of negative immune regulation.
- The Laureates have shown how different strategies for **inhibiting the brakes on the immune system** can be used in the treatment of cancer. Their discoveries are a landmark in the fight against cancer.
- **Tasuku Honjo** was born in Kyoto, Japan whereas **James P. Allison** is a native of USA.



**Nobel Laureates' 2018:**

**Physics-** Awarded for work in the field of Laser physics.

- **Arthur Askin**
- **Gerard Mourou**
- **Donna Strickland**

**Chemistry-** Awarded for utilizing the principles of power of evolution to develop proteins that solve humankind's chemical problems.

- **Frances H. Arnold**
- **George P. Smith** **Sir Gregory P. Winter**

**Peace-** Awarded for crucial contribution to end the sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

- **Denis Mukwege**
- **Nadia Murad**

**Economic Sciences-** Awarded for constructing models that explain how the market economy interacts with nature and knowledge.

- **William D. Nordhaus**
- **Paul M. Romer**

**Links:**

<https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/medicine/>

## Sarala Puraskar-2018

**Question: Who is to be awarded the 39th Sarala Puraskar?**

**(a) Govind Mishra (b) Satrughna Pandav (c) Diwakar Pandav (d) Ila Pnada**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On September 7<sup>th</sup> 2018, the famous Odiya poet Satrugna Pandav has been announced to be awarded the 39th Sarala Puraskar, 2018 for his poetry collection 'Misra Dhrupad'..
- Pandit Umesh Chandra Kar will be conferred 'Ela Panda Music Award' and Vinod Moharana is to be honored with 'Ela Panda Painting Award'. They will receive a cash award of Rs 1.50 lakh and a citation.
- These awards will be distributed on October 26, 2018 at a special function.



**About Sarala Puraskar:**

- Sarla Puraskar was instituted in the year 1979 and it is one of the foremost literary awards of Odhisa bestowed to poets for their outstanding literary works.
- This award is instituted by eminent Odia Industrialist, Dr. Bansidhar Panda and Late Ila Panda. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000 and a citation. It is provided by the Indian Metals Folk Charitable Trust (IMPACT)

**References:**

[https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sarala-puraskar-for-poet-satrugna-pandav-118090800151\\_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/sarala-puraskar-for-poet-satrugna-pandav-118090800151_1.html)

## FIFA player of the year

**Question. Which of the following players has been chosen as the player of the year by FIFA?**

**(A)Leonel Messi (B)Cristiano Ronaldo (C)Luka Modric (D)Mo Salah**

**Answer. C**

**Related facts-**

- Croatian Footballer Luka Modric beat Cristiano Ronaldo and Mo Salah to be voted the FIFA player of the year.
- Modric won the Champions League WITH Real Madrid in May and helped Croatia to reach in FIFA world cup final.
- Modric has broken the dominance of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo both of them has won the award five times each since 2008.
- Brazilian forward Marta won the women's title for the sixth



**Links-**

<https://www.thequint.com/sports/football/fifa-footballer-of-the-year-luka-modric-2018>

## The Right Livelihood Award-2018

**Question: The 2018 Honorary Award recognized under The Right Livelihood Award will be delivered to which of the following?**

**(a)Thelma Aldana (b)Robert Bilott (c)Svetlana Gannushkina (d)Adrian Richard**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- The Laureates of Right Livelihood Award, widely referred to as the 'Alternative Nobel Prize', was announced on 24 September in Stockholm, Sweden.
- The Award will be conferred to the respective recipients in Stockholm on 23 November

#### The Right Livelihood award 2018:

- The 2018 Honorary Award will be given to anti-corruption champions Thelma Aldana (Guatemala) & Iván Velásquez (Colombia) “for their innovative work in exposing abuse of power and prosecuting corruption, thus rebuilding people’s trust in public institutions.”
- The three cash awards will be conferred to the civil and human rights defenders **Abdullah al-Hamid, Mohammad Fahad al-Qahtani** and **Waleed Abu al-Khair (Saudi Arabia)** “for their visionary and courageous efforts, guided by universal human rights principles, to reform the totalitarian political system in Saudi Arabia”.
- It is the first time that a Right Livelihood Award goes to Laureates from Saudi Arabia.
- These Laureates are currently in jail on grounds of disobedience to the ruler and other charges.
- The three cash awards are worth SEK 1 Million (EUR 96,000) each and will be used to support the Laureates’ successful work. The prize money is not for personal use.
- The farmer **Yacouba Sawadogo** (Burkina Faso) receives the Award “for turning barren land into forest and demonstrating how farmers can regenerate their soil with the innovative use of indigenous and local knowledge”.
- The agronomist **Tony Rinaudo** (Australia) is recognized by the Jury “for demonstrating on a large scale how drylands can be greened at minimal cost, improving the livelihoods of millions of people”.



#### About The Right Livelihood Award:

- Right, Livelihood Award honors and supports courageous people and organizations offering visionary and exemplary solutions to the root causes of global problems.
- The Right Livelihood Award is annually presented to four Laureates. Unlike most other international prizes, it has no categories.
- The award recognizes the valiant efforts and sacrifices delivered by the noble man categorizing them as the most inspiring and remarkable work that often defies any standard classification.
- At present, there are now 174 Laureates from 70 countries.
- It was established in 1980.

#### Reference:

<https://www.rightlivelihoodaward.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/General-PR-Final-EN-23-Sep-2018.pdf>

### Smita Patil Memorial Award-2018

**Question: Who has been awarded the Smita Patil Memorial Award 2018?**

**(a)Katrina Kaif (b)Kangana Ranaut (c)Vidya Balan (d)Anushka Sharma**

**Answer: (d)**

**Related Facts:**

- Anushka Sharma has been awarded with the Smita Patil Memorial Award 2018 for best actor.



- This award marks the 34<sup>th</sup> edition of the prestigious Priyadarshini Academy Global Awards 2018 held on 19<sup>th</sup> September.

#### About Global awards:

- This award recognizes the outstanding achievements of eminent personalities in social, cultural and educational fields that have made a significant contribution in their respective fields.
- Priyadarshni Academy's Global Award was started in the year 1987.

#### About Smita Patil Memorial Award 2018:

- This award honors the Actress who has done notable work in the field of acting.
- This Award was started in the year 1986.

#### References:

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/entertainment/celebrities-anushka-sharma-on-receiving-smita-patil-award-for-best-actor-at-priyadarshini-academy-global-awards-464182>

## Mrs. India Worldwide 2018

**Question: Who won the crown of Haut Monde Mrs. India Worldwide 2018?**

**(a) Saroj Mann (b) Manushi Chhillar (c) Geeta Mann (d) Rita Gurjar**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Saroj Mann of Panchkula bagged the title of “**Haut Monde Mrs. India Worldwide 2018**” concluded at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium on 21 September.
- This international event was organized by 'Shri Sai Entertainment Ltd.
- Alongwith this she also won Mrs. India Worldwide 2018 Fire.
- Ashwini Kamble won the title of Mrs. India Worldwide 2018 Space, Kirti Mishra Narang won Mrs. India Worldwide 2018 Water, Rani Singh won the Title of Earth and Navya Chaudhary won for Air.
- India aims at providing all married Indian women from different walks of life with a platform to show their talent and unlock their best potential.



