SWACHH SURVEKSHAN 2020

DEPARTMENT OF
PERSONNEL & TRAINING
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NATIONAL RECRUITMENT AGENCY (NRA)

e-Release of

ARIIA 2020

ATAL RANKING OF INSTITUTIONS
ON INNOVATION ACHIEVEMENTS

📅 18/08/2020

by Chief Guest

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu
Hon'ble Vice President of India

Guests of Honour

Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'
Hon'ble Ministry of Education

Shri Sanjay Shamrao Dhotre
Hon'ble MoS of Education

EXPORT PREPAREDNESS INDEX 2020

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 29th day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

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

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

http://www.edristi.in/

National

Swachh Survekshan 2020

QuestionConsider the following with respect to Swachh Survekshan 2020:
(1) India's Cleanest city is Indore(MP).
(2) Varanasi has been awarded the cleanest town award along the banks of river Ganga.
(3) New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
Answer : (d)

- Context:
- Union Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs has released the results of Swachh Survekshan 2020.
- Facts:
- Swachh Survekshan: It is an annual cleanliness survey of urban India conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the aegis of Swachh Bharat Mission- Urban(SBM-U).
- Objectives: a) To encourage large scale citizen participation and create awareness about cleanliness b) inculcate a spirit of healthy competition among cities and towns towards creating cleaner cities/towns.
- Key Takeaways:
- India's Cleanest cities: Indore(MP) followed by Surat(Gujarat) and Navi Mumbai(Maharashtra).
- Best States: Chhattisgarh was the best-performing state with over 100 ULBs.On the other hand, Jharkhand was the best performing state with less than 100 ULBs.
- Ganga Towns: Varanasi has been awarded the cleanest town award along the banks of river Ganga.
- Cleanest Capital city: New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.
- Cantonment Board: Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.

Link:

https://www.timesnownews.com/mirror-now/in-focus/article/swachh-survekshan-2020-check-out-10-dirtiest-cities-of-the-country/640041#:~:text=Key%20Highlights&text=New%20Delhi%3A%20Union%20Housing%20and,is%20the%20country's%20cleanest%20city.&text=MoS%20H%26UA%20%40HardeepSPuri%20at%20the,DS%20Mishra%20is%20also%20present.

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) National Recruitment Agency would conduct the Common Eligibility Examination (CET) for non-gazetted Group B and C(non-technical) posts.
(2) National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act,1860.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the proposal to set up the National Recruitment Agency (NRA). The NRA will conduct a common preliminary examination for various recruitments in the central government.

Current Scenario:

- At present, candidates seeking government jobs have to appear for separate examinations conducted by multiple recruiting agencies for various posts. Candidates have to pay fee to multiple recruiting agencies and also have to travel long distances for appearing in various exams.
- Approximately 1.25 lakh government jobs are advertised every year for which 2.5 crore aspirants appear in various examinations. A common eligibility Test would enable these candidates to appear once and apply to any or all of these recruitment agencies for the higher level of examination.

What will NRA do?

- The NRA will conduct the Common Eligibility Test (CET) for recruitment to non-gazetted posts in government and public sector banks.
- This test aims to replace multiple examinations conducted by different recruiting agencies for selection to government jobs advertised each year, with single online test.

Salient features:

- The Common Eligibility Test will be held twice a year.
- There will be different CETs for graduate level, 12th Pass level and 10th pass level to facilitate recruitment to vacancies at various levels.
- The CET will be conducted in 12 major Indian languages. This is a major change, as hitherto examinations for recruitment to Central Government jobs were held only in English and Hindi.
- To begin with CET will cover recruitments made by three agencies : viz. Staff Selection Commission, Railway Recruitment Board and the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection. This will be expanded in a phased manner.
- CET will be held in 1,000 centres across India in a to bid remove the currently prevalent urban bias. There will be an examination centre in every district of the country. There will be a special thrust on creating examination infrastructure in the 117 aspirational districts.

- CET will be a first level test to shortlist candidates and the score will be valid for three years.
- There shall be no restriction on the number of attempts to be taken by a candidate to appear in the CET subject to the upper age limit. Age relaxation for SC/ST and OBC candidates as per existing rules will apply.

Advantages for students:

- Removes the hassle of appearing in multiple examinations.
- Single examination fee would reduce financial burden that multiple exams imposed.
- Since exams will be held in every district, it would substantially save travel and lodging cost for the candidates. Examination in their own district would encourage more and more women candidates also to apply for government jobs.
- Applicants are required to register on a single Registration portal.
- No need to worry about clashing of examination dates.

Advantages for Institutions:

- Removes the hassle of conducting preliminary / screening test of candidates.
- Drastically reduces the recruitment cycle.
- Brings standardization in examination pattern.
- Reduces costs for different recruiting agencies. Rs 600 crore savings expected.

About NRA:

- National Recruitment Agency will be a Society registered under the Societies Registration Act,1860.
- It will be headed by a Chairman of the rank of the Secretary to the Government of India.
- It will have representatives of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, the SSC, RRB & IBPS.
- The Government has sanctioned a sum of Rs. 1517.57 crore for the National Recruitment Agency (NRA). The expenditure will be undertaken over a period of three years.
- It is envisioned that the NRA would be a specialist body bringing the state-of-the-art technology and best practices to the field of Central Government recruitment.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1646946

Report on Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020

Question : On which date Niti Aayog released Report on Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 ?
(a) 26 August 2020 (b) 25 August 2020 (c) 24 August 2020 (d) 23 August 2020
Answer (a)
Related facts

- NITI Aayog in partnership with the Institute of Competitiveness released the Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2020 today(26 August 2020).

4

- The first report to examine export preparedness and performance of Indian states, EPI intends to identify challenges and opportunities; enhance the effectiveness of government policies; and encourage a facilitative regulatory framework.
- The structure of the EPI includes 4 pillars –Policy; Business Ecosystem; Export Ecosystem; Export Performance – and 11 sub-pillars –Export
- Promotion Policy; Institutional Framework; Business Environment;
- Infrastructure; Transport Connectivity; Access to Finance; Export Infrastructure; Trade Support; R&D Infrastructure; Export Diversification; and Growth Orientation.

Export Preparedness Index: Key Findings

- The Export Preparedness Index is the outcome of extensive research to assess the readiness of the states in terms of their export potential.
- The framework is an aggregation of four pillars, eleven sub-pillars, and fifty-five indicators, which capture the export landscape of the sub-national governments in the country.
- On the whole, India has scored an average of 39 on the index.
- This shows the tremendous potential that India holds towards transforming into an export-based supereconomy.
- Only 9 states have projects approved under TIES, which is supposed to act as an inducement to the states to channelize funds from the centre towards the creation of export infrastructure.
- There are only 10 states in the country that provide a trade guide, while only 15 states have ensured an online portal for dissemination of information to exporters.
- The low export credit also remains a challenge. Delhi and Chandigarh are the only two states that provide high credit of around 5.31 percent and 3.36 percent respectively, in comparison to the country average of 0.6 percent.
- There is a high scoring range amongst Indian states on the EPI where Gujarat has the highest score of 75.14 and Jammu & Kashmir with the lowest score of 12.27.

Category Wise Rankings of States

In coastal states

- Gujarat ranks first, export preparedness score :- 75.19

In Himalayan states

- Uttarakhand ranks first, export preparedness score :- 48.11

In landlocked States

- Rajasthan ranks first, export preparedness score :- 62.59

Union territories/city states

- Delhi ranks first, export preparedness score :- 45.80

Overall rankings

Top three states are – Gujarart>Maharashtra>Tamil Nadu.

Link:

Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),2020.

Question:Consider the following statements regarding Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements(ARIIA):
(1) It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
(2) IIT Bombay bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)

- Context:
- Vice President of India has released the Atal Rankings of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA),2020.
- Facts:
- Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements(ARIIA): It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India.
- Aim: To systematically rank all major educational institutions and universities on indicators related to promotion of Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development amongst their students and faculties.
- Major Indicators for ranking are:
- Programs and Activities on IPR, Innovation, Start-up and Entrepreneurship
- Pre Incubation & Incubation Infrastructure & Facilities to Support I&E
- Annual Budget Spent on Promoting and Supporting I&E Activities
- Courses on Innovation, IPR and Entrepreneurship Development
- Intellectual Property(IP), Technology Transfer and Commercialization
- Successful Innovation and Start-ups & Funding Innovation & start-ups.
- Additional Facts:
- IIT Madras bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.
- Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai got the top position under Government and Government Aided Universities.
- College of Engineering, Pune got the top position under Government and Government Aided Colleges.
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar got the top position under Private or Self-Financed Universities.
- S R Engineering College, Warangal got the top position under Private or Self-Financed Colleges.
- Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women secured top place under this category.

Link:

Index of Eight Core Industries JULY, 2020

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding index of eight core industries ?

(a) The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, agriculture and construction.

(b) The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is an index for India which details out the growth of various sectors in an economy such as mineral mining, electricity and manufacturing.

(c) The Eight Core Industries comprise nearly 85.27% of the weight of items included in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

(d) The current base year is 2010-2011.

Answer (b)

Related facts

- The Office of Economic Adviser, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade is releasing Index of Eight Core Industries for the Month of July, 2020.
- The combined Index of Eight Core Industries stood at 119.9 in July, 2020, which declined by 9.6 (provisional) per cent as compared to the Index of July, 2019.
- Its cumulative growth during April to July, 2020-21 was -20.5%.
- The summary of the Index of Eight Core Industries is given below:
- **Coal-** Coal production (weight: 10.33per cent) declinedby 5.7 per cent in July, 2020 over July,2019. Its cumulative index declined by 12.9per cent during April toJuly, 2020-21over corresponding period of the previous year.
- **Crude Oil-**Crude Oil production (weight: 8.98per cent) declined by 4.9 per cent inJuly, 2020 over July,2019. Its cumulative index declined by 6.1 per cent during April toJuly, 2020-21over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Natural Gas-** The Natural Gas production (weight:6.88per cent) declinedby10.2 per cent in July, 2020 over July,2019. Its cumulative index declined by 14.7 per cent during April to July, 2020-21 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Refinery Products-** Petroleum Refinery production (weight: 28.04per cent) declined by13.9 per cent in July, 2020 over July,2019. Its cumulative index declinedby 17.1per cent during April to July, 2020-21over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Fertilizers-**Fertilizers production (weight: 2.63 per cent) increased by 6.9 per cent in July,2020 overJuly,2019. Its cumulative index increasedby 3.9 per cent during April toJuly, 2020-21 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Steel-**Steel production (weight: 17.92per cent)declinedby 16.4 per cent inJuly, 2020 over July,2019. Its cumulative index declined by 42.0per centduring April to July, 2020-21 over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Cement-** Cement production (weight:5.37per cent) declinedby13.5per cent inJuly, 2020overJuly,2019. Its cumulative index declinedby32.2per centduring April to July, 2020-21over the corresponding period of previous year.
- **Electricity-** Electricity generation (weight:19.85per cent) declinedby2.3per centin July,2020over July,2019. Its cumulative indexdeclined by 12.4per cent duringApril to July, 2020-21over the corresponding period of previous year.

41st meeting of the GST Council

Questions : Who chaired the 41st meeting of the GST Council ?
(a) Nirmala Sitharaman (b) A B Pandey (c) B P Kanungo (d) M D Patra
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The 41st GST Council meeting took place via video conferencing and was chaired by Union FM Nirmala Sitharaman on 27th August 2020.
- The shortfall for the FY 2020-21 works out to be Rs 2,35,000 crore. Out of this, Rs 97,000 crore is the shortfall due to GST implementation, whereas the rest is considered as due to COVID-19, which is an act of god.

The centre will provide a further relaxation of 0.5% in states' borrowing limit under the FRBM Act for Rs.2.03 lakh crore.

GST council
GST Council is the governing body of GST having 33 members, out of which 2 members are of centre and 31 members are from 28 state and 3 Union territories with legislation.

The council contains the following members (a) Union Finance Minister (as chairperson) (b) Union Minister of States in charge of revenue or finance (as member) (c) the ministers of states in charge of finance or taxation or other ministers as nominated by each states government (as member).

Link:
http://ddnews.gov.in/business/fm-nirmala-sitharaman-chairs-gst-council-meeting-discuss-compensation-loss-revenue-states

GI Tag Etikoppaka Toys

Question:GI tag Etikoppaka toys is from which of the following state?
(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Kerala (c) Telangana (d) Andhra Pradesh
Answer:(d)

Context:

- Union Education Minister has informed that indigenous toy-making will be introduced as a theme in Kala Utsav to encourage students to explore and develop a variety of local toys. He also called for initiating puppet show in Kala Utsav for secondary and higher secondary students.
- **Facts:**
- He cited the examples of places like Channapatna in Ramnagaram in Karnataka, Kondaplli in Krishna in Andhra Pradesh, Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu, Dhubari in Assam, and Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh which are developing as toy clusters.
- The Global Toy Industry is more than 7 lakh crore rupees but India's share is very little in this.

- In the new National Education Policy, a lot of attention has been given on the impact of toys on different aspects of children's lives. Learning while playing, learning to make toys, and visiting toy factories, have been made part of the curriculum.
- **Etikoppaka toys?**
- Etikoppaka is a small village on the banks of Varaha River in Visakhapatnam district of Andhra Pradesh. In 2017, the traditional Etikoppaka toys acquired a Geographical Indications (GI) tag.
- Toys are made of soft wood and lacquer color. The way of toy making is also known as turned wood lacquer craft.

Link:

http://newsonair.com/News?title=Indigenous-toy-making-to-be-introduced-as-theme-in-Kala-Utsav-encourage-students-to-explore%2C-develop-variety-of-local-toys%3A-Education-Minister&id=398605#:~:text=He%20said%2C%20indigenous%20toy%2Dmaking,secondary%20and%20higher%20secondary%20students.

Tamil Nadu Women Topped the List of MUDRA Loan Scheme Beneficiaries

Question: Which State has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women?
(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Kerala
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- According to the data provided by the Ministry of Finance to Rajya Sabha, Tamil Nadu has topped the list of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana (PMMY) in availing loans to women.
- It was followed by West Bengal and Karnataka.
- Around 15 crore loans amounting to Rs 4.78 lakh crores were disbursed to women borrowers since the inception of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- Of the total number of loans provided under MUDRA scheme, 70% of borrowers were women.

Links:
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/tn-women-top-the-list-of-mudra-loan-scheme-beneficiaries/article32436633.ece

New Circles of Archaeological Survey of India

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The entire country is divided into 36 Archaeological Survey of India Circles.
(2) Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Jhansi and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Raiganj (West Bengal) and Rajkot (Gujarat) have been announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 26 August 2020, The Ministry of Culture has announced 7 new circles of Archaeological Survey of India.
- The step has been taken in accordance with the Prime Minister's call to facilitate and strengthen the process of preservation and registration of archaeological monuments.
- New circles have been created in Jabalpur (Madhya Pradesh), Trichy (Tamil Nadu), Jhansi and Meerut (Uttar Pradesh), Hampi (Karnataka), Raiganj (West Bengal) and Rajkot (Gujarat).
- In Archaeology, the Hampi city in Karnataka is a place of international repute hence Hampi Mini Circle has been converted into a full-fledged circle.
- Earlier there were 29 ASI circles across the country.

Links:
https://pib.nic.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1648762

Chunauti- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest

Question:Who has launched the Chunauti- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest?
(a) Ravi Shankar Prasad (b) Dr Mahendra Nath Pandey (c) Pratap Chandra Sarangi (d) Smriti Irani
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 28 August 2020,Union Minister for Electronics and Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad has launched "Chunauti"- Next Generation Startup Challenge Contest to further boost startups and software products with special focus on Tier-II towns of the country.
- The government has earmarked a budget of over 95 crore rupees over a period of three years for this programme.
- It aims at identifying around three hundred startups working in identified areas and providing them seed funds of upto 25 lakh rupees and other facilities.
- Under this challenge the Ministry of Electronics and IT will invite startups in the areas of work including Edu Tech, Agri Tech and FinTech solutions for masses, Supply Chain and Logistic management, Infrastructure, Medical Healthcare as well as jobs and skilling.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1649231

AFSPA extended for six months in Assam

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 empowers security forces to conduct operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice.
(2) The Governor of the State or the Administrator of Union territory or the Central Government may declare the whole or such part of such State or Union territory to be a disturbed area.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1 & 2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The Assam government has extended the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) in the state for six more months with effect from August 28.
- The state has been declared a "disturbed area" on account of recent insurgent attacks on security forces in the Northeast and recovery of illegal arms and ammunition from different areas of Assam, an official statement said.
- Many civil society groups and activists have been demanding the withdrawal of the draconian law from the state.

AFSPA:

- The AFSPA, which empowers security forces to conduct operations, arrest anyone anywhere without prior notice, has been continuing in Assam since November 1990. It is renewed every six months.
- The Act enables special powers in disturbed areas in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and Tripura.
- The Governor of the State or the Administrator of Union territory or the Central Government may declare the whole or such part of such State or Union territory to be a disturbed area.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/assam/afspa-extended-for-six-months-in-assam-6569600/
http://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A1958-28.pdf

TEXTILE GRAND CHALLENGE 2019

Question:Which of the following innovative solutions were sought for Textile Grand Challenge 2019:
(1) Alternative to single use Plastic bags
(2) Alternative to Multi-use Plastic bags, using domestically grownnatural fibres viz; Jute and Cotton.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (c)

- **Context:**
- Union Textiles Minister addressed the award giving ceremony for winners of the Textile Grand Challenge 2019.
- **Facts:**
- The Textile Grand Challenge 2019 was organized by the Ministry of Textiles with the active support of National Jute Board and the Start up India Team of the Department for Promotion of Industry & Industrial Trade (DPIIT).
- The aim of organizing this event was to bring forward innovative ideas by start-ups/entrepreneurs for development of cost effective and low-weight carry bags using Jute Bio-mass, Jute Plant based bio-polymer and cotton fibre waste tophase out plastic bags.

- Under it, innovative solutions were sought for (i) Alternative to single use Plastic bags and (ii) Alternative to Multi-use Plastic bags, using domestically grownnatural fibres viz; Jute and Cotton.

By: Arpit Mishra

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1648996#:~:text=Speaking%20at%20the%20award%20giving,2019%2C%20the%20Union%20Minister%20said

MY IAF app

Question:Who has launched the MY IAF app?
(a) Rajnath Singh (b) Bipin Rawat (c) Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria
(d) Shripad Yesso Naik
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Air Chief Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria, Chief of the Air Staff launched a mobile application 'MY IAF' at Air HQs Vayu Bhawan on 24 Aug 20 as a part of Digital India initiative.
- The application developed in association with Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) provides career related information and details for those desirous of joining the Indian Air Force (IAF).
- The user friendly format of the app serves as a single digital platform interfacing the users with the details of selection procedure, training curriculum, pay and perks etc for both officers and airmen in the IAF.

Links:
https://indianairforce.nic.in/content/launch-iaf-mobile-application-%E2%80%98my-iaf%E2%80%99

Honey Mission

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The Honey Mission was launched by Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) in 2017.
(2) KVIC is a statutory body.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has taken a big leap towards "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" by creating local employment for migrant workers through its flagship "Honey Mission" program.
- On 25 August 2020,Minister of State for MSME, Pratap Chandra Sarangi distributed 700 bee boxes to 70 migrant workers of Saharanpur and Bulandshahr districts of Uttar Pradesh and thus providing them with livelihood opportunity under Honey Mission.

- These migrant workers – 40 from Saharanpur and 30 from Bulandshahr – had returned to their hometown from states like Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, facing financial distress due to Covid-19 lockdown.
- KVIC identified these workers, imparted them training on beekeeping and provided the necessary tool kit and bee boxes to them to carry out beekeeping activities.
- While roping in these workers with beekeeping will create local employment; it will also contribute to increasing India's honey production .
- So far, KVIC has distributed 1.35 lakh bee boxes in states like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Tripura among others. This has benefited 13,500 people across the country while producing nearly 8500 MT honey.

Honey Mission:

- The Honey Mission was launched by KVIC in 2017 which aimed at creating employment for the Adivasis, farmers, unemployed youth, and women by roping them in beekeeping while also increasing India's honey production.
- KVIC is a statutory body formed under 'Khadi and Village Industries Commission Act of 1956' by Government of India.

Links:
https://www.drishtiias.com/hindi/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/prelims-facts/25-08-2020

Dekho Apna Desh series

Question:Which of the following cultural sites are found in Hyderabad?
(1) Golconda Fort (2) Chowmahalla Palace (3) Charminar (4) Mecca Masjid
(5) Warangal Fort
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1,3 and 5 (b) 2,3,4 and 5 (c) 1,2,3 and 5 (d) All of these
Answer:(d)

Context:

- Ministry of Tourism's Dekho Apna Desh Webinar Series organized the 50th webinar titled "Cultural heritage of Hyderabad".
- Facts:
- Hyderabad: It is known as the "City of Pearls" and the "City of Nizams" and has been the centre of a vibrant historical legacy ever since its inception by the Qutub Shahi dynasty.
- Established by: Muhammad Quli Qutub Shah established Hyderabad in 1591 to extend the capital beyond the fortified Golconda.In 1687, the city was annexed by the Mughals.In 1724, Mughal governor Nizam Asaf Jah I declared his sovereignty and founded the Asaf Jahi dynasty also known as the Nizams.
- **Important Cultural Sites:**
- Golconda Fort: It is a fortified citadel and an early capital city of the Qutb Shahi dynasty.It was first built by the Kakatiya dynasty in the 13th century.
- Chowmahalla Palace: It has bagged the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Heritage Merit Award for Culture Heritage Conservation.

- Charminar: The monument was erected when Quli Qutub Shah shifted his capital from Golconda to Hyderabad.
- Mecca Masjid: Completed by Aurangazeb in 1693.The bricks used here are believed to be from Mecca and hence the name.
- Warangal Fort: This fort appears to have existed since at least the 12th century when it was the capital of the Kakatiya dynasty.

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1648238

Virus breaches another wall, four Bondas test positive

Question:Bondas, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG) are found in which state?
(a) Jharkhand (b) Chattisgarh (c) Telangana (d) Odisha
Answer : (d)

Context:

- The COVID-19 pandemic has reached the Bondas, a tribal community residing in the hill ranges of Malkangiri district in Odisha. Four members of the community have tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Facts:**
- Bondas: They are classified as the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) who live in the hill regions of the Malkangiri district of Odisha.
- Origin: They are members of a group of Austroasiatic tribes and are believed to be part of the first wave of migration out of Africa about 60,000 years ago.
- Language: The Bondas speak in their language, Remo which comes under the Austroasiatic language belonging to the Mundari group.
- Primary Occupation: They are primarily forest dwellers who hunt and forage for food in the wild.
- Dressing Style: They have a unique dressing style—women are semi clad and wear various types of rings and necklaces around their bodies, while the men carry lethal bows and arrows.
- Matriarchal Society: The women prefer to marry men who are younger by at least 5-10 years so that the men can earn for them when they grow old.
- **Additional Fact:**
- Bondas, a particularly vulnerable tribal group (PVTG), live in settlements comprising small hutments in the hills of the Khairaput block. Their population is around 7,000.
- Odisha is home to 62 tribal communities — the largest diverse groups of tribal population in India. Thirteen of them are PVTGs. Tribal populations are found in the entire seven districts of Kandhamal, Mayurbhanj, Sundargarh, Nabarangpur, Koraput, Malkanagiri and Rayagada.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/virus-breaches-another-wall-four-bondas-test-positive/article32432563.ece

Kerala's 'Namath Basai' programme brings tribal children back to school

Question:'Namath Basai' programme brings tribal children back to school is launched by which state government?
(a) Odisha
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Kerala
(d) Chattisgarh
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Namath Basai is a Kerala government's unique programme of teaching tribal children in their mother tongue.
- Implementation:
- It is implemented by the Samagra Shiksha Kerala (SSK).
- Significance:
- The SSK has distributed some 50 laptops exclusively for Namath Basai.Hence,it has succeeded in retaining hundreds of tribal children in their online classes by making them feel at home with the language of instruction.
- Additional Facts:
- Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan: It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched as an integrated scheme for school education extending from pre-school to class XII to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels of school education.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/namath-basai-brings-tribal-children-back-to-school/article32403908.ece#:~:text=Irula%20tribal%20language.-,Govt.'s%20programme%20of%20teaching%20them%20in%20their%20mother%20tongue,is%20runaway%20hit%20in%20Attappady&text=The%20programme%2C%20implemented%20by%20the,with%20the%20language%20of%20instruction.

RBI releases National Strategy for Financial Education

Question:Consider the following with respect to National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025:
(1) It is launched by Niti Aayog.
(2) The strategy has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has launched the National Strategy for Financial Education 2020-2025(NSFE).It is the second NSFE , the first one being released in 2013.
- Facts:
- Aim: To create a financially aware and empowered India.
- Prepared by: The strategy has been prepared by the National Centre for Financial Education(NCFE) in consultation with all the Financial Sector

Regulators under the aegis of the Technical Group on Financial Inclusion and Financial Literacy.

- Key Provisions of the Strategy:
- Approach: The policy emphasizes a multi-stakeholder-led approach for empowering various sections of the population to develop adequate knowledge, skills, attitudes and behaviour.
- Financial Education: The policy has recommended a '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education in the country:
- Content: Financial Literacy content for various sections of population.
- Capacity: Develop the capacity and 'Code of Conduct' for financial education providers.
- Community: Evolve community led approaches for disseminating financial literacy in a sustainable manner.
- Communication : Use technology, media and innovative ways of communication for dissemination of financial education messages.
- Collaboration: Streamline efforts of other stakeholders for financial literacy.
- School Education: Integrate financial education content in the school curriculum, various professional and vocational courses.
- Monitoring: Adopt a robust 'Monitoring and Evaluation Framework' to assess progress made under the strategy.
- A specific period in the year needs to be identified to disseminate financial literacy messages on a large/ focused scale.
- National Centre for Financial Education(NCFE):
- It is a Section 8 (Not for Profit) Company promoted by RBI, Securities and Exchange Board of India(SEBI), Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- It's mission is to undertake a massive Financial Education campaign to help people manage money more effectively to achieve financial well being by accessing appropriate financial products and services through regulated entities with fair and transparent machinery for consumer protection and grievance redressal.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-releases-national-strategy-for-financial-education/article32401294.ece

online programme 'Fascinating Folk Dances of Tamil Nadu, Jammu& Kashmir, & Ladakh' to foster spirit of Ek Bhrat Shreshtha Bharat

Question : The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of ——
(a) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (b) Maulan Abulk Kalam Azad
(c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak (d) Lala Lajpat Rai
Answer (a)
Related facts

- To foster the spirit of Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat, IHM Srinagar and IHM Chennai of Ministry of Tourism organized an online programme 'Fascinating Folk Dances of Tamil Nadu, Jammu& Kashmir,&Ladakh' this week.
- Students from IHM Chennai and 3 students from IHM Srinagar performed the folk dances for these paired states under EBSB.
- **EBSB**

- The initiative 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' was announced by Hon'ble Prime Minister on 31st October, 2015 on the occasion of the 140th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.
- Through this innovative measure, the knowledge of the culture, traditions and practices of different states & UTs will lead to an enhanced understanding and bonding between the states, thereby strengthening the unity and integrity of India.

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1648717

Using satellite to give loans: A major step towards providing hassle-free loans to farmers

Question : Which bank is using satellite images to assess credit worthiness of farmers ?
(a) ICICI Bank (b) HDFC Bank (c) Axis Bank (d) Standard Chartered Bank
Answer (a)
Related facts

- In a major step towards providing hassle-free loans to farmers, ICICI Bank today(25 August 2020) said that it is using satellite images to assess credit worthiness of farmers
- The bank added that the use of innovative technology helps farmers with existing credit to enhance their eligibility, while new-to-credit farmers can now get better access to credit.
- ICICI Bank has become the first bank in India to use such technique to measure an array of parameters related to the land, irrigation and crop patterns and use it in combination with demographic and financial parameters to make expeditious lending decisions for farmers.
- ICICI Bank has created new paradigms in the financial services industry by taking the lead in introducing path breaking innovations including firsts like internet banking in 1998, mobile banking (2008), Tab banking (2012), 24×7 Touch Banking branches (2012), Software Robotics (2016) and Blockchain deployment (2016).

Satellite data

- Some of the key satellite data being used by the bank are rainfall and temperature data of past years; soil moisture levels in past years; surface water availability; trends in crop sowing including crop name; and tentative sowing & harvesting weeks.

- Crop health and yields; agriculture land location details including latitude, longitude; boundary of the land; and nearby locations of warehouses and mandis are also moitored via satellite imagery.
- Earlier, the customer or the bank representative had to visit remote locations to manually assess parameters such as the land location, irrigation levels and crop quality patterns to forecast future revenues of the farmers.

Link:
https://www.financialexpress.com/industry/banking-finance/using-satellite-to-give-loans-icici-bank-deploys-unique-technology-to-provide-hassle-free-farm-loans/2064674/

Swachh Survekshan 2020 report

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Indore is the Cleanest City in India.
(2) Chhattisgarh is the Cleanest State of India in the > 100 ULB(Urban Local Bodies) category
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The Swachh Survekshan 2020 report has been launched by the Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- It is the fifth edition of the annual cleanliness urban survey conducted by the MoHUA. It is one of the world's largest sanitation surveys.
- Swachh Survekshan 2020 surveyed a total of 4242 cities, 62 Cantonment Boards and 97 Ganga Towns.
- Indore won the title of the Cleanest City of India and Surat and Navi Mumbai won the second and third position respectively (in the > 1 lakh population category). Indore has created Record by Winning Title of Cleanest City Fourth Time in A Row.
- Chhattisgarh won the title of the Cleanest State of India in the > 100 ULB(Urban Local Bodies) category while Jharkhand was adjudged the Cleanest State of India in the <100 ULB category.
- Among the towns along the banks of river Ganga, Varanasi has been awarded the cleanest town award.
- New Delhi has been awarded as the cleanest capital city in the country.
- Jalandhar Cantonment Board was conferred the cleanest cantonment board in the country.
- Ahmedabad in Gujarat was awarded for being the cleanest city with over 40 lakh population.
- A total of 6 cities (Indore, Ambikapur, Navi Mumbai, Surat, Rajkot and Mysuru) have been rated as 5-star cities, 86 cities as 3-Star and 64 cities as 1-Star, as per MoHUA's Star Rating Protocol for Garbage Free Cities.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1647228

http://www.edristi.in/

Nuakhai Juhar

Question: Nuakhai Juhar festival is celebrated in which Indian State?
(a) Odisha (b) Kerala (c) Manipur (d) Rajasthan
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The Prime Minister of India greeted the farmers on the occasion of Nuakhai Juhar (23rd August, 2020).
- Nuakhai Juhar is an agricultural festival, also called Nuakhai Parab or Nuakahi Bhetghat.
- It is celebrated to welcome the new crop of the season.
- Nuakhai is a combination of two words that signifies eating of new rice as 'nua' means new and 'khai' means eat.
- This is the festival of Western Odisha, southern Chhattisgarh and adjoining areas of Simdega (Jharkhand).
- Its coastal counterpart is Nabanna, observed in Coastal Odisha.
- It is observed on panchami tithi (the fifth day) of the lunar fortnight of the month of Bhadrapada (August–September), the day after the Ganesh Chaturthi festival.
- Lagan is the fixed time of the day to celebrate the festival.
- Farmers offer the first produce from their lands to Goddess Samaleswari, the famous 'Mother Goddess' of Sambalpur district of Odisha.
- Sambalpuri dance forms like Rasarkeli and Dalkhai can be witnessed on this day.

Links:
https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/pm-modi-extends-greeting-to-farmers-on-nuakhai-juhar/story-4I9IcrPrkOJkhpfCMxEaML.html#:~:text=Prime%20Minister%20Modi%20tweeted.,grain%20and%20prepare%20special%20meals.

National Council for Transgender Persons

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) National Council for Transgender Persons is formed under Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.
(2) The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson of National Council for Transgender Persons.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 24 August 2020, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has constituted the National Council for Transgender Persons.
- The Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment will be Chairperson (ex-officio) and Union Minister of State for Social Justice & Empowerment will be Vice-Chairperson (ex-officio).

19

- The other members of the Council include representatives of various Ministries/Departments, five representatives of transgender community, representatives of NHRC and NCW, representatives of State Governments and UTs and experts representing NGOs
- Five nominated members from the community are— Laxmi Narayan Tripathi, Gopi Shankar Madurai, Meera Parida, Zainab Javid Patel and Kak Chingtabam Shyamcand Sharma.
- The council is formed in exercise of the powers conferred by section 16 of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019.

Functions of Council:

- **The council has five main functions:**
- advising the central government on the formulation of policies, programmes, legislation and projects with respect to transgender persons;
- monitoring and evaluating the impact of policies and programmes designed for achieving equality and full participation of transgender persons;
- reviewing and coordinating the activities of all the departments;
- redressing grievances of transgender persons; and
- performing such other functions as prescribed by the Centre.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1648221

Logo of Labour Bureau

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, launched the official logo of Labour Bureau.
(2) Labour Bureau is entrusted with the work of compilation, collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on different aspects of labour.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 20 August 2020, Santosh Kumar Gangwar, Minister of State (I/C) for Labour and Employment, launched the official logo of Labour Bureau.
- The newly launched logo represents that Labour Bureau is a data based organization dealing in data related to workers and work.
- The logo also represents the three goals that Labour Bureau strives to achieve in producing quality data i.e. Accuracy, Validity and Reliability.
- Blue wheel is a cog wheel representing work, choice of blue colour Sinifies that we deal with blue collar workers, the graph is not going up words alone as in real world data has ups & downs because it captures ground reality.
- A tricolored Graph, matching the colors of the National flag, along with wheat ears, signifying the fruit of rural agricultural labour, has been beautifully placed in the logo.

About:

- Labour Bureau, an attached office under Ministry of Labour and Employment, was set up on 1st October 1946.
- It is entrusted with the work of compilation, collection, analysis and dissemination of statistics on different aspects of labour.
- Labour Bureau has two main wings stationed in Shimla and Chandigarh.

Functions/activities of Labour Bureau:

- Compilation and maintenance of Consumer Price Index Numbers for Industrial Workers, Agricultural/Rural Labourers, Retail Price Index of Selected Essential Commodities in Urban Areas etc.
- Quick Employment Survey and Employment-Unemployment survey are also being conducted by Labour Bureau.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1647258#:~:text=The%20newly%20launched%20logo%20represents,related%20to%20workers%20and%20work.&text=A%20tricolored%20Graph%2C%20matching%20the,beautifully%20placed%20in%20the%20logo.

Harit Path

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has developed a mobile App Harit Path.
(2) The app will facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a PSU under the Ministry of Road and Transport, has developed a mobile App, 'Harit Path' to facilitate creation of Green Highways across the country.
- The App will also be used to monitor location, growth, species details, maintenance activities, targets and achievements of each of the PSU's field units for every plant under the Highway plantation projects.
- Harit Path was inaugurated by the Union Minister for Road and Transport, Nitin Gadkari on August 21 2020.
- NHAI had also recently undertaken a nation-wide plantation drive, Harit Bharat Sankalp, under which it planted over 25 lakh plants in 25 days along the stretches of the National Highways across the country.
- Highway contractors have been made accountable for proper upkeep and maintenance of the plantations. Under a unique initiative, the payment to the contractors for the plantation work has been linked with the growth of the plant

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1647625

Inter-Parliamentary Union

QuestionConsider the following with respect to Inter-Parliamentary Union(IPU):
(1) It was established in 1989 as a global organization of national parliament to promote parliamentary dialogue world-wide and works for peace and cooperation.
(2) It's headquarter is in Geneva, Switzerland.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (b)

- Context:
- Lok Sabha Speaker has attended the inaugural ceremony of the Fifth World Conference of Speakers of Parliament(5WCSP).
- Facts:
- About the Conference: The Conference is being organized jointly by the Inter-Parliamentary Union(IPU) and the Parliament of Austria with the support of the United Nations(UN).
- Aim: To strengthen multilateralism and international cooperation in order to rebuild a better world.
- Theme: "Parliamentary leadership for more effective multilateralism that delivers peace and sustainable development for the people and planet".
- Additional Facts:
- Inter-Parliamentary Union(IPU): It was established in 1889 as a global organization of national parliaments.
- Aim: To promote parliamentary dialogue world-wide and works for peace and cooperation among the people.
- Significance: IPU has permanent observer status at the United Nations General Assembly.
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland.

Link:

http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=LS-Speaker-Om-Birla-attends-inaugural-ceremony-of-5th-World-Conference-of-Speakers-of-Parliament&id=397709#:~:text=9%3A06PM-,LS%20Speaker%20Om%20Birla%20attends%20inaugural%20ceremony%20of,Conference%20of%20Speakers%20of%20Parliament&text=Lok%20Sabha%20Speaker%20Om%20Birla,Speakers%20of%20Parliament%20(5WCSP).

National Recruitment Agency

Question:Consider the following regarding National Recruitment Agency(NRA):
(1) It will be a multi-agency body which will conduct the Common Eligibility Test(CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts.
(2) Score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of two years from the date of declaration of the result.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)

- Context:
- Union Cabinet has given its approval for creation of National Recruitment Agency(NRA).

22

- Facts:
- National Recruitment Agency(NRA): It will be a multi-agency body which will conduct the Common Eligibility Test(CET) to screen/shortlist candidates for the Group B and C (non-technical) posts.
- Sectors: The NRA will initially conduct the CET for three sectors- Selection Commission(SSC), Railway Recruitment Boards(RRBs) and Institute of Banking Service Personnel(IBPS).
- Composition: It will have representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Finance/Department of Financial Services, SSC, RRBs and IBPS.
- Scores Validity: Score of the candidate shall be valid for a period of three years from the date of declaration of the result.The best of the valid scores shall be deemed to be the current score of the candidate.

Link:

https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/national-recruitment-agency-all-you-need-to-know/story-896VyTk9ePb6uQIJpIDEOO.html#:~:text=The%20Union%20Cabinet%2C%20chaired%20by,(non%2Dtechnical)%20jobs.

Framework for umbrella entity to manage payment systems

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding framework for umbrella entity to manage payment systems ?
(a) Pan-India umbrella entity will set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail payment space
(b) Pan-India umbrella entity will set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the heavy cash payment space
(c) Pan-India umbrella entity will set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the capital market payment space
(d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Tuesday(18 August 2020) unveiled the framework to set up a pan-India umbrella entity with a minimum capital of Rs 500 crore, which will set up, manage and operate new payment systems in the retail payment space.
- According to the RBI, no single promoter or promoter group should have more than 40 per cent investment in the capital of the umbrella entity.
- "The promoter shareholding can be diluted to a minimum of 25 per cent after 5 years of the commencement of business of the umbrella entity. A minimum net-worth of Rs 300 crore should be maintained at all times," RBI said.
- The proposed entity may be a 'for-profit' or a Section 8 company as may be decided by it.

Link:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=50232

Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System

Question : Which bank approved US dollar one billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System ?
(a) ADB (b) World Bank (c) IMF (d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- ADB has recently(August 2020) approved US dollar one billion loan for Delhi-Meerut Regional Rapid Transit System.
- The transit system project aims to help decongest the city and improve regional connectivity by establishing transit options through the densely populated sections of the NCR, connecting Delhi to Meerut in Uttar Pradesh
- This project will finance the construction of railway tracks, station buildings, maintenance facilities, and traction and power supply.
- The 82-kilometer Delhi-Meerut regional rapid transit system (RRTS) network is the first of three priority rail corridors in the country's integrated transport network under the NCR Regional Plan 2021.
- The RRTS will use advanced, high technology signaling systems based on latest standards and will have multimodal hubs to ensure smooth interchange with other transport modes.
- Financing for the project will be implemented in four tranches between August 2020 and May 2025.
- Of the total project cost of USD 3.94 billion, the Centre will provide USD 1.89 billion and co-financiers are expected to provide USD 1 billion.

Link:
https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/aug/18/adb-approves-usd-1-billion-loan-for-delhi-meerut-regional-rapid-transit-system-2185051.html

world's tallest pier bridge

Question:Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in :
(a) Meghalaya (b) Mizoram (c) Manipur (d) Jammu and Kashmir
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Indian Railways is constructing the world's tallest pier bridge in Manipur.
- Facts:
- The bridge which is being constructed across river Ijai near Noney is an engineering marvel because the tallest pier height will be 141 meter.
- It will surpass the existing record of 139 meter of Mala – Rijeka viaduct, Montenegro in Europe.
- The Manipur bridge is located at the hilly terrain of Marangching village in Noney district, about 65 km west of Imphal. It will be completed by March 2022.
- The bridge is a part of Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal new BG line project. The total length of the bridge will be 703 meter. The piers of the bridge are constructed using hydraulic augers, the tall piers needed specially designed "slip-form technique" to ensure efficient and continual construction.
- Additional Fact:

- A pier, in architecture, is an upright support for a structure or superstructure such as an arch or bridge. Sections of structural walls between openings (bays) can function as piers.

Links:

https://www.financialexpress.com/infrastructure/railways/indian-railways-jiribam-tupul-imphal-line-project-in-north-east-to-have-worlds-tallest-pier-bridge-details/2059668/#:~:text=The%20Northeast%20Frontier%20Railway%20Construction,North%2DEastern%20state%20of%20Manipur.&text=World's%20tallest%20pier%20bridge%20is%20coming%20up%20in%20North%20East!

PM Narendra Modi has launched the National Digital Health Mission

Question:Consider the following with respect to National Digital Health Mission (NDHM):
(1)Every Indian will have an Aadhar like ID card containing all relevant information about his/her medical conditions and treatments and tests.
(2) The vision is to create a national digital health ecosystem which provides timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).
- Facts:
- Every Indian will have an Aadhar like ID card containing all relevant information about his/her medical conditions and treatments and tests.
- The vision of National Digital Health Mission is to create a national digital health ecosystem which provides timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens.
- The initiative which is completely technology based will revolutionise the health sector in India.
- Additional Facts:
- Components: The mission comprises six key building blocks or digital systems namely HealthID, DigiDoctor, Health Facility Registry, Personal Health Records, e-Pharmacy & telemedicine.
- Health Id : It is a 14-digit serial number which will be generated for each individual.The Id will be a repository of all health-related information of a person such as medical tests, previous prescriptions, diagnosis, treatments and all historical health records.
- Implementation: The National Health Authority(NHA) would design, build, roll-out and implement the mission.
- Coverage: The scheme would first be tested in the Union Territories of Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep

Links:

'Tribes India On Wheels' Mobile Vans

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda flagged off "Tribes India On Wheels" Mobile Vans.
(2) The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) is the apex organization under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 19th August 2020, Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda flagged off "Tribes India On Wheels" Mobile Vans through video conference in 31 cities across the country.
- It is an initiative of the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) to uplift the tribal community through boosting the sales of the products of the Indian tribes considering the Van Dhan scheme.
- These mobile vans will bring the natural and immunity-boosting tribal produce such as organic haldi, dry amla, wild honey, black pepper, ragi, triphala, and lentil mixes such as moong dal, urad dal and white beans directly to the doorstep of customers over the next few months.
- 57 mobile vans were flagged off in the cities including Ahmedabad, Allahabad, Bangalore, Bhopal, Chennai, Coimbatore, Delhi, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Mumbai and Ranchi.

Links:
http://ddnews.gov.in/people/union-minister-arjun-munda-flags-tribes-india-wheels-mobile-vans

Thalassemia Screening and Counselling Centre

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a Thalassemia Screening and Counselling Centre at Indian Red Cross Society's National Headquarters.
(2) Thalassemia is an inherited blood disorder in which the body makes an abnormal form of hemoglobin.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 18 August 2020, Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a Thalassemia Screening and Counselling Centre at Indian

Red Cross Society's National Headquarters (IRCS NHQ) Blood Bank in New Delhi.