**Links:**

<https://www.manglatimes.com/panchkulas-saroj-mann-bagged-the-title-of-haut-monde-mrs-india-worldwide-2018%EF%BB%BF/>

## Commission & Committee

### Committee for prison reform

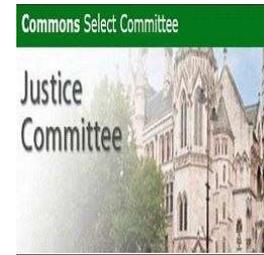
**Question. Who among the following bodies has constituted a Committee for Prison reform?**

**(a) Ministry of Law and justice (b) Supreme court (c) Ministry of home affairs (d) None of the above**

## Answer. B

### Related facts-

- The Supreme Court formed a committee on Prison reforms chaired by former apex court judge, Justice Amitava Roy, to examine the various problems plaguing prisons in the country, from overcrowding to lack of legal advice to convicts to issues of remission and parole.
- A bench of Justices Madan b. Lokur, s. Abdul Nazeer and Deepak Gupta appointed the inspector general of police, bureau of police research and development, and the Director General (prisons) Tihar jail as the panel's member.
- The court asked the committee to complete the collection of data and information and make submit it in a year and given the discretion to go beyond the prescribed matters.



### Reference-

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/supreme-court-constitutes-committee-to-look-into-jail-reforms-1922046>

## Central zonal council

**Question. Which of the following statements are true regarding Central zonal council?**

- (A) Union minister of home affairs is the chairman of the council  
(B) Governor of the states is its members. (C) It is a constitutional body.  
(D) Recently 20<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Central zonal council was held

**Answer. A**

### Related facts-

- 21<sup>st</sup> Central zonal council was held in Lucknow on 24<sup>th</sup> September and was chaired by Union Minister of Home affairs Rajnath Singh.



Various issues discussed in the council as follows-

- Road transport
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna
- Measure to tackle the Naxal problem
- Modernization of police
- Infrastructure development of airports
- Minimum support price
- National health mission and issues related to primary schools.

Central zonal council-

- To promote cooperation and coordination among states
- A statutory body established under the state reorganization act, 1956.
- It is a deliberative and advisory body.

There are 5 zonal council-

1. Northern zonal council- Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and, Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, the national capital territory of Delhi and Chandigarh
2. Central zonal council- Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh

3. Eastern zonal council- Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal
4. Western zonal council- Goa, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Daman & Diu, Dadra, and Nagar Haveli
5. Southern zonal council- Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry.

Reference:-

<http://www.newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=353223>

## Planning & Project

### Mai Nahin Hum

**Question:** Consider the following statement/s regarding the slogan 'Mai Nahin Hum':

1. It is a portal which will work on theme "Self4Society"
2. It is an initiative taken by Ministry of Women and Child Development

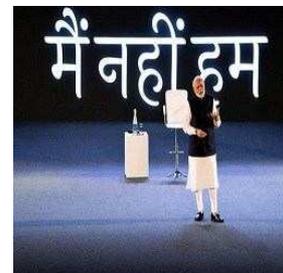
Of the above which is/are correct?

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

Answer :(a)

Related facts:

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, interacted with IT and Electronic manufacturing professional across India on 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2018. On the occasion he launched the portal and App '**Mai Nahin Hum**'.
- This portal and App is aimed at pooling the resources that corporates puts in towards social causes and aligning them with the initiatives of the government such as Swachh Bharat, Skill India etc.
- This portal will work on theme '**Self4Society**' and enable IT professional and organizations to bring together their efforts towards social causes, and services to society, on open platform.
- This portal will help catalyzing greater collaboration towards the service of the weaker sections of the society, especially by leveraging the benefits of technology.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/pm-narendra-modi-launches-main-nahin-hum-portal-and-app/articleshow/66348076.cms>

## India signed MoU towards operationalization of Sittwe Port

**Question:** With which of the following country India has signed MoU towards operationalization of Sittwe Port?

(a)Vietnam (b)Myanmar (c)Thailand (d)Laos

Answer :(b)

Related facts:

- **India and Myanmar** signed an important MoU on Monday in the implementation of India's **Act East Policy** for the appointment of private Port Operator for the operation and maintenance of **Sittwe Port**. This will boost connectivity and help in creating



local job opportunities. This will include developments in the strife-torn **Rakhine State** and **Chin States of Myanmar**.

- The MoU was signed by foreign secretary Vijay Gokhale after his meetings with Myanmar's state counsellor **Aung San Suu Kyi** and Union Minister of Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung.
- The Sittwe Port in Myanmar will connect India's landlocked north-east region to the Bay of Bengal through Mizoram, it will also provide an alternate route to Kolkata.
- Myanmar is one of the India's strategic neighbors and shares a 1640 km long border with a number of north-eastern states including militancy hit Nagaland and Manipur. India has an overall estimate of USD 1.75 million worth development projects in Myanmar.

**Links:**

<http://www.businessworld.in/article/India-Myanmar-sign-MoU-on-operationalisation-of-Sittwe-Port/22-10-2018-162694/>

## Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)

**Question: Recently in which of the following city the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has notified an emergency action plan to combat air pollution?**

**(a)Bengaluru (b)Delhi (c)Kolkata (d)Kanpur**

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** has notified an emergency action plan named **Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP)** to combat air pollution in Delhi.
- Under the emergency action plan, tough measures will be taken based on the air quality of the city. If the air quality in any area falls to an emergency category, measures like stopping entry of trucks into Delhi (except essential commodities), stopping construction activities will be adopted.
- If the air quality lies between moderate to poor category then measures like banning garbage burning and enforcing all pollution control regulations in brick making factories and industries will be implemented.
- Appointment of the task force will be done to take decision on any additional steps including shutting of schools.



**Links:**

<https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/crime/article/21-years-in-the-indian-air-force-without-accident-corporation-bank-cashier-was-killed-at-an-office-job-in-dwarka-new-delhi/299172>

## MoC & MoU between Indian Railways and Government of Russian Federation

**Question: On 5 Oct 2018 Indian Railways entered into Memorandum of Cooperation & Memorandum of Understanding with which of the following country?**

**(a)Russia (b)Denmark (c)Spain (d)Israel**

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Facts:**



- On **5<sup>th</sup> October, 2018** Ministry of Railways of the Republic of India and the Joint Stock Company 'Russian Railways' signed Memorandum of Cooperation( MoC). The MoC intends to carry forward the activities taken up under the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two countries on **24<sup>th</sup> December, 2015**.

#### The Memorandum of Cooperation includes:

- Implementation of speed up gradation project of Nagpur-Secunderabad section Setting up of single traffic control centre for managing mixed traffic at local level
- Best practices in freight cargo operation
- Development of multi modal terminals and
- Exchange of best technologies being practiced by the two countries.
- Training and advanced qualification improvement of Indian railway employees with the involvement of Russian railway-related higher education establishments.