- This program will aid in prevention of birth of children affected with hemoglobinopathies, through well planned screening programs, information dissemination and awareness generation activities and help avert the imminent threat of this genetic disorder turning into a major health problem.
- **Thalassemia:**

- Haemoglobinopathies, such as Thalassemia and sickle cell disease are inherited disorders of red blood cells and are preventable.
- In India, Thalassemia Major (TM) and the severe form of Thalassemia Intermedia (TI) constitute the major burden of disease.
- It is caused by inheritance of abnormal (beta) Thalassemia genes from both parents or abnormal beta-Thalassemia gene from one parent and abnormal variant haemoglobin gene (HbE, HbD) from the other parent.
- India has the largest number of children with Thalassemia major in the world, about 1 to 1.5 lakhs, and about 10,000 -15,000 children having Thalassemia major are born every year.
- The only cure available for such children is bone marrow transplantation (BMT).
- However, BMT is difficult and not affordable by the parents of all these children. Therefore, the mainstay of treatment is repeated blood transfusions, followed by regular iron chelation therapy to remove the excessive iron overload, consequent to the multiple blood transfusions.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646731

Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge – Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
(2) Top 10 teams entering the finale, will get the seed fund of total Rs 2.30 Crore and 12 months of incubation support.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 18 August 2020, Electronics and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge – Innovate Solutions for Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
- The Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge seeks to invite innovators, startups and students to use these microprocessors to develop various technology products.
- IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture.
- The Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge is part of the series of proactive, pre-emptive and graded measures taken by Ministry of Electronics and IT to spur the technology led innovation ecosystem in the country.

27

- The Challenge spread over 10 months, kick-starts with registration process at https://innovate.mygov.in on 18th August 2020 and culminates in June 2021.
- Top 10 teams entering the finale, will get the seed fund of total Rs 2.30 Crore and 12 months of incubation support.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646676

NCC major expansion

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) On 15th August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced expansion of National Cadet Corps in all the border and coastal districts.
(2) A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 16th August 2020, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal of the National Cadet Corps for a major expansion scheme to meet the aspirations of youth in all the border and coastal districts.
- The proposals of the scheme were announced by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his Independence Day address on 15 Aug.
- A total of one lakh cadets from 173 border and coastal districts will be inducted in the NCC. One-third of the Cadets would be girl Cadets. More than 1000 schools and colleges have been identified in border and coastal districts where NCC will be introduced.
- As part of the expansion plan, a total of 83 NCC units will be upgraded (Army 53, Navy 20, Air Force 10), to impart NCC training to the cadets in the border and coastal areas.
- Army will provide training and administrative support to the NCC units located in the border areas, Navy shall provide support to NCC units in the coastal areas and similarly Air Force will provide support to the NCC units located close to the Air Force stations.
- This will not only provide exposure to the youth of the border and coastal areas to military training and disciplined way of life but will also motivate them to join the armed forces.
- The NCC expansion plan will be implemented in partnership with the States.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1646237

ARIIA-2020 (Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements)

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu announced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020.
(2) IIT Madras bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 18 August 2020, the Vice-President of India M. Venkaiah Naidu virtually announced Atal Ranking of Institutions on Innovation Achievements (ARIIA) 2020.
- Results of the rankings were based on seven parameters of budget and funding support, infrastructure and facilities, awareness, promotions, and support for idea generation and innovation.
- This year, ARIIA announcement included classification of the institutes into two broad categories and six sub categories.
- Among these, IIT Madras bagged the top position under the category of Institutes of National Importance, Central Universities, and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes.
- Institute of Chemical Technology, Mumbai got the top position under Government and Government Aided Universities.
- College of Engineering, Pune got the top position under Government and Government Aided Colleges.
- Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology, Bhubaneswar got the top position under Private or Self-Financed Universities.
- S R Engineering College, Warangal got the top position under Private or Self-Financed Colleges.
- This year, a special category for higher educational institutions for women has been introduced to encourage women and bringing gender parity in the areas of innovation and entrepreneurship, top place for which was secured by Avinashilingam Institute for Home Science and Higher Education for Women under this category.

Links:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646684

PM Svanidhi Scheme : Mobile App for ULB functionaries

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding PM SVANidhi scheme ?
(a)ULBs stands for Urban Local Bodies (b)ULBs stands for Union local Bodies
(c)ULBs stands for Urban Local Boards (d)None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri recently(19 August 2020) launched a Mobile App for ULB functionaries.
- This App aims to provide user friendly digital interface for the functionaries of ULBs to source loan applications of street vendors.
- ULBs stands for Urban Local Bodies.

Prime Minister Street Vendors AtmaNirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) Scheme

- Street vendors represent a very important constituent of the urban informal economy and play a significant role in ensuring availability of the goods and services at affordable rates at the door-step of the city dwellers.
- The scheme is a Central Sector Scheme i.e. fully funded by Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs with the following objectives: (i) To facilitate working capital loan up to `10,000; (ii) To incentivize regular repayment; and (iii) To reward digital transactions

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646908

Fit India Youth Clubs

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju has launched nation-wide initiative, the Fit India Youth Club.
(2) The Fit India Youth Club is a part of the Fit India Movement launched on 29 August 2019, National Sports Day.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 15th August 2020, Union Minister of Youth and Sports Kiren Rijiju launched nation-wide initiative, the Fit India Youth Club.
- The Fit India Youth Club, a part of the Fit India Movement envisioned by Prime Minister, endeavours to harness the power of youth to create mass awareness about the importance of fitness, across the country.
- Around 75 lakh volunteers of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme, along with Scouts and Guides, NCC and other youth organisations will come together to register as Fit India Youth Clubs in every block in the country, under the aegis of a district unit.
- Each member of the club will motivate people from the community to take up fitness activities of 30 to 60 minutes in his or her daily routine.
- Additionally, the clubs will organise and encourage schools and local bodies to organise one community fitness programme every quarter.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646097

Ayush for Immunity campaign

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Ayush for Immunity campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about affordable and easy practices that can be adopted for enhancing immunity and preventing any disease.
(2) The campaign was launched through a webinar staged on Ayush Virtual Convention Centre.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above

Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The Ministry of AYUSH launched a three-month campaign on "Ayush for Immunity" on 14 August 2020, through a webinar. More than 50 thousand people participated in the Webinar.
- The Webinar was staged on Ayush Virtual Convention Centre (AVCC), the new digital communication platform of the Ministry.
- The theme of campaign is accessible and affordable health for all, through Ayush solutions. The campaign is aimed at increasing awareness about affordable and easy practices that can be adopted for enhancing immunity and preventing any disease.
- The AVCC would be the Ayush Ministry's online platform for handling future digital events.

Links:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645799

Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisations

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).
(2) Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) as one of its three tiers will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 13 August 2020, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO).
- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance in defence.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP 20) rolled out by the Defence Ministry last month envisaged establishment of Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation by the Service Headquarters.

NIIO-three-tiered organization:

- The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation.
- Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) will bring together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
- A working group under the N-TAC will implement the projects.
- A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC) has also been created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1645549

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The National Digital Health Mission (NDHM) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 16 August 2020.
(2) The Mission has been rolled out on a pilot mode in Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 16th August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the National Digital Health Mission (NDHM).

About:

- Every Indian will have an Aadhar like ID card containing all relevant information about his/her medical conditions and treatments and tests.
- The vision of National Digital Health Mission is to create a national digital health ecosystem which provides timely and efficient access to inclusive, affordable, and safe healthcare to all citizens.
- The initiative which is completely technology based will revolutionise the health sector in India.

Implementation:

- The National Digital Health Mission has been rolled out on a pilot mode in six Union territories.
- The six Union Territories where the mission has been rolled out through a pilot launch are Chandigarh, Ladakh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Puducherry, Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep.
- The mission will be implemented in all parts of the country after studying the initial results of the pilot launch.
- The National Health Authority (NHA), which is also the apex agency responsible for the implementation of Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana has been given the mandate by the government to design, build, roll-out and implement the NDHM in the country.

By-Amar Mani Upadhyay

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=PM-Modi-reiterates-country%26%2339%3Bs-resolve-for-Atmanirbhar-Bharat%3B-74th-Independence-Day-celebrated-across-country-with-patriotic-fervor&id=397324

PNB : Digital Apnayen campaign

Question : Under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN', the PNB will contribute __ towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their RuPay Debit card either on point of sale (PoS) or e-commerce platform.
Fill in the blanks with appropriate option.
(a)Rs 5 (b)Rs 10 (c)Rs 15 (d)Rs 20
Answer (a)
Related facts

- State-owned Punjab National Bank on Saturday(15 August 2020) launched a campaign to encourage customers to use digital banking channels.
- Under the campaign 'DIGITAL APNAYEN', the bank will contribute Rs 5 towards the PM CARES Fund on behalf of each customer conducting the first financial transaction to activate their RuPay Debit card either on point of sale (PoS) or e-commerce platform.
- The campaign launched by the bank's Managing Director S S Mallikarjuna Rao on the occasion of Independence Day is till March 31, 2021.

Link:
https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/digital-apnayen-pnb-launches-campaign-to-encourage-digital-banking-120081500963_1.html#:~:text=The%20campaign%20launched%20by%20the,19%20by%20PNB%2C%20it%20said.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Innovation Challenge Fund in Karnataka

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Innovation Challenge Fund in Karnataka ?
(a) In order to help scientists in academia and industry tackle the two most acute global challenges — COVID 19 and the threat to our environment — the UK government has launched this fund.
(b) This is a 1 million pound fund.
(c) Applicants are required to submit bids as academic-industry consortia, ideally with an national member.
(d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- In order to help scientists in academia and industry tackle the two most acute global challenges — COVID 19 and the threat to our environment — the UK government has recently(August 2020) launched a £1.5 million Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Data Innovation Challenge Fund in Karnataka.
- The fund invites tech innovators with connections to the AI-Data cluster in the state to submit research and development proposals for tackling COVID-19 or which promote a greener planet.
- Grants up to £250,000 are expected to be awarded.
- Applicants are required to submit bids as academic-industry consortia, ideally with an international member.
- The deadline for submitting a two-page concept note is August 31.

Recent India-UK relations

- In April 2018, the Prime Ministers of India and the UK had announced the formal creation of the UK-India Tech Partnership.
- The partnership aims to bring together the best minds working in tech to unlock its future potential and deliver high-skilled jobs and economic growth in both countries.

Link:
https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/karnataka/2020/aug/17/uk-launches-pound15-million-fund-in-karnataka-to-fight-covid-19-green-threats-heres-how-to-apply-2184629.html

Tribal Health & Nutrition Portal – 'Swasthya'

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding tribal health & nutrition portal ?
(a) Shri Babulal Marandi inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya'
(b) It will provide all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform
(c) The portal http://swasthya.tribal.gov.in is hosted on GOV cloud.
(d) NONE of the above
Answer : (b)
Related facts

- A series of initiatives were announced by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs here(Delhi) today(17August 2020), which included the Tribal Health and Nutrition Portal 'Swasthya' and e-newsletter on health and nutrition ALEKH; opening of National Overseas Portal and National Tribal Fellowship Portal.
- Shri Arjun Munda inaugurated the e-portal on tribal health and nutrition named 'Swasthya', a first of its kind e-portal, providing all health and nutrition related information of the tribal population of India in a single platform.
- Swasthya will also curate innovative practices, research briefs, case studies, and best practices collected from different parts of India to facilitate the exchange of evidence, expertise and experiences.
- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs has recognized Piramal Swasthya as the Centre of Excellence for Knowledge Management (CoE for KM) for Health and Nutrition. The CoE will constantly engage with the Ministry and provide inputs to drive evidence-based policy and decision-making pertaining to health and nutrition of the tribal population of India.
- The portal http://swasthya.tribal.gov.in is hosted on NIC cloud.

Link:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646440

Fit India freedom run

Question : The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) has launched a 'fit India freedom run' at all its border posts and formations in the country as part of which its troops and officers will undertake a

http://www.edristi.in/

(a)10 km walk (b)5 km walk (c)2.5 km walk (d)1.5 km walk
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) launched a 'fit India freedom run' at all its border posts and formations in the country as part of which its troops and officers undertook a 10 km walk.
- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju launched this campaign on the Independence Day and urged security forces to promote it in their establishments.
- The campaign will culminate on October 2.
- The Border Security Force (BSF) had similarly undertaken an 'Independence Day walk' at all its borders posts and field units along the Pakistan and Bangladesh fronts on Saturday(15 August 2020).
- The chief of the two forces, Director General S Deswal, had undertaken a similar walk with the BSF personnel in Amritsar on August 15.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indo-tibetan-border-police-launches-fit-india-run-at-border-posts/articleshow/77573502.cms

Telangana : Artificial intelligence for agricultural innovation program

Question : On which date the WEF announced the opening of its new Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco ?
(a) October 10, 2012 (b) October 10, 2011 (c) October 10, 2010 (d) None of the above
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- The Telangana government on Wednesday(12 August 2020) launched the Artificial Intelligence for Agricultural Innovation (AI4AI) programme in collaboration with the Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution, India (C4IR), World Economic Forum.
- The State government has declared the year 2020 as the Year of Artificial Intelligence (AI) to accelerate AI readiness and develop a conducive AI innovation ecosystem in the State.
- A team from C4IR, WEF India has worked closely with Prof Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University and the State government's Information Technology and Communications department to identify high impact use cases of AI – which would benefit both the farmers and the policy-makers.
- **C4IR(Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution)**
- On October 10, 2016, the WEF announced the opening of its new Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution in San Francisco.
- It is a hub for global, multistakeholder cooperation to develop policy frameworks and advance collaborations that accelerate the benefits of science and technology.
- According to the WEF, the center will "serve as a platform for interaction, insight and impact on the scientific and technological changes that are changing the way we live, work and relate to one another".

Link:
https://telanganatoday.com/telangana-to-use-ai-in-agriculture-innovation

Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Guwahati

Question : Which one of the following statement is true regarding flood early warning system ?
(a) It is a fully automated system, which uses advanced hydrological models to provide warning with a lead time of 72 hours
(b) It is a fully automated system, which uses advanced hydrological models to provide warning with a lead time of 48 hours
(c) It is a fully automated system, which uses advanced hydrological models to provide warning with a lead time of 36 hours
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) have launched a Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) for Guwahati to alert local authorities about flash floods and/or heavy rainfall.
- Developed under TERI's project supported by the NDMA in collaboration with the India Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA), the tool can be replicated to predict urban floods in any part of the country.
- The FEWS pilot project was undertaken on an experimental basis, to enhance resilience for urban floods, in assistance with the Guwahati Municipal Corporation, North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and TERI School of Advanced Studies (TERI SAS).
- This is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent statement during a meeting with the Chief Ministers of six states—Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala—wherein he highlighted the need for development of local-level flood warning system.
- FEWS uses IMD's weather research forecast (WRF) model results of precipitation at 3 Km spatial resolution having hourly data set to simulate the hydrodynamic model for flood prediction and sends out early warning.

Link:
https://www.teriin.org/press-release/teri-and-ndma-launch-flood-early-warning-system-fews-predict-floods-guwahati

Swachh Bharat Mission Academy

Question:Who has launched Swachh Bharat Mission, SBM Academy in New Delhi on August 11 2020?
(a) Gajendra Singh Shekhawat (b) Thaawar Chand Gehlot (c) Piyush Goyal
(d) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 11th August 2020, Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched Swachh Bharat Mission, SBM Academy in New Delhi, as part of the ongoing week-long behaviour change campaign Gandagi Mukt Bharat.

36

- He launched SBM Academy by dialling the designated IVR toll-free number.
- The IVR based free mobile online learning course on ODF Plus will be crucial in achieving goals underlined in Phase – 2 of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin).
- Swachh Bharat Mission Academy, with its mobile based technology will significantly boost the capacity building efforts in training of Swachhagrahis as well as community-based organizations, NGOs and others associated with phase 2 of the mission.
- As of now the content of SBM Academy is in Hindi and the users are expected to dial in to a toll free number (18001800404) and complete listening to the entire content in their mobile phones.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645013

Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies has launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
(2) Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators'.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 11th August 2020,Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, in collaboration with Dell Technologies launched Student Entrepreneurship Programme 2.0 (SEP 2.0) for young innovators of Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs).
- SEP 2.0 will allow student innovators to work closely with Dell volunteers.
- They will receive mentor support; prototyping and testing support; end-user feedback; intellectual property registration and patenting of ideas, processes, and products; manufacturing support; as well as the launch support of the product in the market.
- SEP 1.0 was launched in January 2019.
- SEP 1.0 was a 10-month-long programme through which the top 6 teams of ATL Marathon 2017 got a chance to transform their innovative prototypes into fully functioning products, which are now available in the market.

Atal Tinkering Labs:

- Atal Innovation Mission is establishing Atal Tinkering Laboratories (ATLs) in schools across India to 'Cultivate one Million children in India as Neoteric Innovators'.
- The objective of this scheme is to foster curiosity, creativity and imagination in young minds; and inculcate skills such as design mindset, computational thinking, adaptive learning, physical computing etc.

Food System Vision 2050 Prize

Question:Which Indian organization has been selected for the Food System Vision 2050 Prize?
(a) Naandi Foundation (b) Srujanika (c) Prajwala (d) Moinee Foundation
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The US-based Rockefeller Foundation has selected Naandi Foundation (a Hyderabad based non-profit organisation), as one of the top 10 'Visionaries' in the world for the Food System Vision 2050 Prize.
- Naandi was recognised for its Arakunomics model.
- The Rockefeller Foundation award recognised the application of the Arakunomics model in the regions of Araku, Wardha and New Delhi, leading to the Food Vision 2050 that follows an "ABCDEFGH" framework centring on: Agriculture, Biology, Compost, Decentralised decision-making, Entrepreneurs, Families, Global Markets, and 'Headstands', or turning current approaches on their head.
- Naandi's vision titled "Arakunomics" was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years.
- Arakunomics is a new integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers, quality for consumers through Regenerative Agriculture (PQR).
- The economic model is a tribute to the tribal farmers of Araku region for the world class coffee produced and launched in Paris in 2017, as well as for the high carbon landscape transformation they did in over 955 villages there by planting 25 million trees.
- The award, which was announced in New York, carries a cash prize of $200,000.

'China Quit India' campaign

Question : The Quit India Movement also known as —
(a) The August Movement (b) The July Movement
(c) The Septembe Movement (d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- On the anniversary of Quit India Movement, the Confederation of all India Traders (CAIT) on Sunday(9 August 2020) launched a campaign 'China Quit India' to boycott Chinese goods, while its members held protests across 600 places across the country.
- Adding a new dimension to its nationwide campaign "Bhartiya Saamaan-Hamara Abhimaan", CAIT said it has launched 'China Quit India' movement to boycott

Chinese goods and "held a protest dharna at about 600 places in different states of the country."

Quit India Movement

- The Quit India Movement, also known as the August Movement, was a movement launched at the Bombay session of the All-India Congress Committee by Mahatma Gandhi on 8 August 1942, during World War II, demanding an end to British Rule of India.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/cait-launches-china-quit-india-campaign-to-boycott-chinese-goods/articleshow/77446374.cms

ARHCs Knowledge Pack

Question : In line with the Prime Minister's clarion call of Atmanirbhar Bharat, Union Cabinet on July 8 approved ARHCs as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) to provide ease of living to urban migrants/poor. ARHCs stands for —
(a) Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (b) Alternative Rental Housing Complexes
(c) Affordable Rental Housing Conclaves (d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- Union Housing Minister Hardeep Singh Puri released Affordable Rental Housing Complexes (ARHC) Knowledge Pack on Friday(31 July 2020).
- Union Cabinet had approved ARHC as a sub scheme under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) earlier this month to provide housing facility to migrant workers and urban poor.
- The Affordable Housing Complex scheme will be implemented through two models in the country.
- Under the first model existing Government funded vacant houses will be converted into ARHCs through Public Private Partnership or by public agencies for a period of 25 years.
- Under the second model ARHCs will be constructed, operated and maintained by Public or Private Entities on their own available vacant land for a period of 25 years.
- Government has said that continued cooperation towards successful implementation of ARHC Scheme will not only benefit urban migrants and poor but will also accelerate entrepreneurship and investment in rental housing market giving boost to the economy.

Link:
http://ddnews.gov.in/national/housing-minister-hardeep-singh-puri-releases-affordable-rental-housing-complexes-knowledge

National Infrastructure Pipeline online dashboard

Question: Consider the following statement and choose the correct option:
(1) Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat launched the online

dashboard.
(2) The dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG).
Correct option:
(a)Only 1 (b)only 2 (c)1 and 2 both (d)None of the above
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman inaugurated the National Infrastructure Pipeline (NIP) Online Dashboard here today through video conferencing on August 10, 2020.
- The online dashboard is a one stop solution for all stakeholders looking for information on infrastructure projects in New India.
- The dashboard is being hosted on the India Investment Grid (IIG).
- The availability of NIP projects on IIG will ensure easy accessibility to updated project information and attract investors for PPP projects.
- India Investment Grid (IIG):
- India Investment Grid (IIG) (www.indiainvestmentgrid.gov.in), IIG is an interactive and dynamic online platform that showcases updated & real-time investment opportunities in the country.
- It is designed and managed by Invest India, the National Investment Promotion and Facilitation Agency.
- IIG serves as the gateway to investments in India, and is also widely used by Indian missions and embassies across the world.
- National Infrstrcucture Pipeline (NIP):
- NIP is a first-of-its-kind initiative to provide world-class infrastructure across the country and improve the quality of life for all citizens.
- NIP will improve project preparation, attract investments (both domestic & foreign) into infrastructure, and will be crucial for attaining the target of becoming a $5 trillion economy by FY 2025.

Links:

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1644812

PM Modi inaugurates 1st ever Submarine Optical Fibre Cable for Andaman, Nicobar Islands

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated 2300 kilometre submarine optical fibre cable network between Chennai and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
(2) The project is funded by the Government through the Universal Service Obligation Fund under Ministry of Communications.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- In a major boost to telecom services in Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the first ever under sear Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) connecting Chennai and Port Blair.

- This cable network will ensure high speed broadband connectivity for the Union Territory that is at par with services in the mainland.
- The foundation stone for the 2,300-kilometre project was laid by the PM on 30th December 2018 at Port Blair.
- The project has been laid at a cost of about Rs 1,224 crore.
- The submarine cable will also connect Port Blair to Swaraj Dweep (Havelock), Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Kamorta, Great Nicobar, Long Island, and Rangat.
- The submarine optical fibre cable link will deliver bandwidth of 2 x 200 Gigabits per second (Gbps) between Chennai and Port Blair, and 2 x 100 Gbps between Port Blair and the other islands.
- The project is funded by the Government through the Universal Service Obligation Fund under Ministry of Communications.
- Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) executed the project while Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL) was the technical consultant.
- Enhanced telecom and broadband connectivity will boost tourism and employment generation in the Islands, give an impetus to the economy and raise standards of living. Better connectivity will also facilitate delivery of e-Governance services such as telemedicine and tele-education.
- Business Process Outsourcing services and other medium and large enterprises will also benefit from better connectivity.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/india/narendra-modi-chennai-andaman-nicobar-islands-submarine-optical-fibre-project-6548424/

PM launches Rs 1 lakh cr agriculture infrastructure fund

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched one lakh crore rupees agriculture infrastructure fund to give a leg up to post-harvest management and marketing of agricultural produce.
(2) Under the infrastructure scheme banks and financial institutions will provide one lakh crore in loans to cooperative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1&2
(d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched one lakh crore rupees agriculture infrastructure fund to give a leg up to post-harvest management and marketing of agricultural produce.
- The scheme will provide better warehousing and cold storage facilities for farmers.
- This will also create new jobs as food processing and post-harvest facilities are set up in rural areas.

- The scheme will enable startups to scale up their operations and India to build a global presence in organic and fortified food.
- The fund was launched with 1,128 crore rupees of new loans disbursed to more than 2,200 cooperative societies.
- During the event, the Prime Minister also transferred 17,100 crore rupees to more than 8.5 crore farmers under the PM-Kisan direct income assistance scheme.
- Under the infrastructure scheme banks and financial institutions will provide one lakh crore in loans to cooperative societies, farmer producer companies, self-help groups, entrepreneurs, startups and infrastructure providers.
- The objective is to provide medium to long-term debt financing for setting up of post-harvest infrastructure and community assets for marketing of farm produce.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=PM-launches-Rs-1-lakh-cr-agriculture-infrastructure-fund%3b-Also-releases-6th-installment-of-PM-Kisan-scheme&id=396847

Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka

Question:Where did Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal dedicate a Railway Museum on August 9 2020?
(a) Hubballi, Karnataka
(b) Bhubaneswar,Odisha
(c) Thiruvananthapuram,Kerala
(d) Varanasi,Uttar Pradesh
Answer:(a)
Related facts:

- On 9th August 2020,Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs Pralhad Joshi dedicated a Railway Museum at Hubballi in Karnataka through video conferencing.
- The event was presided over by Minister of State of Railways Suresh Angadi and was attended by other dignitaries and senior officials.
- This Rail Museum is first of its kind in North Karnataka and second in South Western Railway after the historic Rail Museum at Mysuru.
- At Hubballi Museum, the artefacts are broadly arranged in three sections, at two cottages named Malaprabha and Ghataprabha and the outdoor section.
- Other highlights of the Museum are Galaxy of Rolling Stock, Theatre Coach, Suruchi Cafeteria, Toy Train, Memorabilia Shop, Ticket Printing Machine, Model train run and Children's Activity Room.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=396899

India's first Kisan Rail flagged off

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) India's first Kisan Special Parcel Train was launched on August 7 2020.
(2) The first train will transport material between Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1&2
(d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Minister of Railways Piyush Goyal and Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar flagged off the country's first Kisan Special Parcel Train or Kisan Rail through video link on August 7 2020.
- The first train will transport material between Maharashtra's Devlali and Bihar's Danapur Railway station.
- The Kisan Rail will carry fruits and vegetables and will make stoppages at several stations and pick-up and deliver them.
- This will help in bringing perishable agricultural products like vegetables, fruits to the market in a short period of time. The Kisan Rail train with frozen containers is expected to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of fish, meat and milk.
- The train will cover a distance of one thousand 519 kilometres in around 32 hours. It will halt at Nasik Road, Manmad, Jalgaon, Bhusaval, Burhanpur, Khandwa, Itarsi, Jabalpur, Satna, Katni, Manikpur, Prayagraj Chheoki, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Nagar and Buxar.
- Union Minister of Finance Nirmala Sitharaman had made an announcement in the Union Budget 2020-21 to build a seamless national cold supply chain for perishables, inclusive of milk, meat and fish and it was also stated that the Indian Railways will set up a Kisan Rail through PPP(public–private partnership) arrangements.
- Also,on this day in 1853 first train ran between Boribunder to Thane.

Links:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644088

I&B Minister Prakash Javadekar launches DD Assam 24×7 channel

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Prakash Javadekar has launched DD Assam 24×7 channel.
(2) The channel is a repurposed version of DD North East channel that was on air since 1994.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1&2
(d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 4th August 2020, Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar launched DD Assam 24×7 channel through video conferencing.
- The channel is a repurposed version of DD North East channel that was on air since 1994.

- The 24-hour channel that was conceived as a composite space for all eight north east states will have six hours of Assamese programming with specific slots for languages such as Bodo.
- Content on the channel will include serials, music programmes, travelogues, reality shows and feature films highlighting the folk culture, tribal life, cuisines and textiles of the region.
- DD already runs channels for several north eastern states such as Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura and Manipur, many of which are available on its free-to-air satellite television service provider DD Free Dish.

Links:
https://www.livemint.com/news/india/dd-north-east-channel-repurposed-into-dd-assam-11596537881376.html

ADB signs Dollar 200 million financing deal with Reliance for power plant in Bangladesh

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a dollar 200 million financing deal with the Reliance for power plant in Bangladesh.
(2) The plant is proposed to be located in Meghnaghat, Narayanganj District near Dhaka.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1&2
(d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a dollar 200 million financing deal with the Reliance Bangladesh LNG and Power Limited (RBLPL) to build and operate a 718 megawatt combined-cycle gas-fired power plant in Bangladesh.
- The project will ease ongoing energy shortages and drive further private sector investments in the country's power sector.
- The plant is proposed to be located on land allotted by Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), in Meghnaghat, Narayanganj District near Dhaka.
- The power plant will reduce dependence of Bangladesh on electricity imports. It will also reduce the share of environmentally harmful and expensive fuels like coal and oil in the energy mix of the country.
- A combined-cycle power plant is a relatively more efficient way of producing electricity. It uses both a gas and a steam turbine together to produce up to 50 percent more electricity from the same fuel than a traditional simple-cycle plant.
- The financing deal has two components of dollar 100 million each. While ADB will provide dollar 100 million, it will also administer the other part worth dollar 100 million from the Leading Asia's Private Infrastructure Fund (LEAP).
- LEAP was set up in 2016 with a dollar 1.5 billion capital commitment for the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Changes in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957

Question : The government has recently notified changes in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957. Which of the following statement is correct regarding this notification ?
(a) Listed entities get 3 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding
(b) Listed entities get 4 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding
(c) Listed entities get 5 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding
(d) Listed entities get 6 years to meet criteria of minimum 25% public shareholding
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- The government has recently notified changes in the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, providing more time to listed entities to meet criteria of minimum public shareholding of 25 per cent.
- "In the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Rules, 1957, in rule 19A, in sub-rule (1), in the proviso, for the words 'two years' the words 'three years' shall be substituted," said a government notification dated July 31.
- The changes have come into force from the date of their publication in the official gazette, it said.
- Once a company is listed, its promoters are required to bring down their shareholding down to 75 per cent within the stipulated minimum shareholding period so as to meet minimum public float of 25 per cent.
- The latest notification is the second major relief companies have got in this regard on account of the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 14, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) relaxed the applicability of action on non-compliant entities.

22 million children from South Asia missed out on early childhood education due to COVID-19: UNICEF

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding early childhood education ?
(a) 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year due to coronavirus outbreak
(b) At least 40 million children worldwide, of which nearly 22 million are from South Asia, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year as COVID-19 outbreak
(c) Both (a) and (b) are correct
(d) None of the above
Answer (c)
Related facts

- Nearly 22 million children from South Asian countries, including India, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year due to coronavirus outbreak, according to a new research by UNICEF.
- The research brief released on July looks at the state of childcare and early childhood education globally and includes an analysis of the impact of widespread COVID-19 closure of vital family services.
- In the South Asia region, the United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) covered Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka for the research.
- Children are among the hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic in South Asia. Prolonged school closure and limited access to distant learning have deprived children of their universal right to education.
- At least 40 million children worldwide, of which nearly 22 million are from South Asia, have missed out on early childhood education in their critical pre-school year as COVID-19 shuttered childcare and early education facilities.
- Lack of childcare and early education options also leave many parents, particularly mothers working in the informal sector, with no choice but to bring their young children to work, the report based on the research said.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/international/world-news/22-million-children-from-south-asia-missed-out-on-early-childhood-education-due-to-covid-19-unicef/articleshow/77111511.cms

<p align="center" style="color:blue">First Indian Port To Sign Up For Science Based Targets Initiative</p>

Question : The First Indian Port To Sign Up For Science Based Targets Initiative (SBTi) —
(a) Adani Ports and Special economic Zone Limited (APSEZ)
(b) Jawahar lal Nehru port trust
(c) Vishakhapattnam port
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ) has recently (July 2020) signed up for the Science-Based Targets initiative (SBTi) becoming the first Indian port to commit to set science-based emissions reduction targets — across their entire value chain — that are consistent with keeping global warming to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.
- APSEZ is the only Port in the country and 7th Port in the world to sign the commitment letter to SBTi.
- APSEZ has also signed commitment as a supporter to the Taskforce on Climate Related Financial Disclosure (TCFD).
- The Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) is a collaboration between CDP, the United Nations Global Compact, World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).
- The SBTi defines and promotes best practices in science-based target setting and independently assesses companies' targets. Over 800 companies have committed to set science-based emissions reduction targets.

India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring, tracking system

Question : Which of the following statement is true regarding India's first in-orbit space debris monitoring & tracking system ?
(a) Digantara is India's first air and space surveillance company
(b) Digantara has received a grant of Rs 25 lakhs which will be used to develop space debris monitoring systems
(c) India is well known as a low-cost space-faring nation.
(d) All above
Answer (d)
Related facts

- Started by Anirudh Sharma & Rahul Rawat in 2018 from their dormitory at their university(Lovely Professional University), Digantara is India's first air and space surveillance company.
- The startup has received a grant of Rs 25 lakhs which will be used to develop space debris monitoring systems and the company's expansion.
- It has recently(July 2020) developed India's first In-orbit Space Debris Monitoring and tracking system, which will provide global real-time earth coverage by deploying a constellation of cost-efficient nanosatellites in LEO (Low Earth Orbit) and a space-based air surveillance payload for accurate tracking of both aircraft and space objects. •
- India is well known as a low-cost space-faring nation. Taking the legacy forward, Digantara was set up to build cost-effective and affordable space systems, which is only possible if we are stationed in India.
- Digiantra Research and Technology (DRT), a space tech startup founded by Lovely Professional University alumni, has been selected for the SID (Society for Innovation and Development) incubation program at the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore.

First five Rafale jets land at Ambala air force station

Question: In July 2020, France supplied first batch of 5 Rafale fighter jets to India. Which of the facts is not correct in this regard?
(a) On 27 July 2020, first five out of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft took off from Dassault Aviation Facility, Merignac, France.
(b) On July 29, 2020, these aircrafts touch down at Ambala Air Force Station.
(c) These aircraft has been inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows'.
(d) The batch of first five fighter jets includes two single-seater and three twin-seater aircraft.
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- On 27 July 2020, first five out of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft took off from Dassault Aviation Facility, Merignac, France.
- On July 29, 2020, these aircrafts touch down at Ambala Air Force Station.
- Rafale jets were escorted by two Sukhoi 30 MKI supersonic fighters as they entered Indian airspace.
- After entering Indian Airspace, Indian Rafale contingent was welcomed by establishing radio contact with Indian Navy warship INS Kolkata, deployed in the Western Arabian Sea.
- The Rafale aircraft covered a distance of nearly 7,000 km from France to India with air-to-air refuelling and a single stop at a French airbase in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- The batch of first five fighter jets includes three single-seater and two twin-seater aircraft.
- These aircraft has been inducted into the IAF as part of its Ambala-based No 17 Squadron, also known as the 'Golden Arrows'.
- IAF's 17 Squadron was resurrected on September 10,2019.
- The 17 squadron, which operated from Bhatinda air base, was disbanded in 2016 after the IAF started gradual phasing out of Russian-origin Mig 21 jets.
- No. 17 Squadron was raised in Ambala on 1 October 1951 under the command of Flight Lieutenant D.L. Springett. It initially flew Harvard-II B.
- A formal induction ceremony of Rafale aircraft in 17 Squadron is scheduled to be held in the second half of Aug 2020.
- India & France signed an inter-governmental deal in September 2016 for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter jets.
- Under this deal, India agreed to buy 36 Rafale aircraft from France for Rs 59 thousand crores.
- All aircraft will be delivered to India by the year 2021.
- The fighter jets were piloted by Group Captain Harkirat Singh who is the Commanding Officer of the 17 squadron, Wing Commander MK Singh, Group captain R Kataria, Wing Commander Abhishek Tripathi, Wing Commander Siddhu and Wing Commander Arun.
- **Rafale-The Omnirole fighter:**

- The Dassault Rafale is a French twin-engine, canard delta wing, multirole fighter aircraft designed and built by Dassault Aviation.
- The Rafale is intended to perform air supremacy, interdiction, aerial reconnaissance, ground support, in-depth strike, anti-ship strike and nuclear deterrence missions. The Rafale is referred to as an "omnirole" aircraft by Dassault.
- Rafale is equipped with MICA air-to-air (range 80 km), SCALP air to ground missiles (range of ove 300 km), Meteor air-to-air missiles (range of over 100 km) and HAMMER,short form of Highly Agile and Manoeuvrable Munition Extended RangeMissile, an air-to-ground precision guided missile to destroy bunker-type hardened targets within the range of 70 km.
- The state-of-the-art 4.5 Generation Rafale jet can reach almost double the speed of sound, with a top speed of 1.8 Mach.
- With its multi-role capabilities, including electronic warfare, air defence, ground support and in-depth strikes, the Rafale lends air superiority to the Indian Air Force.

48

- In addition to the above equipment, the Rafale carries the 30 mm GIAT 30 revolver cannon and can be outfitted with a range of laser-guided bombs,nuclear weapons and ground-attack munitions.
- Rafale is able to operate from both an aircraft carrier and a shore base.
- It is believed to be an expert in dodging radars.
- Once fuelled, Rafale can fly up to a range of 3,700 km.
- India will be the fourth country, after France, Egypt and Qatar, to fly the Rafale.

Links:

CSC WiFi Choupal provided 1 Lakh FTTH broadband connections in rural areas in last 40 days

Question:Consider the following with respect to Wi-Fi Choupal:
(1) It is a government initiative to provide Wi-Fi hotspots in urban areas .
(2) This will be achieved by leveraging BharatNet infrastructure for providing broadband services .
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- **Context:**
- Union IT Minister said that since 10th June, 2020 the Common Services Centre 99areas across 21 states, using the Bharat Net infrastructure. Government has set the target of 5 Lakh FTTH connections by September.
- **Facts:**
- Wi-Fi Choupal is a government initiative to provide Wi-Fi hotspots in rural areas where people can access the internet by subscribing to low-cost data plans.
- This will be achieved by leveraging BharatNet infrastructure for providing broadband services in Gram Panchayats (GPs) and villages.
- It is an Initiative of 'CSC e-Governance Services India Limited', a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) set up in 2016 by the Ministry of Electronics & IT under the Companies Act, 1956 to oversee implementation of the Common Service Centres (CSC) scheme.
- **Additional Facts:**
- Fiber to the home (FTTH), also called "fiber to the premises" (FTTP), is the installation and use of optical fiber from a central point directly to individual buildings such as residences, apartment buildings and businesses to provide high-speed Internet access.

Links:

http://www.edristi.in/

Question:What is Stalkerware?
(a) Spyware
(b) Malware
(c) Cryptocurrency
(d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- **According to Global cyber-security leader Avast, there was a 51 % increase in the use of spyware and stalkerware in India during the lockdown period from March to June in the backdrop of heightened domestic violence cases.**
- **Facts:**
- Stalkerware is monitoring software or spyware that is used for stalking.
- The term was coined when people started to widely use commercial spyware to spy on their spouses or intimate partners.
- **Spyware vs stalkerware:**
- A spyware app, which can also be installed remotely, accesses the data usage pattern of the device, gains access to photos and videos as well as other personal information of the user, and then passes it off to a central server.
- On the other hand, in most cases, a stalkerware app can be installed only when someone has physical access to the digitally connected device.
- Though the app works in a manner similar to spyware apps, it goes a step ahead and also gives out the location of the device to a master device which controls the stalkerware app.

Links:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/why-is-spyware-and-stalkerware-gaining-traction-under-the-pandemic-6525694/

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020
Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) The National Education Policy 2020 is based on the recommendations of a committee chaired by former Isro chief K Kasturirangan.
(2) NEP 2020 replaces former 10+2 structure of school curricula by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure.
(3) NEP 2020 aims to raise Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education from current 26.3% to 50 % by 2035.
(4) NEP 2020 increases the public investment in Education sector to 6% of GDP from current 4.6 percent.
Of the above incorrect statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- On 29 July 2020, the Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the National Education Policy 2020.

- The policy targets making way for large scale, transformational reforms in both school and higher education sectors.
- The policy aims to make "India a global knowledge superpower".
- This policy will replace the National Policy on Education (NPE),1986.
- Prior to 1986, the first National Education Policy was released in 1968 on the basis of recommendations of Kothari Commission.
- **Consultations:**

- The National Education Policy 2020 is based on the recommendations of a committee chaired by former Isro chief K Kasturirangan.
- **Renaming of MHRD:**

- The Cabinet has also approved the renaming of the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Education.
- **School Education:**

- Universalization of Education from pre-school to secondary level with 100 % GER in school education by 2030.
- NEP 2020 will bring 2 crore out of school children back into the main stream.
- The 10+2 structure of school curricula is to be replaced by a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure corresponding to ages 3-8, 8-11, 11-14, and 14-18 years respectively.
- This will bring the hitherto uncovered age group of 3-6 years under school curriculum, which has been recognized globally as the crucial stage for development of mental faculties of a child.
- The new system will have 12 years of schooling with three years of Anganwadi/ pre schooling.
- NCERT will develop a National Curricular and Pedagogical Framework for Early ChildhoodCare and Education (NCPFECCE) for children up to the age of 8.
- NEP 2020 calls for setting up of a National Mission on Foundational Literacy and Numeracy by MHRD as a necessary prerequisite to learning.
- There will be no rigid separation between academic streams, extracurricular, vocational streams in schools; Vocational Education to start from Class 6 with Internships.
- A new and comprehensive National Curricular Framework for School Education, NCFSE 2020-21, will be developed by the NCERT.
- Teaching upto at least Grade 5 is to be in mother tongue/ regional language.
- Assessment reforms has been made with 360 degree Holistic Progress Card, tracking Student Progress for achieving Learning Outcomes.
- All students will take school examinations in Grades 3, 5, and 8 which will be conducted by the appropriate authority. Board exams for Grades 10 and 12 will be continued, but redesigned with holistic development as the aim.
- A new National Assessment Centre, PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review, and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development), will be set up as a standard-setting body .
- Special emphasis will be given on Socially and Economically Disadvantaged Groups(SEDGs).
- This includes setting up of Gender Inclusion Fund and also Special Education Zones for disadvantaged regions and groups.
- Every state/district will be encouraged to establish "BalBhavans" as a special day-time boarding school, to participate in art-related, career-related, andplay-related activities.
- **Higher Education:**

- Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education to be raised to 50 % by 2035 from current 26.3%; 3.5 crore seats to be added in higher education.
- There will be Holistic Multidisciplinary Education with flexible curricula, creative combinations of subjects, integration of vocational education and multiple entry and exit points with appropriate certification.
- UG education can be of 3 or 4 years with multiple exit options and appropriate certification within this period. For example, Certificate after 1 year, Advanced Diploma after 2 years, Bachelor's Degree after 3 years and Bachelor's with Research after 4 years.
- M.Phil courses will be discontinued and all the courses at undergraduate, postgraduate and PhD level will now be interdisciplinary.
- An Academic Bank of Credit is to be established for digitally storing academic credits earned from different HEIs so that these can be transferred and counted towards final degree earned.
- Multidisciplinary Education and Research Universities (MERUs), at par with IITs, IIMs, to be set up as models of best multidisciplinary education of global standards in the country.
- The National Research Foundation will be created as an apex body for fostering a strong research culture and building research capacity across higher education.
- Higher Education Commission of India(HECI) will be set up as a single overarching umbrella body the for entire higher education, excluding medical and legal education.
- HECI to have four independent verticals – National Higher Education Regulatory Council (NHERC) for regulation, General Education Council (GEC) for standard setting, Higher Education Grants Council (HEGC) for funding, and National Accreditation Council(NAC) for accreditation.
- Affiliation of colleges is to be phased out in 15 years and a stage-wise mechanism to be established for granting graded autonomy to colleges.
- Over a period of time, every college is expected to develop into either an autonomous degree-granting College, or a constituent college of a university.
- **Teacher Education:**

- A new and comprehensive National Curriculum Framework for Teacher Education (NCFTE) 2021, will be formulated by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) in consultation with National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- By 2030, the minimum degree qualification for teaching will be a 4-year integrated B.Ed. degree.
- A common National Professional Standards for Teachers (NPST) will be developed by the National Council for Teacher Education by 2022, in consultation with NCERT, SCERTs, teachers and expert organizations from across levels and regions.
- **Other Significant Reforms:**

- An autonomous body, the National Educational Technology Forum (NETF), will be created to provide a platform for the free exchange of ideas on the use of technology to enhance learning, assessment, planning, administration.
- NEP recommends setting an Indian Institute of Translation and Interpretation (IITI), National Institute (or Institutes) for Pali, Persian and Prakrit to ensure the preservation, growth, and vibrancy of all Indian languages.

52

- Internationalization of education will be facilitated through both institutional collaborations, and student and faculty mobility and allowing entry of top world ranked Universities to open campuses in our country.
- Increase the public investment in Education sector to 6% of GDP. Currently, India spends around 4.6 % of its total GDP on education.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetail.aspx?PRID=1642049

International

Japan's PM resigns

Question:Consider the following with respect to Ulcerative colitis:
(1) It is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that causes long-lasting inflammation and ulcers (sores) in a person's digestive tract.
(2) Symptoms may include Diarrhea, often with blood or pus, Abdominal pain and cramping, Rectal pain, Rectal bleeding etc.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None of these
Answer:(c)

Context:

- Japanese PM, 65-year-old Shinzo Abe resigned a year before he would have completed his term (September 2021) in office after the ulcerative colitis, an inflammatory bowel disease, that he has been battling for many years had worsened recently.
- **Facts:**
- Ulcerative colitis is an inflammatory bowel disease (IBD) that causes long-lasting inflammation and ulcers (sores) in a person's digestive tract. Ulcerative colitis affects the innermost lining of large intestine (colon) and rectum.
- The colon's lining develops small ulcers which produce pus and mucus, leading to abdominal pain, discomfort and urge to frequently empty the colon.
- Symptoms usually develop over time, rather than suddenly. Signs and symptoms may include: Diarrhea, often with blood or pus, Abdominal pain and cramping, Rectal pain, Rectal bleeding — passing small amount of blood with stool and Urgency to defecate.
- Ulcerative colitis can be debilitating and can sometimes lead to life-threatening complications.
- While it has no known cure, treatment can greatly reduce signs and symptoms of the disease and even bring about long-term remission.