#### Memorandum of Understanding (MoU):

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Transport of Russian Federation for development of cooperation in transport education.
- The MoU aims at providing organizational and methodological support to higher educational institutions implementing joint projects in the field of transport education of both countries.
- It also envisages cooperation between Russian University of Transport and the National Rail Transportation Institute, Vadodara, to jointly organize educational transport seminars, including participation in shaping their themes, facilitating the search for partners, and also to organize mutual visits and preparation of methodical and regulatory documents.

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183986>

## MedWatch

**Question: Which of the following agency/body has launched the Mobile health app 'MedWatch'?**

(a) Ministry of Health (b) NITI Aayog (c) Indian Air Force (d) Indian Army

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On the occasion of its 85<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the Indian Air Force has launched an innovative mobile health app 'MedWatch' in keeping with the prime minister's vision of Digital India.
- Air Chief Marshal B. S. Dhanoa has launched the app, which is the first app in three Armed Services.
- The concept and content of the app are developed by Directorate General of Medical Services (Air) and it has been developed in-house with Zero financial outlay by the Department of Information



MedWatch has following features-

- Provide authentic health information to all IAF personnel.
- A reminder tool for timely immunization for the children of all air warriors.

Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=171664>

## Modern food processing facilities in Anand

Question – Who has inaugurated modern food processing facilities at Anand?

(A) Narendra Modi. (B) Arun Jaitley. (C) Rajnath Singh. (D) Amar Mani.

Answer-(a)

Related facts-

- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, inaugurated modern food processing facilities, including Amul's ultra-modern Chocolate Plant, at
- He also visited the chocolate plant and was briefed on the various technologies used, and products being made there.
- He said the brand of Amul is known globally, and has become an inspiration worldwide.
- He said Amul is not only about milk processing, but an excellent model of empowerment.



Reference-

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547988>

## Public credit registry(PCR)

Question. Consider the following statements regarding Public credit registry recently launched by RBI:

- (A) RBI deputy governor Viral Acharya has presented the Public credit registry.  
(B) It has provision for Aadhar to individual borrowers and corporate identification to firms.  
(C) This registry will help banks in distinguishing good loans and bad loans.

Of the above which statements is/are correct?

1. A & B
2. B & C
3. Only A
4. All of the above



Answer. 4

Related facts:

- Public credit registry (PCR) is meant to have all the data related to loan taken by individuals as well as corporate. It distinguishes between good and bad loans.
- This move was forwarded on the recommendation of Y. M. Deosthalee. This will help in strengthening the access of credit and eliminating information asymmetry. It will also better the rank of India in ease of doing business. It will give a major boost to the financial inclusion policy.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/why-is-a-public-credit-registry-important/article24849543.ece>

## PM INAUGURATES THE TALCHER PROJECT

**Question.** Consider the following statements regarding 'TALCHER PROJECT' inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi:

1. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates fertilizer plant in Odisha.
2. For the first time, coal-gasification technique is being used.
3. It will start production after three years.

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

(A)1 only (B)1 and 2 both (C)Only 2 (D)All of the above

**Answer. D**

**Related facts-**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first fertilizer plant based on coal gasification technique in Talcher, Angul (Odisha).
- 36 months is the proposed time for completion of this project worth rupees 13,000 crores.
- This plant will produce 1.27 million ton Neem coated urea-a crop nutrient- and would use coal- gasification technology to produce feedstock for the plant. Neem coated urea is manufactured since 2008 on the orders of the ministry of chemical and fertilizers.
- India's urea production capacity is expected to go up from the current 25 million tonnes to 34 million tonnes by 2021-22, according to government estimates.
- This project would generate employment for over 4500 people. This plant will be run by a new company Talcher Fertilizers Limited which constituted with 4 state-run companies- GAIL, Coal India Ltd., Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers and FCIL- as partners.



**References-**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1547004>

## Jan Dhan Darshak

**Question.** Consider the following statements regarding Jan Dhan Darshak-

1. It is a mobile app for financial inclusion (FI)
2. Over 5 Lacs FI touch points have been added in the App
3. FI includes bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices.

**Which of the above is /are correct?**

(A)1 & 2 only (B)2 & 3 only (C)All of the above (D)None of the above

**Answer. C**

**Related facts-**

- Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance and National Informatics Centre have jointly developed a mobile app called Jan Dhan Darshak. As the name suggests, this app will act as a guide for the common people in locating a financial service touch point at a given location in the country.
- While over 5 lakh FI touch points (Bank branches, ATMs, Post Offices) have been mapped on this App.

Some of the salient features of this App are as follows:



- Find nearby Financial touch points, based on current location (Branches/ATM/Post offices)
- Search by place name
- Search by place name also available with Voice Interface
- Phone number of bank branches available in the app, with the facility of call button for integrated dialing.
- Users' feedback will go directly to the concerned bank for carrying out the necessary updation in data on financial touch points.

#### Links-

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547270>

### Initiative in MSME credit space

**Question. Which of the following ministry have started the web portal initiative of Psbloansin59minutes.com ?**

- (A)Ministry of Finance (B)Ministry of telecom (C)Ministry of trade and commerce  
(D)Ministry of civil aviation

**Answer. A**

#### Related facts-

- Union minister of corporate affairs Mr. Arun Jaitly has launched a web portal which is a transformative initiative MSME credit space.
- It has following features-
- Major stockholders including- SIDBI, SBI, Bank of Baroda, vijaya bank and Indian bank.
- Loan to MSME sector upto 2 crore without nay collateral
- Integrated advanced fintech to ensure seamless loan approval (loan without human intervention till sanction and disbursement)
- Loan time has been reduced from 20-25 days to mere 59 minutes(get approved in 7-8 days)
- Use algorithms to read and analyse data points from IT returns, GST data, bank statements, MCA21 etc. to capture basic details.
- A first for MSME borrowers-Connect with multiple banks without visiting the branch.
- MCA21 is an e-Governance initiative of Ministry of Company Affairs (MCA), Government of India that enables an easy and secure access of the MCA services to the corporate entities, professionals and citizens of India



#### Links-

<http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/national-e-governance-plan/mission-mode-projects/mca-21>

### National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)

**Question. Which of the following statements is NOT correct regarding National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA)?**

- (A)Ministry of parliamentary affairs is the responsible ministry.  
(B)It is a Mobile app to digitize the state legislatures' data.  
(C)This project had started as a pilot project from Uttar Pradesh.  
(D)There are 7 legislative assemblies in the country.

**Answer. D**

**Related facts-**

- Union Minister of parliamentary affairs, Water Resources, River Development, and Ganga Rejuvenation, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal presided over the 2 day National Orientation workshop on National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA).
- NeVA is a mission mode project to digitize all legislative assemblies and councils and make them paperless. It is a part of digital India and makes digitization of all 40 houses including 31 state legislative Assemblies, 7 legislative councils and 2 houses of parliament.
- NeVa is approximately a rupees 739 crore project which will enable not only houses but government departments as well. This project had started as a pilot project from Himachal Pradesh.
- It is a mobile-based app and will store data in the cloud (Meghraj). It is available on both platforms android and iOS as well which will help the chair of the house to conduct the business of house properly.