Link:

https://www.timesnownews.com/health/article/faqs-on-what-is-ulcerative-colitis/644406

http://www.edristi.in/

Africa declared free of wild polio in 'milestone'

Question:Recently which continent has been declared free from Wild Polio:
(a) Asia (b) South America (c) Africa (d) Australia
Answer:(c)

Context:

- Africa Regional Certification Commission, an independent body has declared Africa free from wild polio.
- **Facts:**
- Polio: It is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus.It invades the nervous system and can cause total paralysis in a matter of hours.
- Transmission: The virus is transmitted by person-to-person spread mainly through the faecal-oral route or by a common vehicle (for example contaminated water or food) and multiplies in the intestine.
- Symptoms: Fatigue, headache, vomiting, stiffness of the neck and pain in the limbs.
- People at Risk: Polio mainly affects children under 5 years of age.
- Prevention: There is no cure for polio, it can only be prevented. Polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.
- Is Polio Eradicated? Two out of three strains of wild poliovirus have been eradicated worldwide.Africa has also been declared free of the last remaining strain of wild poliovirus.The disease is now only found in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Link:

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-africa-53887947

World Health Organization declares Africa free of polio

Question: Recently which country has been declared free of polio by World Health Organization?
(a) Africa (b) Pakistan (c) Afghanistan (d) Nigeria
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The World Health Organization has declared Africa free of polio, a landmark in a decades-long campaign to eradicate the notorious disease around the world.
- This was announced by WHO Regional Director of Africa, Dr Matshidiso Moeti. She described this as a historic day for Africa.
- A commission led by Prof. Rose Gana Fomban Leke, has certified that no cases had occurred on the continent for the past four years, the threshold for eradication of poliovirus.
- The WHO said, poliovirus now joins smallpox in the list of viruses that have been wiped out in Africa.

Links:
http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=World-Health-Organization-declares-Africa-free-of-

Barakah nuclear power plant

Question:Barakah nuclear power plant is found in which Arab country?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Iran (c) UAE (d) Qatar
Answer:(c)

Context:

- The oil-rich United Arab Emirates announced that it has connected its Barakah nuclear power plant to the national grid in a new first for the Arab world.
- Facts:
- The milestone follows the successful start-up of the plant's first reactor at the end of last month and launches the UAE on the road to meeting 25% of its electricity needs from nuclear power.
- Barakah was built by a consortium led by the Korea Electric Power Corporation at a cost of some $24.4 billion. The plant is on the Gulf coast west of Abu Dhabi
- The UAE has substantial oil and gas reserves, but with a power-hungry population of 10 million, it has made huge investments in developing clean alternatives, including solar energy.
- Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, has said it plans to build up to 16 nuclear reactors, but the project has yet to materialise.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/uae-connects-first-arab-nuclear-plant-to-power-grid/article32396981.ece

Belarus election Opposition disputes Lukashenko landslide win

Question:Belarus is surrounded by which of the following nations?
(1) Russia (2) Poland (3) Ukraine (4) Latvia
(5) Lithuania
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1,2 and 5 (b) 2,3,4 and 5 (c) 1,2,3 and 4 (d) All of these
Answer:(d)

- Context:
- The authoritarian ruler of Belarus, Alexander Lukashenko, has been facing massive protests since August 9, when a controversial presidential vote showed him winning by a landslide. Lukashenko has been running the East European country since 1994.
- Facts:
- Belarus is a landlocked country in Eastern Europe. It is bordered by Russia to the northeast, Ukraine to the south, Poland to the west, and Lithuania and Latvia to the northwest.
- Its capital is Minsk.
- After the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991, Belarus became a sovereign nation, and its first presidential elections were held in 1994.

55

- Alexander Lukashenko has served as the country's first president since 1994. Belarus has been labelled "Europe's last dictatorship" by some Western journalists, on account of the country's poor human rights record and Lukashenko's self-described authoritarian style of government.

Link:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/belarus-president-alexander-lukashenko-protests-elections-6557439/

Sixth Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks

Question:Consider the following with respect to ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT):
(1) The theme was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.
(2) It was established at the 6th ASEAN-India Summit in Indonesia in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)

- Context:
- The Ministry of External Affairs in partnership with the Foreign Ministry of Thailand has organized the 6th Round Table of ASEAN-India Network of Think Tanks (AINTT).
- Facts:
- The theme of the two day Round Table was 'ASEAN-India: Strengthening Partnership in the Post COVID Era'.
- More than 400 people from academia, industry, government and diplomatic community attended the Round Table.
- The ASEAN-India Round Table comprising think tanks, policy makers, scholars, media and business representatives was established at the 7th ASEAN-India Summit in Thailand in 2009 to provide policy inputs to Governments on future direction of cooperation.

Link:

http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=MEA-in-partnership-with-Foreign-Ministry-of-Thailand-organize-6th-Round-Table-of-AINTT&id=397880

India-Japan-Australia supply chain in the works to counter China

Question:A trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative(SCRI) is to be launched by which countries:
(a) India,Russia,Japan (b) China,Pakistan,Russia (c) India,Japan,Australia
(d) USA,Canada,Mexico
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- India, Japan and Australia have begun discussions on launching a trilateral Supply Chain Resilience Initiative(SCRI) to reduce the dependency on China.

- Facts:
- SCRI: The aim of the initiative is to attract foreign direct investment to turn the Indo-Pacific region into an economic powerhouse and to build mutually complementary relationships among partner countries.
- Significance:. The initiative is a direct response to companies that are concerned about Chinese political behaviour and disruption to the supply chain.

Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/foreign-trade/india-japan-australia-supply-chain-in-the-works-to-counter-china/articleshow/77624852.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20India%2C%20Japan%20and,taking%20shape%2C%20ET%20has%20learnt.

Greater Male Connectivity Project

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) India will fund the implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project through a 400 million dollar Line of Credit and 100 million dollar grant.
(2) This 6.7 kilometre bridge project connecting Male with Gulhifalhu Port and Thilafushi industrial zone.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar has announced that India will fund the implementation of Greater Male Connectivity Project through a 400 million dollar Line of Credit and 100 million dollar grant.
- This 6.7 kilometre bridge project connecting Male with Gulhifalhu Port and Thilafushi industrial zone will help revitalise and transform Maldivian economy.
- Regular cargo ferry service between India and Maldives will be started to boost trade and commerce.

Links:
http://www.newsonair.nic.in/News?title=India-will-fund-Greater-Male-Connectivity-Project-through-USD-400-mn-Line-of-Credit-%26-USD-100-mn-grant%3A-Jaishankar&id=397181

Israel-UAE Peace Deal

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) United Arab Emirates is the first Gulf Arab state to establish full diplomatic ties with Israel.
(2) The agreement is officially called the Abraham Accord.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 13th August 2020 US President Donald Trump announced that the United Arab Emirates and Israel have agreed to establish full diplomatic ties.
- Both the UAE and Israel are the USA's close allies in West Asia.
- With this announcement, the UAE became the first Gulf Arab state to do so and only the third Arab nation to have active diplomatic ties with Israel.
- Only Egypt and Jordan have active diplomatic ties with Israel.Egypt made a peace deal with Israel in 1979, followed by Jordan in 1994.
- Mauritania recognised Israel in 1999, but later ended relations in 2009 over the Israel's war in Gaza at the time.
- Under the deal, Israel would suspend its plans to annex large parts of the occupied West Bank.
- West Bank is a chunk of land located – as the name suggests – on the west bank of the River Jordan and bounded by Israel to the north, west and south. To its east lies Jordan.
- The West Bank has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war. Palestinians hope this territory to be part of their future state.However, Israelis see these lands as theirs, and so has built hundreds of settlements and outposts over the past few decades.
- In recent years, ties between Gulf Arab nations and Israel have quietly grown, in part over their shared enmity of Iran and the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.
- The agreement is also officially called the "Abraham Accord" in honor of Abraham, the patriarch of the three major Abrahamic religions of the world—Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/world/uae-israel-peace-deal-donald-trump-world-reactions-6553585/

2020 Sri Lankan parliamentary election

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Mahinda Rajapaksa took oath as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka for the fourth time.
(2) Mahinda Rajapaksa led party Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) has won 145 seats.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Parliamentary elections in Sri Lanka were held on 5 August 2020 to elect 225 members to Sri Lanka's 16th Parliament.
- The incumbent Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna (SLPP) has recorded a massive victory with 145 seats, just five seats short of a two-thirds majority.
- Samagi Jana Balawegaya led by Sajith Premadasa won 54 seats, Tamil National Alliance (TNA) 10 seats and National People's Power 3 seats.
- The main opposition United National Party led by Ranil Wickremesinghe suffered the worst showing in its history following a split over party leadership, finishing in fourth place with only one seat.
- Mahinda Rajapaksa took oath as the Prime Minister for the fourth time on August 9 2020.

58

- He was administered the oath by his younger brother and President Gotabaya Rajapaksa at a ceremony held at Kelaniya Mahaviharaya near Colombo.
- Mahinda Rajapaksa has served as country's President from 2006 to 2015.
- Rajapaksa is credited with ending the decades long LTTE war in 2009 during his Presidency.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/sri-lanka-parliamentary-election-results-mahinda-rajapaksa-6543889/

Mount Sinabung

Question:Mount Sinabung is located in which country?
(a) Indonesia (b) Russia (c) Malaysia (d) Japan
Answer:(a)
Context:

- Indonesia's Mount Sinabung volcano erupted, sending a column of ash and smoke more than 16,000 feet into the air. The volcano, which is situated in North Sumatra, has been active since 2010.
- **Facts:**
- Indonesia is home to many active volcanoes, due to its position on the "Ring of Fire", or the Circum-Pacific Belt, which is an area along the Pacific Ocean characterised by active volcanoes and frequent earthquakes.
- The Ring of Fire is home to about 75 per cent of the world's volcanoes and about 90 per cent of its earthquakes.
- **Why do volcanoes erupt?**

- A volcano can be active, dormant or extinct. An eruption takes place when magma (a thick flowing substance), formed when the earth's mantle melts, rises to the surface.
- Because magma is lighter than solid rock, it is able to rise through vents and fissures on the surface of the earth. After it has erupted, it is called lava.Not all volcanic eruptions are explosive, since explosivity depends on the composition of the magma.
- When the magma is runny and thin, gases can easily escape it, in which case, the magma will flow out towards the surface.On the other hand, if the magma is thick and dense, gases cannot escape it, which builds up pressure inside until the gases escape in a violent explosion.

Links:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-volcanic-eruption-in-indonesias-mount-sinabung-6550530/

First country in Arab World to produce nuclear energy

Question:Which is the first Arab country to build nuclear power?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Qatar (c) Kuwait (d) United Arab Emirates
Answer:(d)
Related facts:

59

- United Arab Emirates became the first country in the Arab World to produce nuclear energy.
- UAE first nuclear reactor at the Barakah Nuclear Energy Plant has achieved first criticality and successfully started up.
- The plant, powered by South Korean technology , hopes to produce 5.6 gigawatts of electricity and supply up to 25% of the UAE's electricity needs.
- The new plant is part of the UAE's graph to become less reliant on oil and gas, the current source of the vast majority of its energy.
- UAE is among the world's biggest fossil fuels producers.

Links:

Italy's GDP slumps unprecedented 12.4% in Q2

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding Italy's GDP ?
(a) Italy has a major advanced economy and is a founding member of the European Union, the Eurozone, the OECD, the G7 and the G20.
(b) Italy emerged from World War I in a poor and weakened condition. The National Fascist Party of Benito Mussolini came to power in 1922
(c) Italy has been one of the countries hardest hit in Europe by Covid-19, registering more than 1,00,000 deaths since the contagion came to light in late February.
(d) Only (a) and (b)
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- Italy's economy shrank 12.4% in the second quarter from the previous three months, preliminary data showed on Friday(31 July 2020), as activity nosedived during the coronavirus pandemic, but the fall was less severe than many analysts had predicted.
- The quarterly slump in gross domestic product (GDP) in the euro zone's third largest economy was "unprecedented", national statistics bureau ISTAT said.
- **ISTAT & Current scinerio**

- The Italian National Institute of Statistics is the main producer of official statistics in Italy. Its activities include the census of population, economic censuses and a number of social, economic and environmental surveys and analyses.
- The quarterly slump in gross domestic product (GDP) in the euro zone's third largest economy was "unprecedented", national statistics bureau ISTAT said.
- On a year-on-year basis, second quarter GDP tumbled 17.3%, ISTAT said.
- Analysts polled by Reuters had predicted a 15.0% contraction quarter-on-quarter and an 18.7% drop year-on-year.
- All segments of the economy suffered, ISTAT said, without giving details.
- ISTAT also revised down its readings for the first three months of 2020 to give a quarterly drop of 5.4% and a 5.5% fall against the same period a year ago. These were previously given as 5.3% and 5.4% respectively.

Link:

Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund : USD 3 million grant to India

Question : Multilateral funding agency ADB has recently(July 2020) approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 crore) grant to India.Which of the following statement is correct regarding this grant ?
(a) The grant, which is financed by the Chinese government, will be used to procure thermal scanners and essential commodities to strengthen the India's COVID-19 response.
(b) On April 28, ADB approved USD 15 billion COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) programme to support India in its immediate pandemic response efforts
(c) The CARES programme is funded through the COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) under ADB's Counter-cyclical Support Facility.
(d) All are correct
Answer : (c)
Related facts

- Multilateral funding agency ADB has recently(July 2020) approved USD 3 million (about Rs 22 crore) grant to India from its Asia Pacific Disaster Response Fund to further support the government's emergency response to COVID-19 pandemic.
- The grant, which is financed by the Japanese government, will be used to procure thermal scanners and essential commodities to strengthen the India's COVID-19 response.
- On April 28, ADB approved USD 1.5 billion COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) programme to support India in its immediate pandemic response efforts.
- The CARES programme is funded through the COVID-19 pandemic response option (CPRO) under ADB's Counter-cyclical Support Facility.

Link:

Top 50 Most Surveilled Cities globally

Question : Which Indian city has been ranked 16 th among the "Top 50 Most Surveilled Cities globally" ?
(a) Hyderabad
(b) Chennai
(c) Kolkata
(d) Mumbai
Answer : (a)
Related facts

http://www.edristi.in/

- Hyderabad has been ranked 16 th among the "Top 50 Most Surveilled Cities globally" according to a report published by a UK-based firm on July,2020.

Firm

- This UK based firm is 'Comparitech'.

Key findings

- Cities in China are under the heaviest CCTV surveillance in the world.
- 18 out of the top 20 most surveilled cities are in China
- London and Hyderabad were the only cities outside of China to make the top 20, with London taking third place and Hyderabad sixteenth
- By 2021, over one billion surveillance cameras will be installed worldwide, according to IHS Markit's latest report
- Globally, there are already 770 million cameras in use with 54% of these being in China
- We found little correlation between the number of public CCTV cameras and crime or safety

The top 50 most-surveilled cities

City	Country	# of CCTV Cameras	# of People	# of CCTV Cameras per 1,000 People	Crime Index
Taiyuan	China	465,255	3,891,127	119.57	51.47
Wuxi	China	300,000	3,256,020	92.14	7.84
London	England (UK)	627,727	9,304,016	67.47	52.56
Changsha	China	260,000	4,577,723	56.80	22.68
Beijing	China	1,150,000	20,462,610	56.20	34.52
Hangzhou	China	400,000	7,642,147	52.34	21.46

City	Country	# of CCTV Cameras	# of People	# of CCTV Cameras per 1,000 People	Crime Index
Kunming	China	200,000	4,443,186	45.01	29.17
Qingdao	China	250,000	5,619,977	44.48	7.42
Xiamen	China	150,000	3,720,141	40.32	19.09
Harbin	China	250,000	6,387,195	39.14	30.17
Suzhou	China	270,000	7,069,992	38.19	16.63
Shanghai	China	1,000,000	27,058,480	36.96	35.54
Urumqi	China	160,000	4,368,865	36.62	26.72
Chengdu	China	310,000	9,135,768	33.93	24.18
Shenzhen	China	400,000	12,356,820	32.37	33.43
Hyderabad	India	300,000	10,004,144	29.99	43.46
Ji'nan	China	160,000	5,360,185	29.85	15.79
Shenyang	China	200,000	7,220,104	27.70	22.18
Hefei	China	113,795	4,241,514	26.83	11.03

City	Country	# of CCTV Cameras	# of People	# of CCTV Cameras per 1,000 People	Crime Index
Tianjin	China	350,000	13,589,078	25.76	30.28
Chennai	India	280,000	10,971,108	25.52	40.68
Nanjing	China	220,000	8,847,372	24.87	13.31
Wuhan	China	200,000	8,364,977	23.91	24.45
Changchun	China	100,000	4,425,761	22.59	23.82
Guangzhou	China	300,000	13,301,532	22.55	40.08
Zhengzhou	China	100,000	5,322,696	18.79	21.84
Chongqing	China	290,000	15,872,179	18.27	29.58
Baghdad	Iraq	120,000	7,144,260	16.80	65.49
Moscow	Russia	193,000	12,537,954	15.39	39.68
Wenzhou	China	55,144	3,623,646	15.22	22.79
Dongguan	China	110,000	7,407,852	14.85	46.73
Singapore	Singapore	86,000	5,935,053	14.49	32.01

City	Country	# of CCTV Cameras	# of People	# of CCTV Cameras per 1,000 People	Crime Index
Delhi	India	429,500	30,290,396	14.18	58.69
Foshan	China	100,000	7,326,852	13.65	36.4
Shijiazhuang	China	54,000	4,114,393	13.12	N/A
Sydney	Australia	60,000	4,925,987	12.18	33.45
St. Petersburg	Russia	55,064	5,467,808	10.07	39.22
Nanchang	China	35,000	3,598,421	9.73	26.47
Nanning	China	37,000	3,859,608	9.59	22.3
Lanzhou	China	25,200	3,080,522	8.18	N/A
Xinbei (New Taipei City)	Taiwan	35,000	4,398,383	7.96	29.03
Istanbul	Turkey	109,000	15,190,336	7.18	47.37
Hong Kong	Hong Kong	50,000	7,547,652	6.62	20.91
Guiyang	China	20,000	3,317,110	6.03	N/A
Dalian	China	32,000	5,617,849	5.70	17.53

http://www.edristi.in/

City	Country	# of CCTV Cameras	# of People	# of CCTV Cameras per 1,000 People	Crime Index
Los Angeles	United States	22,678	4,015,940	5.65	46.5
Xian	China	45,000	8,000,965	5.62	N/A
Bangkok	Thailand	57,770	10,539,415	5.48	41.46
Guadalajara	Mexico	25,672	5,179,479	4.96	62.66
Berlin	Germany	17,464	3,562,038	4.90	41.08

Link:
https://www.comparitech.com/vpn-privacy/the-worlds-most-surveilled-cities/

Economics

RBI projects country's growth rate for 2020-21

Question:What is the growth rate projected by RBI for FY 2020-21?
(a) (-) 4.5 percent
(b) (-) 6.0 per cent
(c) (-) 7.6 per cent
(d) (-) 5.4 per cent
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The Reserve Bank has projected India's growth rate at (-) 4.5 percent for 2020-21.
- In its annual report, RBI projected global growth rate between (-) 6.0 per cent and (-) 7.6 per cent.
- The report says that expected headline inflation will remain elevated in the current quarter, but likely to ease in the second half of the fiscal.
- It adds that the growth is likely to turn positive from January-March quarter 2020-21.
- RBI has asked for wide-ranging reforms to regain losses due to COVID-19 crisis adding that it will take quite some time to mend and regain the pre-COVID-19 momentum.

http://www.edristi.in/

Links:

RBI Annual report 2019-20

Question : During 2019-20, the number of card payment transactions carried out through credit cards and debit cards increased by _ *and* __, respectively.
Fill in the blanks with appropriate options
(a) 23.5 percent, 16.1 percent
(b) 20 percent, 14 percent
(c) 14 percent, 8 percent
(d) 35 percent, 20 percent
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The Reserve Bank of India released its Annual Report on 25 August 2020.
- **Key Findings**

- The release of provisional estimates (PE) of national income by the National Statistical Office (NSO) at the end of the month revealed that the growth of India's real gross domestic product (GDP) had slumped to 4.2 per cent in 2019-20 (6.1 per cent a year ago), the lowest since 2009- 10.
- The rate of gross domestic saving, measured as a ratio of gross domestic saving to gross national disposable income (GNDI), which had moderated to 29.7 per cent in 2018-19, is expected to gather pace during 2019-20 on the back of an uptick in household financial savings.
- As per the preliminary estimates, household financial saving has improved to 7.6 per cent of GNDI in 2019-20, after touching the 2011-12 series low of 6.4 per cent in 2018-19.
- Agriculture and allied activities, with a real GVA growth of 4.0 per cent in 2019-20 (PE), benefitted from record production of foodgrains as well as commercial and horticultural crops.
- The contribution of agriculture to overall economic growth (15.2 per cent) surpassed that of the industrial sector (4.7 per cent) for the first time since 2013-14.
- Industrial GVA decelerated sharply in 2019-20 to 0.8 per cent from 4.5 per cent last year.
- The print for 2019-20 was the lowest in the 2011- 12 series, marking the fourth consecutive year of deceleration since 2015-16.
- In tandem with the slowdown in the industrial sector, services sector growth decelerated to 5.0 per cent in 2019-20 – the lowest in the last three decades.
- All sub-sectors except public administration, defence and other services (PADO) decelerated, the latter cushioning overall services sector growth, despite revenue shortfalls. Excluding PADO, services sector GVA growth decelerated to 3.7 per cent from 7.0 per cent in 2018-19.