**References-**

<http://www.pib.nic.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1547041>

## Indian culinary institute (ICI)

**Question. in which of the following states is recently Indian culinary institute (ICI) inaugurated?**

**(A)Andhra Pradesh (B)Karnataka (C)Uttar Pradesh (D)Maharashtra**

**Answer. A**

**Related facts-**

- Vice-president M. Venkaiah Naidu has dedicated Indian culinary institute in Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) to the nation on 24 September, 2018.
- It is promoted by the Ministry of Tourism.
- The main objective of setting up of the Indian Culinary Institute (ICI) is to institutionalize a mechanism to support efforts intended to preserve, document, promote and disseminate Indian Cuisine, meet the sectoral requirement of specialists specific to Indian Cuisine, as also of promoting Cuisine as a Niche Tourism product.



**References-**

<http://www.ici.nic.in/>

## Citizens science initiative to save hornbills

**Question. In which of the following states Hornbill Festival is celebrated?**

**(A)Nagaland (B)Manipur (C)Arunachal Pradesh (D)Sikkim**

**Answer. A**

**Related facts-**

- Hornbill Festival is celebrated in the North Eastern state of Nagaland every year from 1 December to 10 December. It is also called festivals of festivals.



- A citizen science initiative of documenting Indian Hornbills is providing valuable inputs to save hornbills in and outside its protected area.
- The Hornbill Watch initiative is an interactive web interface that allows people to report about alive, injured, hunted or dead hornbills and can help in protecting this unique bird.
- According to contributors, there are 57 nesting and 36 roosting sites been located in the country. Reports also told about the endemic and endangered species Narcondam Hornbill, restricted only to 6 sq. km. of the Narcondam Island in the Andaman.
- There are 9 species of Hornbill found in India of which four are found in the Western Ghats: Indian Grey Hornbill, the Malabar Grey Hornbill (endemic to the Western Ghats), and Malabar Pied Hornbill. Hornbill is state bird in 3 states including Arunachal Pradesh, Kerala, and

#### References:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Indian\\_state\\_birds](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Indian_state_birds)

## PM INAUGURATES THE TALCHER PROJECT

**Question. Consider the following statements regarding 'TALCHER PROJECT' inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi:**

1. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates fertilizer plant in Odisha.
2. For the first time coal-gasification technique is being used.
3. It will start production after three years.

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

**(A)1 only (B)1 and 2 both (C)Only 2 (D)All of the above**

**Answer. D**

**Related facts-**

- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first fertilizer plant based on coal gasification technique in Talcher, Angul (Odisha).
- This plant will produce 1.27 million ton Neem coated urea. Neem coated urea is manufactured since 2008 on the orders of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- This project would generate employment for over 4500 people. This plant will be run by a new company Talcher Fertilizers Limited which constitutes 4 state-run companies - GAIL, Coal India Rashtriya Chemicals, and Fertilizers and FCIL.



**Links-**

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/modi-in-odisha-live-updates-pm-modi-launches-revival-of-talcher-fertilizer-plant-in-odisha-1920407>

## Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Scheme (PMVVY)

**Question. Which of the following statements is NOT true regarding Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Scheme (PMVVY)?**

- (A) Gujarat is the top performing states in implementing PMVVY.
- (B) Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh) is the best performing district in northern region.
- (C) It's a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women aged 19 or above for first live birth.
- (D) There are more than 43 lakh enrollment have been done till date.

## Answer. A

### Related facts-

- In a recent survey done for Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Scheme (PMVVY), by Ministry of Women and Child Development, Himachal Pradesh has secured the first position in top performing states in implementing PMVVY and Bilaspur (Chattisgarh) is the best performing district in northern region.
- The Union Minister of Women and Child Development has celebrated the Matru Vandana week from 1-7 September in Dehradun on completion of one year of PMVVY. There are more than 43.11 lakh enrollment have been done till 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2018.



### History of PMVVY-

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Scheme (PMVVY) is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women aged 19 or above for first live birth.
- Originally, all pregnant women of 19 years of age and above were eligible for conditional cash transfer benefits of ₹4,000 to be paid in three installments, after the implementation of National Food Security Act the amount has been revised to ₹6,000 to be paid in two installments of ₹3,000
- *Indira Gandhi Matritva Sahyog Yojana (IGMSY) was the scheme started in year 2010 by UPA government. In 2014 Pradhan Mantri Matritva Sahyog Yojna (PMMSY) replaced the IGSMY, and a year back PMMSY is replaced by PMVVY.*

### Objectives-

- Promote the best practices and awareness about institutional delivery, lactation among pregnant and lactating mothers.
- Provide cash incentive for improved health and nutrition
- Nutrition and early breastfeeding campaign for the first 6 months.

### Links-

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183473>

## Conference

### Women of India Organic Festival

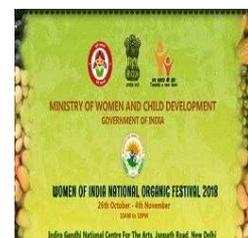
**Question:** The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of Women of India Organic Festival which is being organized at New Delhi aims to –

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

**Answer:** (b)

**Related facts:**

- From 26<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2018, at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, the 5<sup>th</sup> Edition of **Women of India Organic Festival** is being organized by the **Ministry of Women and Child Development**.



- This event is organized on an annual basis by the Union Ministry of Women & Child Development since 2015.
- Women being the torch-bearers of the nation's organic movement, this festival aims to boost **organic culture** and promote **Women Organic Farmers and Entrepreneurs**.
- Over **500** women entrepreneurs are coming together from across the country with their organic products such as cereals, rice, pulses, skin-care products, fabric, jewellery, etc.
- This festival will showcase the revolution and thus making women self-reliant.
- For the first time, 'The Vegan Project' and Food Court with cooked-on-site delicacies will also be available.

**Links:**

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

## Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan

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

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

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On October 22, 2018; The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the Vishwashanti Ahimsa Sammelan at Mangi Tungi, about 125 kilometers from Nasik, Maharashtra. The event was organized by the **Bhagwan Shri Rishabhdev 108 Feet Vishalkai Digambar Jain Murti Nirman Committee**.
- President speaking on the occasion said, in the Jain tradition, the principle of 'Ahimsa Paramodharma' is distinguished for human welfare and compassion – not just for the absence of physical violence.
- The President said that Bhagwan Mahavir gave special importance to 'Apirigraha' – not taking what is more than essential to live.
- The first international **Bhagwan Rishabhdev Award** was presented to **Teerthanker Mahaveer University**, based in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh.



**Lnk:**

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

## World's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair

**Question: 46th edition of the world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was organised at which of the following place?**

**(a)Greater Noida (b)Gurugram (c)Lucknow (d)Agra**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- From 14-18 October, 2018 the 46th edition of world's largest IHGF-Delhi Fair was organised at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida by the Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH).
- It was inaugurated by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Textiles Ajay Tamta.
- From over 110 countries more than 3200 exhibitors participated in the fair and was also visited by overseas buyers.



- The Fair has the most extensive range of handcrafted products like home textiles, furnishings, carpets, decoratives, tableware, furniture, garden & outdoor, bathroom accessories, spa and wellness, lamps & lighting, Christmas & festive décor, handmade paper items, fashion jewellery and accessories.

#### About the Fair:

- This fair is a bi-annual event which had played a vital role in increasing export of handicrafts of the country.
- The fair has acquired special importance for handicrafts sector as overseas buyers find this fair as the most effective sourcing medium for their requirements.
- Exporting community in India considers the IHGF as the most effective marketing medium for their merchandise.

#### Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH):

- EPCH is an apex body of handicrafts exporters for the promotion of exports of handicrafts of the country.
- It promotes, supports, protects and maintains the export of handicrafts.
- EPCH was established as a non-profit organization under Companies Act in 1986-87.
- The Council is also engaged in the promotion of handicrafts from India and has projected India's image abroad as a reliable supplier of high-quality

#### Links:

<http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1549664>

## PAN India Workshop on Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks

**Question: NSKLFDC is related to-**

- (a)Safai Karmcharis (b)Child Labours (c)Lower Wages for rural laborers (d)Foreign Direct Investment**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2018; Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment Shri Thaawarchand Gehlot inaugurated a "PAN India Workshop on Prevention of Hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks".
- It was organized by National Safai Karmcharis Finance & Development Corporation (NSKLFDC) under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in East Delhi Municipal Corporation (EDMC).
- This workshop was organized as a part of yearlong commemoration of 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi from 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018 to 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2019.
- Due to this initiative of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the sanitation workers, officers of urban local bodies etc. would directly and indirectly gain valuable insight into the hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks and the scenario of accidents and deaths during cleaning sewers and septic tanks would get changed comprehensively.
- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has planned various activities in this regard, through the NSKLFDC, during this period, which includes:
- Survey of Manual Scavengers and their rehabilitation ;



- Organizing Workshops on 'Prevention of Hazardous Cleaning of Sewers and Septic Tanks';
- Skill up gradation of sanitation workers and waste pickers through conducting 5 day training programmes.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183903>

## Multimedia Exhibition on 150 years of Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary

**Question: Which of the following magazine was released in the Multimedia Exhibition on 150 years of Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary?**

**(a)Farmer's livelihood (b)SC/ST (c)Children (d)Women**

**Ans: (a)**

**Related Facts:-**

- On 02<sup>nd</sup> October, 2018, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Information & Broadcasting and Sports & Youth Affairs Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore inaugurated Multimedia Exhibition on 150 years of Celebrating Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary.
- He released a magazine "**Jan Connect**" with the theme on Development of Kisan's livelihood which was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Col Rathore released **11 Books** by various authors on the life of Mahatma Gandhi brought out by Publications Division.
- He also released three short films on Mahatma Gandhi produced by **Bureau of Outreach Communications, Doordarshan and Films Division**
- The Multimedia Exhibition was organized by Bureau of Outreach Communication.
- The Exhibition had many engaging features like Quiz on the life of Mahatma, Interactive timeline depicting life of Mahatma Gandhi, Photo Booth with various backgrounds to choose from, 3D Video Wall, etc.



**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=183905>

## Associations & Organizations

### National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)

**Question: Consider the following statements regarding NCVET-**

1. This new body will regulate the functioning of vocational education and training.
2. This is constituted through the merger of NCVT and NSDA.
3. This will be headed by a chairperson and have only executive members.

**Which of the above is/are correct?**

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

**Answer :(a)**

**Related facts:**

- Union cabinet chaired by the prime minister has approved the merger of National Council for Vocational Training (**NCVT**) and National Skill Development Authority (**NSDA**) “to consolidate fragmented regulatory structures” and improve the outcome of **Skill India Mission**.
- The merged entity would be called the **National Council of Vocational Education and Training (NCVET)**. It will regulate and bring accountability in the sector responsible for the education and training of more than 15 million students.
- **NCVET** will regulate the functioning of entities involved in vocational training and education both long-term and short-term. It will be headed by a chairperson and will have executive and non-executive members.
- Primary functions of **NCVET** will include recognition, regulation, assessment and approval of qualifications developed by different bodies and industry governed sector councils.



**NCVT and NSDA:**

- The **NCVT** was a regulatory and assessment body of the long-term skill education space comprising more than 13, 000 industrial training institutions (ITIs), while the **NSDA** was a policy formulating body of skill development ministry helping it devise training and collaboration policy for the **Skill India Mission**.
- **NCVT** had been in existence for more than four decades as part of the **Directorate General of Training**, while NSDA is a relatively new body in its origin which came into existence in 2013.

**Links:**

<https://www.livemint.com/Politics/BMcJFaADnfcc10MmT0NO9M/Cabinet-nod-to-merger-of-skill-development-bodies.html>

## Law & Justice

### Section 151A of Representation of People Act

**Question: Section 151A of Representation of People Act is related to which of the following?**

- (a) It mandates the election commission to fill vacancies in Parliament and state legislatures
- (b) The term of office of members of the Council of States
- (c) The penalty for misconduct at the polling station.
- (d) Powers of Election Commission

**Answer:(a)**

**Related facts:**

- Section 151 A of the Representation of People Act, 1951 mandates the Election Commission to fill the casual vacancies in the house of parliament and state legislatures through by-elections within 6 months of the date of occurrence of the vacancy, provided that the remainder of the term of a member in relation to a vacancy in one year or more.
- This cause of worry came in front as the election commission declared the date of the by-election for 3 seats in Karnataka, but it didn't declare the dates for Andhra Pradesh.



- The reason mentioned for this is that Andhra Pradesh 5 seats got vacant after 20<sup>th</sup> June. The term of sixteenth Lok Sabha is up to 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019. Thus under section 151 A of RPA, 1951 Election commission has taken this step.

**Links:**

<https://indiacode.nic.in/bitstream/123456789/2096/1/A1951-43.pdf>

## Amendment in Mergers and Acquisition law

**Question- Which of the following agency is responsible for regulation of merger and acquisition rules in India?**

- (a) Chief Vigilance Commission (b) Competition Commission of India  
(c) Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (d) Department of Economic Affairs

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Anti-trust watch dog Competition Commission of India (CCI) has amended its regulations in order to make it easier for corporations to secure approvals for **mergers and acquisition (M&A)**.
- **Mergers and Acquisition (M&A) Law** are the regulatory laws affecting the purchase of one company by another (an acquisition), or the blending of two companies into a new entity (a merger).
- According to amended M&A regulations, businesses involved in the deal can “submit remedies voluntarily in response to the notice issued under Section 29(1) of the Act”.
- Through this amendment merging entities can suggest possible alteration to CCI over deal.
- Prior to this, suggestions of alterations were permissible only after the CCI proposes changes.
- This move taken by CCI will enable merging parties to address the deficiencies without any fear of penalty.
- It will expedite the speed of merger & acquisition and make the process smoother, efficient, corporate and business friendly.



### Competition Commission of India

- The Competition Commission of India was established on **14<sup>th</sup> October, 2003** through an act of parliament, The Competition Act, 2002. It became fully functional in **May 2009** with **Dhanendra Kumar** as its first Chairman
- CCI consists of **a Chairperson and 6 Members** appointed by the Central Government. **Sudhir Mital** is the current Chairperson of the CCI.
- The objective of the Act is to prevent practices having adverse effect on competition, to promote and sustain competition in markets, to protect the interests of consumers and to ensure freedom of trade carried on by other participants in markets, in India.
- It works with the mission of professionalism, transparency, resolve and wisdom in enforcement of its objectives.