- The rate of gross domestic investment in the Indian economy, measured by the ratio of gross capital formation (GCF) to GDP at current prices, had declined to 32.2 per cent in 2018-19.
- The fall in exports of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) was largely driven by the softening of international crude oil prices, which plunged by 12.9 per cent during the year following the failure of the OPEC in reaching an agreement with Russia on production cuts and the resulting oversupply in global oil markets.
- Gems and jewellery exports contracted by 10.8 per cent in 2019-20 on top of a decline of 3.1 per cent a year ago on account of the rise in import duty on precious stones and sluggish import demand from key destinations.
- With the current account balance turning from deficit to surplus in Q4, the current account deficit (CAD) for the year narrowed to 0.9 per cent of GDP from 2.1 per cent in 2018-19 as the merchandise trade deficit contracted, reflecting the terms of trade gains accrued from lower commodity prices for crude oil, coal and fertilisers, and a contraction in import volumes.
- During 2019-20, the number of card payment transactions carried out through credit cards and debit cards increased by 23.5 percent and 16.1 percent, respectively.

Link:
https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/AnnualReport/PDFs/0RBIAR201920DA64F97C6E7B488 48E6DEA06D531BADF.PDF

Muthoot finance – Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partnership

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding Muthoot finance & Kotak Mahindra General Insurance partnership ?
(a) Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against gold loan.
(b) Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 5 lakh against gold loan.
(c) Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh against gold loan.
(d) Muthoot Finance has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 3 lakh against gold loan.
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Muthoot Finance on Monday(17 August 2020) said it has tied up with Kotak Mahindra General Insurance to offer COVID-19 insurance cover of up to Rs 1 lakh against gold loan.
- **Muthoot Finance Ayush Gold Loan**

- It is an exclusive initiative of Muthoot Group through which they will provide complimentary COVID-19 insurance cover to their eligible customers.
- This cover however will be available only for the customers availing gold loan under the Super Loan scheme.
- **Gold Loan**

- A gold loan is a loan against gold. It is a secured loan where gold articles such as gold jewellery, ornaments etc. are taken as collateral by the lending bank/NBFC.

- The loan is given to the borrower against this gold as collateral.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/insure/muthoot-finance-kotak-mahindra-general-insurance-tie-up-to-offer-covid-19-cover/articleshow/77595495.cms?from=mdr

RBI : Strategy for financial education

Question : RBI has recently(August 2020) released strategy for financial education and recommended adoption of _ approach.
(a)'5 c' approach
(b)'5 a' approach
(c)'5 b' approach
(d)none of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- To achieve the vision of creating a financially aware and empowered India, the Reserve Bank on Thursday(20 August 2020) released the 'Second National Strategy for Financial Education (NSFE) for the period 2020-2025.
- In order to achieve the 'Strategic Objectives' laid down, the document recommends adoption of a '5 C' approach for dissemination of financial education through emphasis on development of relevant 'Content', developing 'Capacity' among the intermediaries involved in providing financial services, leveraging on the positive effect of 'Community' led model for financial literacy through appropriate 'Communication Strategy', and lastly, enhancing 'Collaboration' among various stakeholders.
- As part of the exercise to prepare the the strategy paper, the National Centre for Financial Education (NCFE) also conducted a survey to find out the status of financial literacy in India.
- As per the survey, the percentage of population above the financial literacy threshold is highest in Western India that houses the two major stock exchanges of the country while people in north East come a close second.
- Eastern and Central India still have to go a long way in updating their financial understanding.

Link:
https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/aug/20/rbi-releases-strategy-for-financial-education-recommends-adoption-of-5-c-approach-2186038.html

'Positive Pay' mechanism introduced by RBI will make cheque payments safer

Question:Consider the following with respect to Positive Pay mechanism?
(1) Positive Pay is a fraud detection tool adopted by banks to protect customers against forged, altered or counterfeit cheques.
(2) It cross verifies all details of the cheque issued before funds are encashed by the beneficiary.
Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- The new 'Positive Pay' mechanism introduced by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will make cheque payments safer and reduce instances of frauds.
- Facts:
- Issuers will be able to send all details to their bank, thereby ensuring faster clearance of cheques above Rs 50,000.
- All cheques will be processed as per the information sent by the account holder at the time of issuance of cheques. This will cover approximately 20 per cent of transactions by volume and 80 per cent by value. The RBI will outline operational guidance in this regard soon.
- Positive Pay mechanism?
- What is it? Positive Pay is a fraud detection tool adopted by banks to protect customers against forged, altered or counterfeit cheques.
- how does it work? It cross verifies all details of the cheque issued before funds are encashed by the beneficiary. In case of a mismatch, the cheque is sent back to the issuer for examination.
- Benefits? By following such a system, a bank knows of a cheque being drawn by the customer even before it is deposited by the beneficiary into his/her account.

Links:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/business/positive-pay-mechanism-introduced-by-rbi-will-make-cheque-payments-safer/videoshow/77564057.cms#:~:text=The%20new%20'Positive%20Pay'%20mechanism,and%20reduce%20instances%20of%20frauds.&text=It%20cross%20verifies%20all%20details,to%20the%20issuer%20for%20examination.

Norms for core investment companies

Question : On which date RBI tightened the norms for core investment companies (CICs) ?
(a)12 August 2020
(b)11 August 2020
(c)10 August 2020
(d)None of the above
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Thursday(13 August 2020) tightened the norms for core investment companies (CICs), based on the recommendations received from the working group which was formed to review the framework.
- The working group also received feedback from all the stakeholders.
  Based on the recommendations of the WG and inputs received from stakeholders, it has been decided to revise the guidelines applicable for Core Investment Companies.
- **Core Investment Companies**

- Core Investment Companies (CICs) are a specialized Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs).
- Their main business is acquisition of shares and securities with certain conditions.

Link:

RBI :System-based asset classification for UCBs

Question : Which one of the following statement is true regarding System-based asset classification ?
(a)It refers to asset classification (downgrading as well as upgrading) carried out by computerized systems of a bank in an automated manner
(b)RBI asked urban co-operative banks (UCBs) with assets of ☐250 crore or more to implement system-based asset classification from 30 June 2021
(c) RBI asked urban co-operative banks (UCBs) with assets of ☐500 crore or more to implement system-based asset classification from 30 June 2021
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- RBI has recently(12 August 2020) asked urban co-operative banks (UCBs) with assets of ☐2,000 crore or more to implement system-based asset classification from 30 June 2021.
- **SBAC(System-based asset classification)**

- It refers to asset classification (downgrading as well as upgrading) carried out by computerized systems of a bank in an automated manner.
- **Objective**
- In order to improve the efficiency, transparency and integrity of the asset classification process, it has been decided to implement system-based asset classification1 in urban co-operative banks (UCBs). The relevant instructions in this regard are as under:

1) UCBs having total assets of ☐2000 crore or above as on March 31, 2020 shall implement system-based asset classification with effect from June 30, 2021.
2) UCBs having total assets of ☐1000 crore or above but less than ☐2000 crore as on March 31, 2020 and having self-assessed themselves as being under Level III or Level IV shall implement system-based asset classification with effect from September 30, 2021.
3) UCBs which meet the above criteria as at the end of the current or subsequent financial years shall implement system-based asset classification within a period of six months from the end of the financial year concerned.
4) For smooth implementation of the system, all concerned UCBs may conduct pilot/parallel run and evaluate the results for accuracy/integrity of the asset classification in compliance with the applicable RBI instructions so as to ensure that they are ready for implementation of the system-based asset classification from the appointed date.

5) UCBs not meeting the above criteria are also encouraged to voluntarily implement the system-based asset classification in their own interest.

ink:
https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=11948&Mode=0

PM Narendra Modi launches platform for "Transparent Taxation – Honouring the Honest"

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest' platform.
(2) The platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 13th August 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Transparent Taxation – Honoring the Honest' platform.
- This platform will strengthen the efforts of reforming and simplifying India's tax system.
- The platform has major reforms like Faceless Assessment, Faceless Appeal and Taxpayers Charter.
- Faceless Assessment and Taxpayers Charter have come into force while the facility of faceless appeal will be available for citizens across the country from 25th September i.e. Deen Dayal Upadhyay's birth anniversary.
- In the Faceless system there is no need for a direct contact between the Taxpayer and the Income Tax Officer in all matters of scrutiny, notice, survey or assessment.
- Launch of Taxpayers Charter is a significant step where the taxpayer is now assured of fair, courteous and rational behavior.
- The charter takes care of maintaining the dignity and sensitivity of the taxpayer and that is based on a trust factor and that the assessee cannot be merely doubted without a basis.

Links:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645472

Exim Bank extends USD 250 million line of credit to Mozambique

Question : Which of the following is a financial products of Exim Bank ?
(a)BUYER'S credit (b)corporate banking & lines of credit
(c)overseas investment finance & project exports (d)all above
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) on Friday(7 August 2020) said it has extended a USD 250-million (about Rs 1,870 crore) line of credit (LOC) to Mozambique for improving power supply quality in the country.

- The agreement to this effect was signed on August 3.
- With the signing of this LOC agreement, Exim Bank to date has extended 14 LOCs to Mozambique, taking their total value to USD 772.44 million.
- Exim Bank has now in place 264 LOCs, covering 62 countries across regions including Africa, Asia, and Latin America, with credit commitments of around USD 25.98 billion, available for financing exports from India.
- **Exim bank**

- It was set up in 1982. The Export-Import Bank of India Act was passed in September 1981 and the Bank commenced its operations in March 1982.
- The financial products of bank are – BUYER'S credit, corporate banking,lines of credit,overseas investment finance & project exports.
- **Lines of credit(LOCs)**

- In 2003-04, The Government of India (GOI) formulated the Indian Development Initiative (IDI), now known as Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS) with the objective of sharing **India's development experience through:**
  capacity building and skills transfer,
  trade, and
  infrastructure development,
  by extending concessional LOCs routed through Exim Bank, to developing partner countries, towards creating socio-economic benefits in the partner country.

Link:
https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/aug/07/exim-bank-extends-usd-250-million-line-of-credit-to-mozambique-2180409.html

Aditya Birla Health Insurance : New services & Products for Covid-19

Question : ABHICL(Aditya Birla Health Insurance) is planning to reduce the Initial waiting period from 30 to — for all the policyholders for COVID-19 related Inpatient Hospitalization claims. This offering will be launched for policyholders shortly.
(a)15 days (b)10 days (c)7 days (d)none of the above
Answer : (a)

- ABHICL is planning to reduce the Initial waiting period from 30 to 15 days for all the policyholders for COVID-19 related Inpatient Hospitalization claims. This offering will be launched for policyholders shortly.
- Another new key offering that will be introduced is the extension of the Home Treatment Facility to policyholders, otherwise requiring hospitalization and where policyholder have been advised Home Treatment by the treating Doctor in line with the ICMR Guidelines.
- This Home treatment facility would be provided on a cashless basis through our Network Providers and Empaneled Service Provider.
- Additionally, all indemnity products of ABHICL, namely, Activ Health, Activ Assure and Activ Care offer hospitalisation covers, in-patient treatment, pre-hospitalisation, post-hospitalisation, and ambulance cover for COVID-19.

73

Scientific

KAVKAZ 2020

QuestionConsider the following statements with respect to KAVKAZ 2020:
(1) Both China and Pakistan are going to be a part of the multinational exercise to be held in Russia.
(2) India has announced it's withdrawl from this multilateral Military Exercise.
Which is/are incorrect?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (d)

Context:

- India has announced that it is withdrawing from multilateral Military Exercise Kavkaz 2020 to be held in Russia.
- **Facts:**
- India had earlier planned to send around 150 Indian Army troops, 45 Indian Air Force personnel and a number of Navy officers to the multilateral military exercise to be held in the Astrakhan region in southern Russia from 15th to 26th September.
- Both China and Pakistan are going to be a part of the multinational exercise. China's participation in the exercise was also a reason for India to pull out of the multilateral tri-services military exercise.
- India is locked in a military conflict with the Chinese in eastern Ladakh and on high alert all along the 4,000 kilometre Line of Actual Control (LAC).

Link:

http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India-withdraws-from-multilateral-military-exercise-in-Russia-next-month&id=398571

IIT-Indore to teach ancient Indian sciences in Sanskrit

Question:Which IIT has introduced a one of its kind course to teach classical scientific texts in Sanskrit?
(a) Delhi
(b) Kanpur
(c) Indore
(d) Patna
Answer:(c)

Context:

- IIT-Indore has introduced a one-of-its-kind course to teach classical scientific texts to students in Sanskrit, starting with Bhaskaracharya's mathematical treatise 'Lilavati' of almost a thousand years ago.

- **Facts:**
- More than 750 people from across the globe have signed up for the course that started on August 22. The first edition will end on October 2, Gandhi Jayanti.
- The institute has lined up fortnightly programmes to teach metallurgy, astronomy, medicines and plant sciences in Sanskrit. Students can study classical Indian scientific texts in their original forms and converse about them in the ancient language.
- Most of the traditional Indic scientific treatises in sustainable water resource management, agriculture, mathematics, metallurgy, astronomy, medicine, plant sciences, economic and political texts are in Sanskrit. Understanding Sanskrit with a view to studying these texts is important to preserve India's scientific heritage.

Link:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/iit-indore-to-teach-ancient-indian-science-in-sanskrit/articleshow/77813378.cms

14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar chaired the 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) from Indian side.
(2) India and Singapore signed the Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR).
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 28 August 2020, the 14th India-Singapore Defence Policy Dialogue (DPD) was held via video conferencing.
- It was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Permanent Secretary (Defence), Singapore Mr Chan Heng Kee.
- Both sides held discussions on a number of issues of bilateral defence engagements between India and Singapore.
- At the end of the DPD, the Implementing Arrangement on Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR) between India and Singapore was also signed.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1649235

A new way for quantum state estimation

Question : __ find a new way for quantum state estimation that can make crucial quantum operations simpler. Which one of the following can fill the blanks ?
(a) Raman Research Institute (b) ISRO (c) CSIR (d) C-dac Pune
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Scientists experimenting with new ways to manipulate quantum states so that they can be harnessed for computing, communication, and metrology, has found a novel way to characterise and estimate such states.
- This method of characterisation called Quantum State Interferography, can help make such manipulations simpler so that several crucial operations in quantum technologies become less cumbersome.
- Scientists from Raman Research Institute, an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India, have found a new way of inferring the state of a system (both two-dimensional qubits, the simplest quantum system as well as higher-dimensional "qubits") from an interference pattern, which they term 'Quantum State Interferography'.
- This work, partially supported by the QuEST network programme of the DST, has been accepted for publication in the journal Physical Review Letters.
- The determination of an unknown quantum state is usually done by a method known as Quantum State Tomography (QST). This involves measuring projection of the quantum state on various directions in state space and reconstructing the quantum state from the information obtained. However, in particular, scenarios where the dimensions are large, the operations needed to perform tomography increase quadratically.
- The experimental settings often need to be changed many times, thus making the process very cumbersome.
- The RRI team showed that without changing any settings in the experimental setup, it is possible to infer the unknown quantum state of a higher dimensional system.

- The setup requires only two interferometers from which many interferograms can be obtained to reconstruct the state.
- This provides a 'black box' approach to quantum state estimation — between the incidence of the photon and extraction of state information, conditions within the set-up are not changed, thus providing a true single-shot estimation of the quantum state.
- A qubit is a 2-dimensional quantum system and requires usually 2 complex numbers to be determined towards state estimation. However, various constraints and physical assumptions leave only two real numbers, finally to be determined.
- Instead of finding these two real numbers from various projections, in this work, they were determined from the intensity and phase shift of the interference pattern.
- Also, when many such quantum states are incoherently mixed, the amount of mixedness can be determined from the visibility of the interference pattern.
- This can be used to characterize the state of a two-particle system, which in turn can be used to quantify entanglement, also in a single-shot method.
- This idea can be further extended to find parameters describing higher-dimensional quantum states from a set of interference patterns.

This work gives a single-shot black-box approach to quantum state estimation as well as quantifying quantum entanglement.
Manipulation of quantum states is the most crucial operation in any quantum technology protocol, be it quantum computing, quantum communication, or quantum metrology.

DGNCC Mobile Training App

Question:Consider the following with respect to DGNCC Mobile Training App :
(1) The App will assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets.
(2) The App is launched by Home Minister of India.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)

Context:

- Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh launched the Directorate General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Mobile Training App.
- **Facts:**
- The App will assist in conducting countrywide online training of NCC cadets.
- The DGNCC Mobile Training App aims at providing NCC cadets entire training material (syllabus, précis, training videos and frequently asked questions) on one platform.
- The App has been made interactive by including a query option. By using this option, a cadet can post his question related to the training syllabus and the same will be answered by a panel of qualified instructors.

Indian satellite AstroSat discovers one of the earliest galaxies of Universe

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) AstroSat has detected extreme UV light from a galaxy called AUDFs01.
(2) The galaxy AUDFs01 is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- A global team led by scientists of the Inter University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) has discovered one of the earliest galaxies called AUDFs01 using AstroSat.
- The galaxy is located in the Hubble Extreme Deep field, 9.3 billion light-years away from Earth.
- The team comprises scientists from India, Switzerland, France, USA, Japan and Netherlands.
- This is the first time that star-forming galaxies have been observed in this extreme UV environment.

- **Hubble eXtreme Deep field (XDF):**

- Hubble eXtreme Deep Field (XDF) is a portion of space that contains approximately 5,500 galaxies, the oldest of which are seen as they were 13.2 billion years ago, recorded by the Hubble Space Telescope for over 10 years.
- **Background:**

- Earlier, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope (HST), which is significantly larger than the Ultra Violet Imaging Telescope (UVIT) on Astrosat, did not detect any UV emission (with energy greater than 13.6 eV) from this galaxy because it is too faint.
- AstroSat/UVIT was able to achieve this unique feat because the background noise in the UVIT detector is much less than the ones on HST
- **Significance:**

- This is a very important clue to how the dark ages of the Universe ended and there was light in the Universe.
- Since UV radiation is absorbed by Earth's atmosphere, it has to be observed from space for better understanding.
- **AstroSat:**

- AstroSat is the first dedicated Indian astronomy mission aimed at studying celestial sources in X-ray, optical and UV spectral bands simultaneously.
- AstroSat with a lift-off mass of 1515 kg was launched on September 28, 2015 into a 650 km orbit inclined at an angle of 6 deg to the equator by PSLV-C30 from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.
- The minimum useful life of the AstroSat mission is expected to be 5 years.
- One of the unique features of AstroSat mission is that it enables the simultaneous multi-wavelength observations of various astronomical objects with a single satellite.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/technology/science/global-team-led-by-iucaa-scientists-marks-a-major-breakthrough-6568281/

OMEGA CENTAURI

Question:What is Omega Centauri?
(a) Sun like star (b) Galaxy like Milky Way (c) Globular cluster in Milky Way
(d) None of these
Answer:(c)

Context:

- A team of scientists from the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA), an autonomous institute under the Department of Science & Technology (DST), has discovered He-enhanced cool bright stars among the metal-rich parts of Omega Centauri globular cluster. This is the first-ever spectroscopic determination of He-abundance in Omega Centauri.
- Facts:

78

- Globular clusters are the stellar systems with millions of stars formed from the same gaseous cloud. Hence, usually, the stars formed will be homogeneous in their chemical composition of elemental abundances.
- But, there are clusters which deviate from this norm. One is being Omega Centauri, the brightest and the largest globular cluster in our Galaxy, the Milky Way.
- The different stars of Omega Centauri do not show the same metal content, a parameter that indicates its age, but a large range in it.Though there are estimations of He-enhancement in the H-core burning main-sequence stars (like Sun) of Omega Cen, this is the first-ever spectroscopic determination of He-abundance in Omega Centauri.

Link:

https://dst.gov.in/iia-scientists-discover-he-enhanced-cool-bright-stars-among-metal-rich-parts-omega-centauri-globular

Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge

Question:Consider the following with respect to Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge:
(1) It was launched by Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology.
(2) It was launched under "ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT" scheme.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology launched "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" to provide further impetus to the strong ecosystem of Start-up, innovation and research in the country.
- Facts:
- IIT Madras and Center for Development of Advance Computing (CDAC) have developed two microprocessors named SHAKTI (32 bit) and VEGA (64 bit) respectively using Open Source Architecture under the aegis of Microprocessor Development Programme of Ministry of Electronics and IT.
- "Swadeshi Microprocessor Challenge- Innovate Solutions for #Aatmanirbhar Bharat" seeks to invite innovators, startups and students to use these microprocessors to develop various technology products.
- The Challenge spread over 10 months, kick-starts with registration process at https://innovate.mygov.in on 18th August 2020 and culminates in June 2021.
- Top 10 teams entering the finale, will get the seed fund of total Rs 2.30 Crore and 12 months of incubation support.

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646676

National Biopharma Mission

Question:Consider the following regarding National Biopharma Mission(NBM):
(1) It was launched in 2019 as an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
(2) It's Implementation is done by Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- Department of Biotechnology(DBT) Secretary has inaugurated the Pune-based Center for Biopharma Analysis(CBA).
- Facts:
- Aim: To provide high-quality analytical services to biopharmaceutical developers and manufacturers and create long lasting value for bio-entrepreneurs and industry.
- This centre is supported by the National Biopharma Mission of the Department of Biotechnology(DBT) and Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council(BIRAC).
- Additional Facts:
- National Biopharma Mission(NBM): It is an industry-academia collaborative mission for accelerating biopharmaceutical development in the country.
- Launched Year: It was launched in 2017 at a total cost of Rs 1500 crore and is 50% co-funded by World Bank loan.
- Implementation: Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC).

Links:

http://newsonair.com/News?title=DBT%2C-Secretary%2C-Renu-Swarup-inaugurates-Center-for-Biopharma-Analysis-in-Pune&id=397353

Chandrayaan-2 captures crater on Moon, ISRO names it after Vikram Sarabhai

Question:Consider the following with respect to 'SARABHAI' Crater:
(1) "Sarabhai" Crater is named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai by NASA.
(2) Crater findings will help the Space Scientists to understand further the process on the lunar region filled with lava.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- **Context:**
- ISRO paid tribute to Dr Vikram Sarabhai, the Father of India's Space Programme, in a special way by announcing that Chandrayaan 2 Orbiter has captured the Moon images of "Sarabhai" Crater.
- **Facts:**
- "Sarabhai" Crater is named after Dr Vikram Sarabhai. To the 300km east of this crater lie the landing sites of American Apollo 17 and Soviet-launched Luna 21 missions.

- The Crater has a depth of around 1.7 Kms taken from its raised rim and the slope of Crater walls is in between 25 to 35 degree. These findings will help the Space Scientists to understand further the process on the lunar region filled with lava.

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1645866

SRIJAN Portal

Question:SRIJAN Portal is launched by which ministry?
(a) Ministry of Education (b) Ministry of Finance (c) Ministry of Defence
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has launched 'SRIJAN' portal which is a one stop shop online portal that provides access to the vendors to take up items that can be taken up for indigenization.
- **SRIJAN Portal:**
- It is an online portal that aims to promote indigenisation of defence items production by providing information about defence equipment and items that are being imported so that the Indian industry can design, develop and manufacture them domestically as per its capability.
- **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX):**
- It was launched in 2018 to create an ecosystem to foster innovation and technology development in Defence and Aerospace by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups among others.
- **Implementation:**
- It is being implemented by Defence Innovation Organisation(DIO).

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1645805#:~:text=On%20the%20final%20day%20of,be%20taken%20up%20for%20indigenization.

eSanjeevani telemedicine service new record

Question : 'eSanjeevani' digital platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz. Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.It has recently(August 2020) completed —
(a) 2 lakh tele-consultations (b) 3 lakh tele-consultations (c) 4 lakh tele-consultations
(d) 5 lakh tele-consultations
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The 'eSanjeevani' digital platform of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has recently(August 2020) completed 2 lakh tele-consultations.
- This milestone was achieved in a short time period of ten days only since the 9th of August when Dr. Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare

- presided over a meet to commemorate the completion of 1.5 lakh tele-consultations.
- eSanjeevani platform has enabled two types of telemedicine services viz.
- Doctor-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani) and Patient-to-Doctor (eSanjeevani OPD) Tele-consultations.
- The former is being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre (AB-HWC).
- It aims to implement tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in conjunction with identified Medical College hospitals in a 'Hub and Spoke' model.
- States have identified and set up dedicated 'Hubs' in Medical Colleges and District hospitals to provide tele-consultation services to 'Spokes', i.e SHCs, PHCs and HWCs.
- The Health Ministry rolled out the second tele-consultation service 'eSanjeevaniOPD' enabling patient-to-doctor telemedicine owing to the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020.
- This has proved a boon in containing the spread of COVID while simultaneously enabling provisions for non-COVID essential healthcare.
- eSanjeevani has been implemented so far by 23 States and other States are in the process of rolling it out.
- The top five States which have been utilizing the e-health services being offered through this platform are Tamil Nadu (56,346 consultations), Uttar Pradesh (33,325), Andhra Pradesh (29,400), Himachal Pradesh (26,535) and Kerala (21,433).
- Andhra Pradesh leads in having the most HWC-medical college interactions with 25,478 consultations while Tamil Nadu leads in the OPD services with 56,346 consultations.

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646913

Indian Coast Guard Offshore Patrol Vessel 'Sarthak' launched

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five Offshore Patrol Vessel deployed by the Indian Coast Guard.
(2) Sarthak has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1&2
(d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 13 August 2020, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) for the Indian Coast Guard was launched and re-christened as Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Sarthak'.
- Sarthak is the 4th in the series of five OPVs deployed by the Coast Guard to enhance maritime security.
- It has been designed and built indigenously by Goa Shipyard Limited in line with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of 'Make in India'.

82

- The Ship is fitted with state-of-the-art Navigation and Communication equipment, sensor and machinery.
- The ship is designed to embark and carry a twin-engine helicopter, four high speed boats and one inflatable boat for swift boarding and Search & Rescue operations.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1645562#:~:text=OPV%20Sarthak%20is%20the%204,Communication%20equipment%2C%20sensor%20and%20machinery.

Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite

QuestionConsider the following with respect to Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite(TESS):
(1) It was launched in 2018.It is a NASA mission led and operated by MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
(2) It's aim is to discover thousands of exoplanets around nearby bright stars.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (c)
Context:

- Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite(TESS) has finished its primary mission imaging about 75% of the starry sky as part of a two-year-long survey.The mission has found 66 new exoplanets as well as nearly 2,100 candidates astronomers are working to confirm.
- **Facts:**
- **TESS:** It was launched in 2018.It is a NASA mission led and operated by MIT in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- **Aim:** To discover thousands of exoplanets around nearby bright stars.
- **Additional Facts:**
- **Exoplanet:**
- It is a planet outside the Solar System.The first confirmation of detection of exoplanet occurred in 1992.
- **Kepler Space Telescope**:
- It was an observatory in space launched by NASA to discover Earth-size planets orbiting other stars.It was launched in 2009 and decommissioned in 2018.

Links:

https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard2020/nasa-s-planet-hunter-completes-its-primary-mission

Sputnik-V

Question:What is Sputnik V recently seen in the news?
(a) Indian submarine (b) 1st covid vaccine
(c) Nuclear weapon developed by North Korea (d) US programme for corona control

Answer:(b)
Context:

- Russian has launched the world's first coronavirus vaccine named **'Sputnik V'.**
- **Sputnik V:**
- The vaccine has been developed by Gamaleya Research Institute and the Russian defence ministry.
- **How does it work?**
- The vaccine is based on the DNA of a SARS-CoV-2 type adenovirus, a common cold virus.The vaccine uses the weakened virus to deliver small parts of a pathogen and stimulate an immune response.

Links:

https://www.dnaindia.com/world/report-russia-names-world-s-first-coronavirus-vaccine-sputnik-v-after-soviet-satellite-all-set-to-launch-tomorrow-2837207

COVAX PLATFORM

Question:Consider the following statements regarding COVAX platform:
(1)It is an international alliance aimed at accelerating the development and manufacture of novel Coronavirus vaccines, and ensuring equitable access to all.
(2) The countries who join the initiative will get assured supplies to protect at least 80 per cent of their populations.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)
Context:

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has renewed its invite to countries to join its COVAX facility, an international alliance aimed at accelerating the development and manufacture of novel Coronavirus vaccines, and ensuring equitable access to all.
- **Facts:**

- The COVAX facility, launched in April 2020, is stitching together agreements with developers and manufacturers of vaccine candidates it thinks are most likely to succeed.
- The facility is trying to raise funds to support the rapid development of promising candidates, and the quick expansion of manufacturing capacities, so that the vaccines once approved, could be produced on mass scale.
- The facility aims to procure at least two billion doses of a novel Coronavirus vaccine by the end of next year, for deployment and distribution mainly in the low and middle income countries.
- The countries who join the initiative are also assured supply of vaccines whenever they become successful. The countries will get assured supplies to protect at least 20 per cent of their populations.

Links:

LATENT VIRAL INFECTION

Question:Consider the following with respect to latent viral infection:
(1) It is an infection when the virus in the body is dormant and does not replicate within the host.
(2) It possesses the capacity to be reactivated at some point, causing a flare-up of the disease much later.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- Ever since cases of 'reinfection' — people who had tested negative for COVID-19 testing positive again after a while — emerged in early January, the question of latency of the SARS-CoV-2 virus is being hotly debated.
- **Facts:**
- A latent viral infection is an infection when the virus in the body is dormant and does not replicate within the host. It however possesses the capacity to be reactivated at some point, causing a flare-up of the disease much later.
- As opposed to active infections, where a virus is actively replicating and potentially causing symptoms, latent infections are essentially static which last the life of the host and occur when the primary infection is not cleared by the adaptive immune response
- Latent viral infections can be reactivated into a lytic form (the replication of a viral genome). The ability to move back and forth from latent to lytic infections helps the virus spread from infected individuals to uninfected individuals"
- Examples are Herpes simplex viruses type 1 and 2, varicella-zoster virus, HIV, Epstein-Barr virus (human herpesvirus 4), and cytomegalovirus. They are known to cause typical latent infections in humans.

Links:

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/the-hindu-explains-is-sars-cov-2-a-latent-virus-which-can-recur/article32192853.ece

Sports

Cricket

James Anderson

Question:Who became the 1st fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets?
(a) James Anderson (b) Stuart Broad (c) Mitchell Starc (d) Dale Steyn
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- England pacer James Anderson became the first fast bowler in history to take 600 Test wickets yesterday.
- The 38-year-old was seven wickets away from the feat when he started playing the third Test against Pakistan at the Ageas Bowl. On Day 5 of the match, he dismissed Pakistan batsman Azhar Ali to claim his 600th wicket.
- Muttiah Muralitharan with 800, Shane Warne with 708 and Anil Kumble with 619 wickets are the only other bowlers – all spinners.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=England-pacer-James-Anderson-becomes-1st-fast-bowler-in-history-to-take-600-Test-wickets&id=398244

ICC Men's Rankings

Question: As of latest Rankings released by International Cricket Council,who is at first spot in ICC Men's ODI Batting Rankings?
(a) Virat Kohli (b) Rohit Sharma (c) Ben Stokes (d) Babar Azam
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Indian captain Virat Kohli maintained his supremacy at the top of the ICC ODI rankings for batsmen.
- He is followed by Indian batsman Rohit Sharma on number 2.
- Australian run-machine Steve Smith continued to top the chart in Tests and he is followed by Kohli and Smith's compatriot Marnus Labuschagne.
- In the T20I rankings Pakistani Babar Azam is at first spot while India's wicketkeeper-batsman KL Rahul is at second place.Third is Australian Aaron Finch.
- In Bowling rankings,Pat Cummins is number 1 Test bowler,Trent Boult of New Zealand is at top in ODI Bowling Rankings,Afghanistan's bowler Rashid Khan held first position in T20I Rankings.
- Indian pacer Jasprit Bumrah is at number two in ODI Bowling Rankings.
- West Indies Jason Holder is number one All-Rounder in Test while Mohammad Nabi of Afghanistan is at top in ODI and T20I All-Rounder rankings.
- In Team rankings, Australia is at number one in Test and T20I Rankings while England is at top in ODI rankings.
- Among teams, India is placed second in ODIs and third in both Tests and T20 formats.

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

India to host ICC Men's T-20 World Cup in 2021

Question:Which country will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021?
(a) India (b) Australia (c) New Zealand (d) United Arab Emirates
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- International Cricket Council has confirmed that the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2020 that was postponed due to Covid-19 will be held in Australia in 2022.

- India will host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 as planned.
- The format of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2021 will remain as it was for 2020 and all teams that qualified for that event will now participate in India in 2021.
- Wes Indies are the defending champions of ICC Men's T20 World Cup held in 2016 in India.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=India-to-host–ICC-Men%e2%80%99s-T-20-World-Cup-next-year%3b-Women%26%2339%3bs-T-20-postponed-till-2022&id=396771

Punjab Cricket Association's new international stadium

Question : Who was the last ruler of erstwhile Patiala state ?
(a) Mahendra Singh (b) Rajinder Singh (c) Bhupinder Singhc (d) Yadavindra Singh
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- The Punjab Cricket Association has recently(August 2020) decided to name its new stadium in Mullanpur after the last ruler of erstwhile Patiala state, late Maharaja Yadavindra Singh, who played a Test match for India in 1934.
- He was the father of Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh.
- The PCA has also started the process of renovating the existing IS Bindra Stadium to turn it into an international cricket academy.
- The facilities to be upgraded include grounds, swimming pools, gyms and other infrastructure.
- The 38.2 acre stadium in Mullanpur was conceptualised by former PCA president I S Bindra.
- Among other agendas passed in the apex council meeting, the PCA has decided to increase the number of cricketers to be offered contracts from 30 to 40, including 10 women players.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/sports/punjab-cricket-associations-new-international-stadium-to-be-named-after-patialas-last-ruler/articleshow/77446110.cms

Football
UEFA Champions League 2019-20

Question:Which football club has won the the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title?
(a) Bayern Munich (b) Saint-Germain (c) Lyon (d) Benfica
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- German professional sports club, Bayern Munich won the UEFA Champions League 2019-20 title by defeating Paris Saint-Germain 1-0.
- The final was played in Lisbon, Portugal.
- Bayern Munich has become the first European Cup winners who won all their matches during the tournament.

- This is the sixth European Champions League title for Bayern Munich.

Links:
https://www.sportskeeda.com/football/paris-st-germain-bayern-munich-player-ratings-win-title-uefa-champions-league-2019-20

Golf

Sophia Popov

Question:Who became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open?
(a) Sophia Popov (b) Sandra Gal (c) Ana Monke (d) Caroline Masson
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- World number 304 Sophia Popov became the first female golfer from Germany to capture a major title after winning the Women's British Open by two strokes at Royal Troon in Scotland.
- Popov, who went into the final round with a three-shot lead, bounced back from bogeying the first hole by making five birdies in her 3-under 68.
- Thailand's Jasmine Suwannapura was the runner-up after shooting 67.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=First-female-golfer-from-Germany-Sophia-Popov-wins-Women%e2%80%99s-British-Open&id=398051

Sports Personality

Koneru Humpy wins Armageddon

Question:Armageddon is related to which of the following sports?
(a) Rugby (b) Chess (c) Hockey (d) Football
Answer:(b)

Context:

- Koneru Humpy won in an Armageddon against Poland's Monica Socko to take India into final of the first-ever online Chess Olympiad. It has been dubbed as one of the most exciting Armageddon shootouts of recent times.
- **Facts:**
- 'Armageddon' in chess is similar to a Super Over in cricket or a penalty shootout in hockey or football.
- In an Armageddon game White has more thinking time on the clock than Black but a draw on the board scores as a Black win. Normally White has five or six minutes and Black four or five for the entire game.
- Black, considered at a disadvantage, is given a minute less to process the game and the handicap effectively puts the onus of a win on White.

Link:

http://www.edristi.in/

James Anderson

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- Muttiah Muralitharan with 800, Shane Warne with 708 and Anil Kumble with 619 wickets are the only other bowlers – all spinners.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=England-pacer-James-Anderson-becomes-1st-fast-bowler-in-history-to-take-600-Test-wickets&id=398244

Short Notes

Personalities

Dinesh Kumar Khara

Question:The Banks Board Bureau recommended Dinesh Kumar Khara for the post of chairman of ?
(a) PNB (b) SBI (c) ICICI (d) HDFC
Answer:(b)

Context:

- The Banks Board Bureau recommended Dinesh Kumar Khara for the post of chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI).
- **Facts:**
- Constituted in 2016, Banks Board Bureau makes recommendations for the appointment of whole-time directors as well as non-executive chairpersons of public sector banks (PSBs).
- The present SBI chairman incumbent Rajnish Kumar will demit office on October 7. Kumar was appointed for a period of three years from October 2017.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/banks-board-bureau-recommends-dinesh-khara-for-sbi-chairman-post-120082801606_1.html

Pranab Mukherjee

Question: Consider the following statements regarding Former President Pranab Mukherjee :
(i) He was the 12th President of India from the year 2013 to 2017.
(ii) He was appointed deputy chairman of the Planning Commission in 1991.
(iii) He was awarded the Bharat Ratna, the highest civilian honor of India in year 2019.
Of the above correct statements are:
(a) Only (i), (ii) and (iii) (b) only (ii) and (iii) (c) only (i) and (iii) (d) All the above
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Former Indian President Pranab Mukherjee passed away on August 31,2020.He was 84.
- Pranab Kumar Mukherjee (1935 – 2020) served as the 13th President of India from 2012 until 2017.
- He was a senior leader in the Indian National Congress and occupied several ministerial portfolios in the Government of India.
- He first served as Finance Minister of India in 1982–84. He was also the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha from 1980 to 1985.
- He was appointed deputy chairman of Planning Commission in 1991 and Foreign Minister in 1995 in P.V. Narasimha Rao government.
- From 2004 until his resignation in 2012, Mukherjee held a number of key cabinet portfolios in Prime Minister Manmohan Singh's government – Defence (2004–06), External Affairs (2006–09) and Finance (2009–12) – apart from being Leader of the House in the Lok Sabha.
- He was awarded India's highest civilian honour, the Bharat Ratna in 2019.

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

Satyendra Singh Lohia

Question:Who is the first Divyang Indian sportsperson to be awarded with the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award?
(a) Deepa Malik (b) Satyendra Singh Lohia (c) Mariyappan Thangavelu
(d) Devendra Jhajharia
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- Para-swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohia of Madhya Pradesh is the first Divyang Indian sportsperson of the country, who has been awarded with the Tenzing Norgay Adventure Award.
- He is also the first Asian Divyang swimmer to cross the 42-kilometer Catalina Channel in the US in just 11 hours 34 minutes.
- He was also conferred with the Best Sportsperson National Award by Vice President Venkaiah Naidu on World Divyanga Day.
- He has also been awarded the highest sports award of Madhya Pradesh as well as many other national and international honours.

G. Satheesh Reddy

Question:Who is the Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)?
(a) G. Satheesh Reddy (b) Samir V. Kamat (c) Ajay Kumar (d) Tessy Thomas
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- G.Satheesh Reddy has been given a two-year extension as the Chairman of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- He was appointed to the post in August 2018 for two years.
- **About DRDO:**

- DRDO works under the Department of Defence Research and Development in the Ministry of Defence of the Government of India.
- It was formed in 1958 by the merger of the Technical Development Establishment and the Directorate of Technical Development and Production of the Indian Ordnance Factories with the Defence Science Organisation.
- With a network of 52 laboratories, which are engaged in developing defence technologies covering various fields, like aeronautics, armaments, electronics, land combat engineering, life sciences, materials, missiles, and naval systems, DRDO is India's largest and most diverse research organisation.

Sudha Painuli

Question : Eklavya Model Residential School teacher(Sudha Painuli) selected for National Award to Teachers 2020.Which one of the following statement is correct regarding EMRS ?
(a) EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
(b) Hitherto, grants were given for construction of schools and recurring expenses to the State Governments under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
(c) In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.
(d) All of the above
Answer (d)
Related facts

- This year's National Award to Teachers(NAT) 2020 holds special significance for Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) established under Ministry of Tribal Affairs as it witnessed its first NAT Awardee since its establishment.
- **Awardee**

- Sudha Painuli has been selected for this National Award.
- Ms. Sudha Painuli is the Vice Principal, EMRS-Kalsi, Dehradun, Uttarakhand.
- Ms. Sudha Painuli made it to the list of 47 outstanding teachers selected after 3-stage rigorous online transparent process.
- The most unique features about her expedition constitute innovative experiments like initiative of Eklavya Birthday Garden, Theatre in Education, Eklavya Tribal Museum, Skill Development Workshops, and so on.
- **EMRS**

- EMRS started in the year 1997-98 to impart quality education to ST children in remote areas in order to enable them to avail of opportunities in high and professional educational courses and get employment in various sectors.
- The schools focus not only on academic education but on the all-round development of the students. Each school has a capacity of 480 students, catering to students from Class VI to XII. Hitherto, grants were given for construction of schools and recurring expenses to the State Governments under Grants under Article 275 (1) of the Constitution.
- In order to give further impetus to EMRS, it has been decided that by the year 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal persons, will have an EMRS.

Link:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1649146

V. RAMAGOPAL RAO COMMITTEE

Question:V. RAMAGOPAL RAO COMMITTEE is formed by government to review:
(a) fiscal policy of India
(b) laboratories of the DRDO
(c) acquisition of land
(d) increasing covid 19 cases
Answer:(b)

Context:

- With a focus on indigenous development of futuristic technologies, a five-member expert committee has been constituted to review the charter of duties for all laboratories of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Facts:
- The committee was constituted by G. Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence Research and Development (DDR&D), who is also the Chairman, DRDO.
- The five-member committee is headed by Professor V. Ramagopal Rao, Director, Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi.
- The terms of reference are: to study and review the charter of duties of all the labs of the DRDO, to redefine the charter of duties of the labs on the current and

futuristic defence and battlefield scenario, and to minimise the overlap of technologies amongst the labs.
- The committee has to submit its report within 45 days.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/expert-committee-to-review-charter-of-drdo-labs/article32449272.ece

Sudha Sundari Narayanan

Question:Recently which Indian has been granted Citizenship by the United States President Donald Trump ?
(a) Sudha Sundari Narayanan (b) Medha Krshinamurti c) Kirti Chhillar
(d) Ginni Rometty
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- In a rare naturalisation ceremony presided by United States President Donald Trump,Sudha Sundari Narayanan was sworn in as American citizen.
- She is a software developer from India.
- In the held ceremony five immigrants from five countries – India, Bolivia, Lebanon, Sudan and Ghana were sworn in as American citizens.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/world/indian-software-engineer-us-citizen-white-house-trump-6570566/

Gajanand Yadava

Question:Who has been named for the 'Tenzing Norgey National Adventure Award 2019' in 'Air Adventure' category?
(a) Gajanand Yadava (b) Satendra Singh (c) Keval Hiren Kakka (d) Narender Singh
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava, has been named for the 'Tenzing Norgey National Adventure Award 2019' in 'Air Adventure' category.
- Wing Commander Gajanand Yadava, a Parachute Jump Instructor & member of IAF Skydiving Team 'AkashGanga', has undertaken more than 2900 jumps till date.
- The Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award is regarded as one of the highest national awards for adventure sports in India.
- Conferred annually, it recognises achievements in the field of adventure on land, sea and air.
- Tenzing Norgay, original name Namgyal Wangdi was a Nepali-Indian Sherpa mountaineer who in 1953 became, with EdmundHillary of New Zealand, the first person to set foot on the summit of Mount Everest, the world's highest peak.