**Links-**

<https://www.livemint.com/Companies/UjipfU12lWlftTurBgTCP/CCI-amends-MA-approval-regulations.html>

## Year, Day & Week

### World Mental Health Day

**Question: World Mental Health Day is observed on-**

(a) 8 October (b) 10 October (c) 4 October (d) 12 October

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Mental Health Day is observed on 10 October every year.
- The objective of the day is to raise awareness of mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.
- This year the theme for the day was “**Young People and Mental Health in a Changing World**”.



**Links:**

[http://www.who.int/mental\\_health/world-mental-health-day/2018/en/](http://www.who.int/mental_health/world-mental-health-day/2018/en/)

## World Habitat Day

**Question: The theme of the 2018 World Habitat Day was-**

(a) Municipal Solid Waste Management (b) “Housing Policies: Affordable Homes  
(c) Housing at the Centre (d) Public Spaces for All

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Habitat Day is observed on the first Monday of October of every year since 1986.
- This day is celebrated to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. The Day is also intended to remind the world that we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.
- This year the theme for the day was “**Municipal Solid Waste Management**” while the slogan was **Waste-wise cities**.



**Link:**

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

## World Cities Day

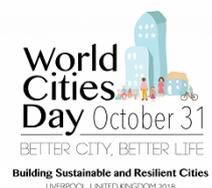
**Question: World Cities Day is observed on-**

(a) 20 October (b) 31 October (c) 4 October (d) 12 October

**Answer: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- World Cities Day is observed on 31 October every year.
- This Day is celebrated to greatly promote the international community’s interest in global urbanization, push forward cooperation among countries in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contributing to sustainable urban development around the world.
- This year the theme for the day is “**Better City, Better Life**”.



Links:

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

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Question: International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on-

(a) 17 October (b) 12 October (c) 10 October (d) 15 October

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on 17 October every year.
- This day seeks to promote people awareness about the need to eradicate poverty and destitution worldwide.
- This day was formally declared by the General Assembly on 22 December 1992.
- This year the theme for the day was “Coming together with those furthest behind to build an inclusive world of universal respect for human rights and dignity”.



Links:

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

## International Translation Day

Question: International Translation Day is celebrated on-

(a) 25 September (b) 27 September (c) 23 September (d) 30 September

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:

- International Translation Day is celebrated on 30 September every year since its recognition by the General Assembly on 24 May 2017.
- 30 September celebrates the feast of St. Jerome, the Bible translator who is considered the patron saint of translators.
- This day marks an opportunity to pay tribute to the work of language professionals, which plays an important role in bringing nations together, facilitating dialogue, understanding and cooperation, contributing to development and strengthening world peace and security.



References:

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

## World Rivers Day

Question: In September World Rivers Day is observed on which day of september-

(a) Last Saturday (b) Last Friday (c) Last Wednesday (d) Last Tuesday

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:

- World Rivers Day is observed every year last Saturday of September. In the year 2018, it is to be observed on 30<sup>th</sup>
- This day was established in the year
- The objective of the campaign is to raise public awareness of the need for better care for all water resources around the world.
- This day marks a global celebration of the world's waterways and seeks to highlight the significant values of rivers such as irrigational provisions as well as its role in civilization development.



**Reference:**

<http://worldriversday.com/about/>

## World Heart Day

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

**(a) 29 September (b) 23 September (c) 27 September (d) 25 September**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Heart Day is observed on 29 September every year in order to inform people about cardiovascular diseases, which are the biggest cause of death and prescribes prevention.
- World heart day was founded in the year
- The theme of 2018 World Heart Day is, "My Heart, Your Heart".
- According to the report, about 17.5 million people die every year from cardiovascular disease, including heart disease and stroke.
- This day is coordinated by WHO(World Health Organisation) and the World Heart Federation that seeks to spread the news that at least 80 percent of premature deaths from heart disease and stroke could be avoided if the main risk factors – which are tobacco, unhealthy diet and physical inactivity – are controlled.



**References:**

<https://www.world-heart-federation.org/world-heart-day/about/>

## International Day for Universal Access to Information

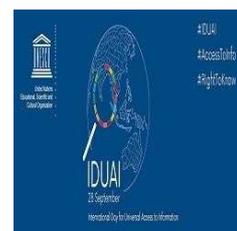
**Question: International Day for Universal Access to Information is observed on-**

**(a) 28 September (b) 27 September (c) 26 September (d) 25 September**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- **International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) is observed every year on 28 September.**
- It was established by UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) in the year
- The Day has its relevance with the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 16.10 which calls for ensuring public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms



**References:**

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

## World Rabies Day

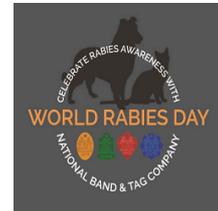
**Question: World Rabies Day is observed on-**

(a) 28 September (b) 27 September (c) 25 September (d) 24 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Rabies Day is celebrated annually on 28 September since its inception in 2007.
- This day is celebrated in order to raise awareness about rabies prevention and to highlight progress in defeating this horrifying disease.
- This year the theme for the day is ‘*Share the message. Save a life.*’
- This day also marks the anniversary of Louis Pasteur’s death, the French chemist and microbiologist, who developed the first rabies vaccine.
- This international awareness campaign is coordinated by the Global Alliance for Rabies Control, a non-profit organization with headquarters in the United States.



**References:**

[http://www.who.int/rabies/WRD\\_landing\\_page/en/](http://www.who.int/rabies/WRD_landing_page/en/)

## World Maritime Day

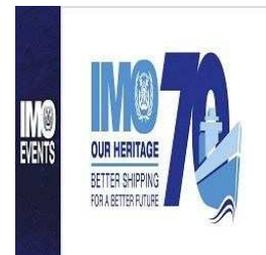
**Question: World Maritime Day is observed on-**

(a) 27 September (b) 24 September (c) 25 September (d) 26 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The World Maritime Day recognized by IMO (International Maritime Organization) is observed annually on September 28.
- This day focuses on highlighting the significance of shipping safety, maritime security and marine environment and acknowledges the maritime
- This day was first observed in the year
- The theme of 2018 World Maritime Day is “IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future”.



**References:**

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

## World Contraception Day

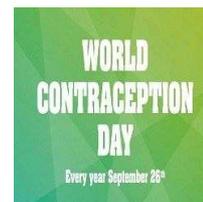
**Question: World Contraception Day is observed on-**

(a) 26 September (b) 23 September (c) 21 September (d) 24 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Contraception Day is observed on 26 September every year to improve awareness of all contraceptive methods available and Information enrichment enables young people to make informed choices about their sexual and reproductive health.
- This day was established in the year 2007.
- The theme for the year 2018 is “Contraception: It’s your life, it’s your responsibility”.
- World Contraception Day is supported by a coalition of 17 international Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), governmental organizations and scientific and medical societies with an interest in sexual and reproductive health and is sponsored by Bayer AG.



**Reference:**

<http://www.who.int/life-course/news/events/world-contraception-day-2018/en/>

## International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons

**Question: International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed on-**  
 (a) 27 September (b) 24 September (c) 23 September (d) 26 September

**Answer: (d)**

**Related facts:**

- International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons is observed annually on 26 September in order to achieve global nuclear disarmament.
- The International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons was established in the year 201



**References:**

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

## World Pharmacists Day-2018

**Question: World Pharmacists Day is celebrated on-**  
 (a) 25 September (b) 26 September (c) 24 September (d) 21 September

**Answer : (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Pharmacists Day is observed on 25 September every year.
- This year theme for the day is “Pharmacists: Your medicines experts”.
- This day was established in the year 2009 by the FIP (International Pharmaceutical Federation) Council in Istanbul, Turkey.
- This day celebrates the commendable service rendered by the pharmacists in keeping the social



**Reference:**

<https://www.fip.org/worldpharmacistsday>

## International Day of Sign Language

**Question: International Day of Sign Language is observed on-**  
(a)23 September (b)21 September (c)24 September (d)20 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- International Day of Sign Language is observed annually on 23 September along with an International Week of the Deaf.
- The first International Day of Sign languages was celebrated in 2018 under the theme “**With Sign Language, Everyone is Included!**”
- Sign languages are fully fledged natural languages particularly used by deaf peoples in conveying messages. They are structurally distinct from the spoken languages.
- There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when traveling and socializing.



**Reference:**

<http://wfdeaf.org/news/theme-for-international-day-of-sign-languages-and-international-week-of-the-deaf-2018/>

## World Rose Day

**Question: World Rose Day is observed on-**  
(a)22 September (b) 21 September (c) 20 September (d) 24 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related Facts:**

- World Rose Day is celebrated on 22 September across the world for all the people who are battling cancer.
- This day is observed to commemorate the 12-year-old Melinda Rose from Canada, who was diagnosed with Askin’s Tumour, which is a rare form of blood cancer.
- The objective of Rose Day is to remind all cancer patients that they can face this disease with their spirit and willpower.
- Avoiding smoke is the best means to prevent cancer. However, it grips the passive smokers also.
- Passive smoking is the inhalation of smoke, called second-hand smoke (SHS), or environmental tobacco smoke (ETS), by persons other than the intended “active” smoker.



**Reference:**

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/health/world-rose-day-2018-how-passive-smoking-can-cause-cancer/story-s67ys9EMxWLjpiyG2v0ZDJ.html>

## Engineer’s Day

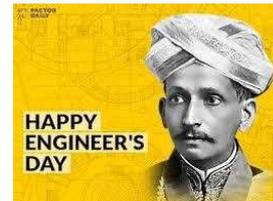
**Question: In India Engineer’s day is celebrated on-**  
(a)15 September (b) 13 September (c) 12 September (d) 14 September

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

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

- Engineer's day is celebrated on 15 September every year across India in order to recognize the significance of technology playing a pivotal role the nation's This day appreciates dexterity as well as the dedication of the Engineering community.
- This year theme for the day was: "Engineering Challenge for Knowledge Era".
- This day commemorates greatest Indian engineer Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya for his supreme services in the field of technology.



in

**References:** <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/miscellaneous/why-india-celebrates-engineers-day-on-the-birth-anniversary-of-m-visvesvaraya/articleshow/60524601.cms>

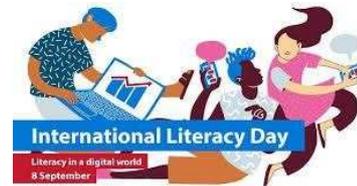
## International Literacy Day

**Question: International Literacy day is celebrated on-**  
**(a) 4 September (b) 14 September (c) 8 September (d) 12 September**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related Facts:**

- International Literacy Day is celebrated on 8 September every year in order to emphasize the significance of literacy to individuals, communities, and
- The day was established by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1966.
- This year's theme for the day is 'Literacy and skills development'.
- Sustainable Development Goal 4 pertaining to Sustainable Development Goals 17 adopted by UN in 2015 advocates to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong opportunities for all.



**Reference:**

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

## World Coconut day

**Question: World Coconut day is celebrated on-**  
**(a) 2 September (b) 4 September (c) 20 September (d) 24 September**

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World Coconut day is celebrated on 2 September every year to promote, coordinate and harmonize coconut developmental activities of the Asian Pacific region to achieve maximum economic development.
- Asian Pacific Coconut Community (APCC) is an intergovernmental organization of 18 member countries that seeks to administer the coconut concerns.
- The theme for the day in 2018 was: **Coconut for Good Health, Wealth & Wellness.**
- The annual coconut production in India is 2437.80 crore and the productivity is 11616 coconuts per hectare. The crop contributes Rs 34,100 crore to GDP.
- For the first time, India is exporting large quantities of dry coconut to US and European countries.



- It has started exporting coconut oil to Malaysia, Indonesia, and Sri Lanka. Till last year, India used to import coconut oil from these countries.

**Reference:**

<https://nationaltoday.com/world-coconut-day/>

## Books

### Book on sprinter Dutee Chand

**Question – Who is the author of the book ‘Story So Far’?**

**(a) Rajneesh Mishra (b) Sandeep Misra (c) Sudha Mittal (d) Rahul Banerjee**

**Answer- (b)**

**Related facts-**

- In the following year (year 2019) the book ‘**Story So Far**’ will be published by Westland Publications.
- The author of this book is Sandeep Misra (filmmaker, writer and journalist).
- This book is written on the life of Indian athlete Dutee Chand, who won 2 silver medals in Asian Games held in Jakarta.
- Earlier Sandeep Mishra has written a book on the life of former Indian legendary player Dhanraj Pillay.



**Reference-**

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/lifestyle/books-culture-sundeep-misra-to-write-a-book-on-sprinter-dutee-chand-story-so-far-463830>

## Miscellaneous

### Paytm to launch ‘PayPay’ in Japan.

**Question: Paytm has recently launched a barcode-based Smartphone payment service ‘PayPay’, in which of the following country?**

**(a)Singapore (b)Philippines (c)Japan (d)Indonesia**

**Answer: (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Paytm has launched a QR-based smartphone payment settlement service in Japan in collaboration with SoftBank and Yahoo Japan Corporation.
- It is noticeable that Paytm is an Indian e-commerce payment system and digital wallet company, based out of NOIDA SEZ, India run by One 97 Communications Ltd.
- PayPay which has been incorporated in October 2018, allows users to store money from a bank account in their “PayPay” wallet and aims to promote the use of cashless payment in Japan. PayPay will give electronic money equivalent to ¥500 to each customer downloading the application and authenticating it with a valid Japanese mobile number.
- With the launch of “PayPay,” Yahoo Japan will terminate Yahoo! Wallet its current Smartphone settlement function.



- PayPay is build around the QR (quick-response) code technology that Paytm set up in 2015, which currently offers mobile payments to more than 350 million customers and over 9.5 million merchants.
- A QR code is a machine-readable label that contains information and after scanning the code, buyers can enter the payment amount and approve the payment.

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/small-biz/startups/newsbuzz/paypay-in-japan-with-paytms-qr-tech/articleshow/66310108.cms>

## Shahi Litchi of Bihar gets GI tag

**Question: Consider the following statement/s on GI tag of Shahi Litchi:**

1. **The name of litchi produced in Muzaffarpur is Shahi.**
2. **Bihar produces 80 % of the litchi grown in the country.**



**Of the above the correct statement/s is/are:**

**(a)Only 1 (b)Only 2 (c)Both 1 & 2 (d)None of the above**

**Answer :(a)**

**Related facts:**

- **The name of litchi produced** in Muzaffarpur is Shahi. This fruit is known for excellent aroma and quality.
- **Bihar** produces 40% of the litchi grown in the country. India’s share in world’s litchi market amounts to less than 1%. The litchi crop, which is available from May to June, is mainly cultivated in the districts of Muzaffarpur and surrounding districts.
- Cultivation of litchi covers approximately an area of about 25,800 hectares producing about 300,000 tonnes every year.

**Geographical Indications in India:**

- A geographical indication (**GI**) is used on products that have a specific geographical origin and possess qualities or a reputation that are due to that origin. This tag is valid for **a period for 10** years following which it can be renewed. GI tag protection is granted through **TRIPS Agreement**.
- Such a name conveys assurance of quality and distinctiveness which is essentially attributable to its origin in that defined geographical locality.
- The first product to get GI tag in India was Darjeeling tea in 2004. There are a total of **325 products** in India that holds GI tag.
- India as a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) enacted the act to comply with the agreement on Trade related aspects of Intellectual Property Rights.

**Recent GI in news:**

- **Alphonso Mango** from **Maharashtra’s** Sindhudurg, Thane, Ratnagiri, Palghar and Raigad districts got **GI**

**Links:**

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/agriculture/bihars-shahi-litchi-gets-gi-tag/articleshow/66272626.cms>

## Azad Hind Government

**Question: Azad Hind Government was established in occupied Singapore in 1943 by-**  
(a)Jawaharlal Nehru (b)Subhash Chandra Bose (c)Mahatma Gandhi  
(d)None of the above

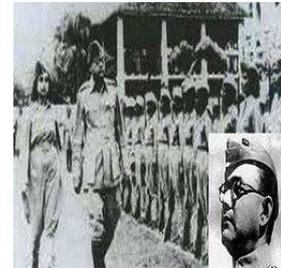
**Answer : (b)**

**Why in News?**

- Honourable PM unveiled the plaque to celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Azad Hind Government at the Red Fort, New Delhi.

**About Azad Hind Government:**

- Subhash Chandra Bose was the leader of **Azad Hind Government (AHG)** and he was also the head of state of this provisional Indian Government-in-exile.
- It was established by **Indian nationalists-in-exile** during the latter part of the Second World War in occupied Singapore with monetary, military and political assistance from imperial Japan.
- The Government of Azad Hind had its own currency, court and civil code, and in the eyes of some Indians its existence gave a greater legitimacy to the independence struggle against the British.



**Administration of AHG:**

- Azad Hind had a diplomatic relation with 9 countries: Nazi Germany, Italian Social Republic, The Empire of Japan, Thailand, The State of Burma, Manchukuo, Independent state of Croatia, and the second Philippines
- **Azad Hind Government (AHG)** was recognised as a legitimate state by only a small number of countries limited solely to axis powers and their allies.

**Importance of INA and AHG:**

- INA under the leadership of Subhash Chandra Bose got defeated severely at Rangoon due to lack of support of Japanese but the true extent to which the INA and AHG activities weakened the very foundation of the British Empire in India.
- The Royal Indian Navy Mutiny made the British realize that the support of the Indian armed forces could no longer be relied upon.

**Links:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184271>

## World's first Disgusting Food Museum to open in Sweden

**Question: In which of the following country World's first Disgusting Food Museum is to be opened?**

(a)Sweden (b)Norway (b)France (c)Italy

**Answer: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- World's first Disgusting Food Museum is scheduled to open on 29 October in Malmo, Sweden.

- According to Samuel West the proprietor of Sweden's new Disgusting Food Museum, it will intend visitors to think about what makes some foods less appetizing than others.
- It aims to educate people to drift away from various smelly and strange foods based on crime upon animals and creatures.
- Such foods include fermented shark meat, bull penis, bird's nest soup, ant larvae, roasted guinea pig and maggot cheese.



**Links:**

[https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774e326b7a4e7a457a6333566d54/share\\_p.html](https://news.cgtn.com/news/3d3d774e326b7a4e7a457a6333566d54/share_p.html)

## India's first Bitcoin ATM Kiosk

**Question: Which of the following cities have got India's first Bitcoin ATM Kiosk?**

**(a)New Delhi (b)Kolkata (c)Bengaluru (d)Hyderabad**

**Answer:(c)**

**Related facts:**

- Bengaluru gets India's first Bitcoin ATM kiosk despite the RBI's virtual ban on cryptocurrency deals. It has been set up by cryptocurrency exchange Unocoin.
- Unocoin, a blockchain solution provider has planned to open another set of ATMs in Mumbai and Delhi in a couple of weeks. Anybody who wants to transact through these ATMs, has to register through website or Application then they will get a reference number.
- Through this reference code and an OTP sent to users mobile, a person can exchange Bitcoin with Indian rupee.
- World's first Bitcoin ATM was open in Canada in October



**Bitcoin:**

- Bitcoin is an electronic currency created and stored in block chains. It is a digital currency that is open-source, with a design that is public and nobody owns or controls it, but everyone can take part.
- Bit coin is one of the thousand-plus alternative currencies (or alt-coins) enabled by a potential world –changing technology called Blockchain.
- These were born of a seminal paper written by Satoshi Nakamoto in

**Blockchain technology:**

- Blockchain technology is where the ledger is distributed to peers across a network-promises enhanced security, trust and transparency over traditional book-keeping systems.
- Blockchain technology offers a way of recording transactions or any digital interaction in a way that is designed to be secure, transparent, highly resistant to outages, auditable and efficient.
- It carries the possibilities of disrupting the economies in manufacturing, real estate, stock exchanges, transportation, smart cities, e-commerce, and any business that depends upon accounting and auditing, and database.

**Links:**

<https://www.dnaindia.com/business/report-bengaluru-gets-first-bitcoin-atm-in-india-how-will-it-work-and-other-details-you-need-to-know-2677439>

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

## India's first uterine transplant baby

**Question:**Where was the first girl child born through uterine transplant technique in India?

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

**Answer :**(d)

**Related facts:**

- On 18 October 2018 in Pune, a baby girl was born to a woman Meenakshi Walan after going through uterus transplant.
- Meenakshi Walan is a resident of Vadodara, Gujarat who underwent the transplant in May 2017.
- The first uterine transplant in the world was done in 2002. Since then, there have been 27 such transplants, with only 11 women going on to have successful deliveries.



### Uterus transplant:

- The **uterine transplant** is the surgical procedure whereby a healthy uterus is transplanted into an organism of which the uterus is absent or diseased.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/wait-ends-for-indias-first-uterine-transplant-baby-its-a-girl-5408276/>