Sanjiv Singh

Question : Who has joined Reliance Industries as group president for firm's oil-to-chemicals business ?
(A) Sanjiv Singh (B) B p Singh (c) Vindod Rai (d) Sachin Bhatia
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Former Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) chairman Sanjiv Singh has recently(August 2020) joined Reliance Industries as group president for firm's oil-to-chemicals business.
- RIL is in the process of carving out the $ 75 billion O2C business into a separate division as a part of its plan to divest at least 20% stake in it.
- Singh's appointment is a part of the plan to carve out the business into a separate entity.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/energy/oil-gas/reliance-industries-ropes-in-former-ioc-chief-sanjiv-singh-for-its-oil-to-chemical-business/articleshow/77761025.cms

Rajiv Kumar

Question:Recently who has been appointed Election Commissioner ?
(a) Anil Bali (b) Rashi Kelkar (c) Ajay Tyagi (d) Rajiv Kumar
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- Former finance secretary Rajiv Kumar has been appointed new election commissioner.
- He will replace Ashok Lavasa.
- A 1984-batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre, Rajiv Kumar has over three decades of experience in public policy and administration across various sectors.
- The power to appoint the CEC and the ECs lies with the President of India under Article 324(2) of the Constitution, which states that "the President shall fix the number of ECs in a manner he sees fit, subject to the provisions of any law made by Parliament". Thus, Article 324(2) left it open for the Parliament to legislate on the issue.
- The Commissioners are appointed for a 6-year period, or up to the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=Rajiv-Kumar-appointed-new-Election-Commissioner-following-resignation-of-Ashok-Lavasa&id=397895

G P Garg

http://www.edristi.in/

Question:Who has been appointed Executive Director in SEBI?
(a) G P Garg (b) Santosh Baliyan (c) Puneet Mehta (d) Rajiv Kumar
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- G P Garg took charge as Executive Director in SEBI on August 13, 2020.
- Prior to his promotion as Executive Director,he was Chief General Manager in SEBI and has handled several important assignments in SEBI since joining in January 1994.
- He has been closely associated with SEBI's initiatives on Financial Literacy and Investor Education in the country.
- Ajay Tyagi is the Chairman of SEBI.

Links:
https://www.sebi.gov.in/media/press-releases/aug-2020/shri-g-p-garg-takes-charge-as-executive-director-sebi_47337.html

Dr B Siva Kumar passed away

Question:Dr B Siva Kumar passed away recently , for which of the following he is famous for:

(a) Madhubani Painter (b) Carnatic Musician (c) Cricketer (d) Tabla player
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- Noted Carnatic musician and renowned veena vidwan Dr B Siva Kumar passed away in Trichy. He was 53.
- Facts:
- A much acclaimed and popular veena artist, Dr Siva Kumar was also a senior veena artist of AIR Tiruchirapalli. He had also taken MA in Music from Bharathi Dasan university and followed it up with a PhD in Music.
- He has won several awards including the Tamil Iyal Isai Nataka sangam award and the award for Ragam Tanam Pallavi presentation from the Tamil Isai Sangam.

Links:

http://newsonair.com/News?title=Tamil-Nadu%3A-Renowned-Carnatic-musician-%26-Veena-artist-Dr-B-Siva-Kumar-passes-away&id=397495#:~:text=1%3A12PM-,Tamil%20Nadu%3A%20Renowned%20Carnatic%20musician%20%26%20Veena%20artist%20Dr,B%20Siva%20Kumar%20passes%20away&text=Noted%20Carnatic%20musician%20and%20renowned,health%20problems%20for%20some%20time.

Satya Pal Malik

Question: Satya Pal Malik was appointed Governor of which Indian State?
(a) Meghalaya (b) Tripura (c) Manipur (d) Arunachal Pradesh
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 18 August 2020, Satya Pal Malik has been appointed Governor of Meghalaya.
- He will replace Tathagata Roy who has completed five-year tenure.
- Satya Pal Malik was discharging his services as the Governor of Goa.
- Bhagat Singh Koshyari, Governor of Maharashtra will be discharging the functions of the Governor of Goa in addition to his own duties.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/satya-pal-malik-appointed-meghalaya-governor-6559572/

Pandit Jasraj passed away

Question: Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj who passed away recently was associated with which Gharana of Indian music?
(a) Mewati Gharana (b) Gwalior Gharana (c) Agra Gharana (d) Patiala Gharana
Answer:(a)
Related facts:

- Legendary Indian classical vocalist Pandit Jasraj died in the U.S. after a cardiac arrest on 17th August 2020. He was 90.
- He was associated with Mewati gharana of music.
- He is known for his unconventional mixing of khayal with elements of bhakti rasa, employing harkats and murkis that were traditionally used in light classical music.
- Khayal is a musical form based on the elaboration of a Raga with lyrical composition consisting of two stanzas.
- He has been awarded Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship (2010), Padma Vibhushan (2000) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1987).
- Jasraj created a novel form of jugalbandi called Jasrangi that is styled on the ancient system of moorchhana, between a male and a female vocalist, who each sing different ragas at the same time.
- In 2019, a minor planet (Asteroid 300128) between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter was named after Pandit Jasraj.
- Pandit Jasraj has also lent vocals to Oscar winning movie 'Life of Pi'.

Links:
https://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/music/legendary-classical-vocalist-pandit-jasraj-dies-at-90/article32376512.ece?homepage=true#:~:text=Indian%20classical%20vocalist%20Pandit%20Jasraj,legacy%20spanning%20almost%20eight%20decades.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jasraj

Suresh Raina

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Suresh Raina is the first Indian cricketer to score an international century in every format.
(2) Suresh Raina played his ODI Debut match against Sri Lanka.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above

96

Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Indian Cricketer Suresh Raina announced his retirement from International Cricket on 15 August 2020.
- He is the first Indian cricketer to score an international century in every format.
- He was also a part of the 2011 World Cup-winning squad and the batsman had played crucial knocks in the quarter-finals and semi-finals of the tournament.
- The left-handed batsman played his ODI, Test Debut match against Sri Lanka, T20 International debut against South Africa.
- He featured in 226 ODIs, scoring 5615 runs at 35.31. He also notched up five centuries and 36 half-centuries in the format.
- He made 78 T20I appearances, accumulating 1605 runs with a hundred and five fifties.
- He accumulated 768 Test runs at 26.48 in 18 matches.

Links:
https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/1753970

MS Dhoni quit International Cricket

Question: Consider the following statements:
(1) Under Mahendra Singh Dhoni captaincy India won the 2007 ICC World Twenty-Twenty, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.
(2) His highest ODI score of 183 was against Sri Lanka in 2005.
Of the above correct statement/s is/are:
(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2 (c) Both 1&2 (d) None of the above
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- On 15th August 2020, Former Indian Cricket Team Skipper Mahendra Singh Dhoni announced his retirement from International Cricket.
- Under his captaincy, India won the 2007 ICC World Twenty-Twenty, the 2010 and 2016 Asia Cups, the 2011 ICC Cricket World Cup and the 2013 ICC Champions Trophy.
- Under him, India reached No.1 in Tests in the ICC rankings in 2009.
- Across a distinguished 16-year career, he scored 10,773 ODI runs at 50.57 with 10 centuries.
- His highest ODI score of 183 came against Sri Lanka in 2005.
- He also featured in 98 T20Is, the most by any Indian, between 2006 and 2019, scoring 1617 runs at 37.60.
- He has scored 4876 runs at 38.09 in 90 Tests.
- Dhoni is one of only five Indians to join the 10,000-run club in ODIs.
- Behind the wickets, he ended as the third-most successful international wicket-keeper ever (829 dismissals), and the only one to record over 100 ODI stumpings.
- In all, he captained India in 200 ODIs, maintaining a win-percentage of 59.52.

Links:
https://www.icc-cricket.com/news/1281004

http://www.edristi.in/

Question : Who has launched the world's first blockchain-based exchange(BondbloX Bond Exchange) ?
(a)Rahul Banerjee (b)Sam Pitroda (c)Sabeer Bhatia (d)None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Singapore-based fintech BondEvalue, founded by Rahul Banerjee launched the world's first blockchain-based exchange christened as BondbloX Bond Exchange (BBX).
- BBX makes possible fractional ownership of bonds by allowing them to be traded in smaller denominations of US$1,000.
- Blockchain is a technology that ensures transparency.
- The move should pave way for many more investors buying or selling bonds at a faster pace with transparency.
- The speed to market was made possible because of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)'s Sandbox Express, which provided BondEvalue with a faster option for it to test its innovation.
- BondEvalue already executed the first trade, which was between a Singapore citizen and a buyer who is a Singapore permanent resident.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/bonds/singapore-based-indian-launches-1st-blockchain-based-bond-exchange/articleshow/77532256.cms

Rahat Indori

Question: Renowned poet Rahat Indori passed away on August 11, 2020. He was a poet in which language?
(a)Kannada
(b)Odia
(c)Urdu
(d)Telugu
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Lyricist and Urdu poet Rahat Indori has passed away on August 11, 2020. He was 70.
- He died of cardiorespiratory arrest. He was tested positive for covid 19 just a night prior to his death.
- Rahat was a Pedagogist of Urdu literature in Indore University.
- He had authored several books such as Rut, Do Kadam aur Sahi, Dhoop Bahut Hai, Chand Pagal Hai, Maujood, Naraz and Mere Bad.
- As a lyricist,he has penned songs in Bollywood films including Ghatak, Munnabhai MBBS, Mission Kashmir, Murder, Khuddar and Ashiyaan.
- He is known for the lyrics of songs like "M Bole to" from Munnabhai MBBS (2003), Dil ko Hazar Bar from Murder (2004),Tumsa Koi Pyara from Khuddar(1994),Bumbro bumbro from Mission Kashmir(2000)and "Neend Churai Meri" from Ishq (1997).

- He has attended poetic symposiums in almost all the Districts of India and has also traveled multiple times to USA, UK, UAE, Australia, Canada, Singapore, Mauritius, KSA, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal.
- Earlier this year, his poem "Bulati hai magar jane ka nahi" went viral on social media, making him a sensation among the youth.

Links:
http://www.rahatindori.com/

Ayatollah Khamenei

Question : Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in a significant move on Sunday(9 August 2020) launched his _ in Hindi.
(a) twitter handle
(b) facebook account
(c) audio preach
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei in a significant move on Sunday(9 August 2020) launched his twitter handle in Hindi.
- Currently the Supreme Leader tweets in Farsi, Arabic, Urdu, French, Spanish, Russian and English.
- Last month twitter defended its decision not to block or restrict tweets by Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's office.
- **India–Iran relations**

- India–Iran relations refers to the bilateral relations between the countries India and Iran.
- Independent India and Iran established diplomatic relations on 15 March 1950.
- During much of the Cold War period, relations between the Republic of India and the erstwhile Imperial State of Iran suffered due to their different political interests—non-aligned India fostered strong military links with the Soviet Union, while Iran enjoyed close ties with the United States.
- Following the 1979 revolution, relations between Iran and India strengthened momentarily. However, Iran's continued support for Pakistan and India's close relations with Iraq during the Iran–Iraq War impeded further development of Indo–Iranian ties.
- In the 1990s, India and Iran supported the Northern Alliance in Afghanistan against the Taliban regime.
- They continue to collaborate in supporting the broad-based anti-Taliban government led by Ashraf Ghani and backed by the United States.
- The two countries signed a defence cooperation agreement in December 2002.
- From the economic perspective, Iran is the second largest supplier of crude oil to India, supplying more than 425,000 barrels of oil per day, and consequently India is one of the largest foreign investors in Iran's oil and gas industry.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/irans-supreme-leader-launches-twitter-handle-in-hindi-signalling-outreach/articleshow/77448805.cms

http://www.edristi.in/

Chairman of Union Public Service Commission

Question:Who has been appointed the Chairman of Union Public Service Commission?
(a) Pradeep Kumar Joshi (b) Prahlad Joshi (c) Nripendra Mishra (d) Brijesh Rawat
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 7th August 2020, Dr. Pradeep Kumar Joshi took oath as Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).
- Prof. Joshi joined the Commission as a member in the year 2015.
- He served as Director of the National Institute of Educational Planning and Administration.
- During his career, Dr. Joshi taught more than 28 years at post-graduation level and held many important positions in various policy making, academic and administrative bodies.
- Articles 315 to 323 of Part XIV of the constitution, titled as Services Under the Union and the States, provide for a Public Service Commission for the Union and for each state.
- Accordingly, as per Art. 315, at Union level, Union Public Service Commission is envisaged by it.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=396745#:~:text=Dr.%20Pradeep%20Kumar%20Joshi%20took,member%20in%20the%20year%202015.

Lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir

Question:Who is the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir?
(a) Manoj Sinha (b) B.D. Mishra (c) Vajubhai Vala (d) Ganeshi Lal
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- On 7 August 2020,Manoj Sinha sworn in as the new lieutenant governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Chief Justice of Jammu and Kashmir High Court Gita Mittal.
- He succeeds Girish Chandra Murmu.
- A three-time Member of Parliament, Sinha served as Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Communications and Minister of State for Railways in the previous term of the Narendra Modi government.
- However, he lost his Ghazipur seat in the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=Manoj-Sinha-administered-oath-of-office-and-secrecy-as-Lt-Guv-of-J%26K&id=396722

Girish Chandra Murmu

http://www.edristi.in/

Question:Who has been appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG)?
(a) Nripendra Mishra (b) Sanjay Kothari (c) Girish Chandra Murmu (d) K.V. Chowdhary
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- Girish Chandra Murmu was named as the next Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) on 6 August 2020.
- Earlier he served as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- He will replace Rajiv Mehrishi, the current CAG, whose term completes on August 7 2020.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/india/gc-murmu-appointed-next-cag-6542968/

Kamal Rani Varun

Question: Kamal Rani Varun, who died of Covid 19 was Cabinet Minister of which Indian state?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Bihar
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Uttar Pradesh's Technical Education Minister Kamal Rani Varun, who had underlying medical conditions, died of the novel coronavirus at Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI-MC) in Lucknow on 2 August 2020.
- The 62-year-old, the only woman in the Yogi Adityanath Cabinet, is the first minister in Uttar Pradesh to succumb to Covid.
- She was an MLA from Ghatampur in Kanpur Nagar.
- She was also a member of the 11th and 12th Lok Sabha from the Ghatampur parliamentary constituency.

Links:
https://indianexpress.com/article/india/uttar-pradesh-minister-kamal-rani-varun-dies-of-coronavirus-6535264/
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kamal_Rani_Varun

John Hume

Question: Nobel Laureate John Hume passed away on 3 August 2020.He was a-
(a) Politician (b) Litterateur (c) Biologist (d) None of the above
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Nobel Laureate John Hume, a prominent Northern Ireland politician has died on August 3,2020, following a long period of illness. He was 83.
- Hume was one of the highest-profile politicians in Northern Ireland for more than 30 years. He was a founding member of the Social Democratic and Labour Party (SDLP) in 1970 and led the party from 1979 until 2001.

- John Hume took considerable risks for peace by holding talks with the then leader of Sinn Féin(left-wing Irish republican political party), Gerry Adams, as the Irish Republican Army (IRA) was still heavily involved in violence. The Hume-Adams talks helped laying foundation for the 1994 IRA ceasefire and later negotiations which resulted in the Good Friday Agreement.
- Following the 1998 peace deal, John Hume was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, along with the then leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, David Trimble.
- He was widely admired for his steadfast commitment to peaceful, democratic politics during three decades of violence in Northern Ireland.
- He has also received both the Gandhi Peace Prize and the Martin Luther King Award. He is the only person to receive the three major peace awards.

Links:
http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Nobel-Laureate-John-Hume-died-following-long-period-of-illness&id=396495

Awards & Honors

2020 International Booker Prize

Question: Who has been awarded the prestigious 2020 International Booker Prize?
(a) Shokoofeh Azar
(b) Marieke Lucas Rijneveld
(c) Fernanda Melchor
(d) Yoko Ogawa
Answer :(b)
Related facts:

- Dutch Author, Marieke Lucas Rijneveld won the International Booker Prize 2020 for her debut novel 'The Discomfort of Evening'.
- Rijneveld became the youngest author to win the prize at the age of 29.
- The book tells the fictional story of Jas, a girl in a devout Christian farming family, whose brother dies in an accident after she wishes he would die instead of her rabbit.
- The book was first published in Dutch in 2018 and eventually translated into English by Michele Hutchison.

Links:
https://xiaomi.dailyhunt.in/news/india/urdu/adda247-epaper-adda/dutch+author+marieke+lucas+rijneveld+wins+international+booker+prize+2020-newsid-n210016602?pgs=N&pgn=1&tk=0&mode=wap&

Food System Vision 2050 Prize

Question:Which Indian organization has been selected for the Food System Vision 2050 Prize?
(a) Naandi Foundation
(b) Srujanika
(c) Prajwala

(d) Moinee Foundation
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The US-based Rockefeller Foundation has selected Naandi Foundation (a Hyderabad based non-profit organisation), as one of the top 10 'Visionaries' in the world for the Food System Vision 2050 Prize.
- Naandi was recognised for its Arakunomics model.
- The Rockefeller Foundation award recognised the application of the Arakunomics model in the regions of Araku, Wardha and New Delhi, leading to the Food Vision 2050 that follows an "ABCDEFGH" framework centring on: Agriculture, Biology, Compost, Decentralised decision-making, Entrepreneurs, Families, Global Markets, and 'Headstands', or turning current approaches on their head.
- Naandi's vision titled "Arakunomics" was based on work with tribal farmers in Araku for nearly 20 years.
- Arakunomics is a new integrated economic model that ensures profits for farmers, quality for consumers through Regenerative Agriculture (PQR).
- The economic model is a tribute to the tribal farmers of Araku region for the world class coffee produced and launched in Paris in 2017, as well as for the high carbon landscape transformation they did in over 955 villages there by planting 25 million trees.
- The award, which was announced in New York, carries a cash prize of $200,000.

Links:
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/food-vision-2050-prize-for-naandi-foundation/article32298507.ece#:~:text=Rockefeller%20Foundation%20has%20selected%20Naandi,a%20prize%20money%20of%20%24200%2C000.

Operations & Campaign

Clean Plates Campaign

Question'Clean Plates Campaign' is launched in which country?
(a) France
(b) Italy
(c) USA
(d) China
Answer : (d)

- Context:
- China's President Xi Jinping called on his country's citizens to drastically cut down on food waste in a new initiative called the 'Clean Plates Campaign'.
- Facts:
- The push came as the Covid-19 pandemic, devastating floods and worsening relations with major international partners have raised fears about food shortage in the world's most populous country.
- Xi announced the campaign, promising to strengthen legislation and other mechanisms in support, calling the problem of food waste in the country "shocking and distressing". Studies in recent years show that China produces around 17-18 million tonnes of food waste annually.

- Restaurants, catering associations and even the military have swiftly responded to the President's appeal by introducing new measures.
- Following Xi's announcement, the State-run media ran "exposes" on restaurant customers ordering more than they could eat, as well as named and shamed a growing number of shows with people live-streaming themselves eating large quantities and varieties of food.

Link:

https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-china-53761295

Planning & Project

Dr Jitendra Singh reviews Comprehensive Manser Rejuvenation & Development Plan

Question:Consider the following with respect to Mansar Wetlands:
(1) Mansar Lake is situated 62 km from Jammu. It is a lake fringed by forest-covered hills, over a mile in length.
(2) Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2019.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- Minister of State in PMO reviewed the Comprehensive Manser Rejuvenation and Development Plan for initiating the process for development, rejuvenation and beautification of Mansar Wetlands.
- Facts:
- The plan aims at increasing tourist footfall and boosting the social economic development of Jammu region. Mansar, as a tourist destination, had immense potential for adventure sports, Eco-tourism, sightseeing, wildlife preservation and recreational activities.
- Mansar Lake is situated 62 km from Jammu. It is a lake fringed by forest-covered hills, over a mile in length.
- Surinsar-Mansar Lakes are designated as Ramsar Convention in November 2005.

Link:

http://newsonair.com/News?title=Dr-Jitendra-Singh-reviews-Comprehensive-Manser-Rejuvenation-%26-Development-Plan&id=398385#:~:text=Minister%20of%20State%20in%20PMO,economic%20development%20of%20Jammu%20region.

Progress of Vande Bharat Mission

Question : The government launched the "Vande Bharat" evacuation mission on —-

(a) May 7 (b) May 2 (c) May 3 (d) May 1
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Over 12 lakh Indians have returned from abroad after the government launched the "Vande Bharat" evacuation mission on May 7 in view of the coronavirus pandemic, the Ministry of External Affairs said on Thursday(28 August 2020).
- Phase 5 of this mission will be completed on August 31.
- In this phase, around 900 international flights have been operated from 22 different countries reaching 23 airports across India.
- As on August 26, more than 12 lakh Indians stranded abroad have been repatriated by different modes under the Vande Bharat Mission.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/over-12-lakh-indians-have-returned-from-abroad-under-vande-bharat-mission-mea/articleshow/77790014.cms

Social Justice Ministry to launch mental health rehabilitation helpline

Question:'Kiran', a mental health rehabilitation helpline number will be launched by:
(a) Ministry of Women and Child Development
(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
(d) None of these
Answer:(c)

Context:

- Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment will launch 'Kiran', a mental health rehabilitation helpline number.
- **Facts:**
- Kiran: It is a toll-free mental health rehabilitation helpline number that aims to provide support for early screening, psychological support, distress management, mental wellbeing psychological crisis among others.
- It will offer support in 13 languages for any individual, family, NGOs, parent associations, professional associations, rehabilitation institutes, hospitals or anyone in need of support across the country.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/health/social-justice-ministry-to-launch-mental-health-rehabilitation-helpline/article32443797.ece

Tata Group is planning to launch an all-in-one super app

Question:A SUPER APP is a platform developed by a company offering various services under one umbrella. Which group is planning to launch an all-in-one super app by early next year?
(a) Reliance (b) Wipro (c) Infosys (d) Tata
Answer:(d)

Context:

- Tata Group is planning to launch an all-in-one super app by early next year. The omnichannel digital platform, expected to bring together all the consumer-facing businesses of the group, is likely to be developed by the newly formed entity Tata Digital.
- **Facts:**
- A super app is a platform developed by a company offering various services under one umbrella.
- For example, China's WeChat, which started out as a messaging app, expanded into payments, cabs, shopping, food ordering, cab services to become a super app.
- A physical world comparison of a super app would be a mall, which allows retail space to various brands and shops across businesses and verticals.
- Who makes super apps? Typically, companies that have a slew of services and products to offer tend to consolidate these offerings into a super app.

Link:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-what-are-super-apps-and-why-is-india-getting-another-one-6568079/

NRI Unified Portal

Question:'NRI Unified Portal' is launched by which state government?
(a) Maharashtra (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Karnataka
Answer:(b)

Context:

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched an ambitious NRI unified portal.
- Facts:
- In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government will prepare a database of the migrant workers of the state working in different countries of the world. It will help in providing them assistance during any emergency.
- This portal would not only help in investment in the state, but also provide an opportunity for those who want to go abroad. It would also prove helpful to overseas Indians and NRIs to get their problems with the local administration or the State Government resolved.

Link:

http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=398138#:~:text=Chief%20Minister%20Yogi%20Adityanath%20yesterday,who%20want%20to%20go%20abroad.

Country's longest 'ropeway over a river'

Question:The Country's longest ropeway over a river is inaugurated in which state?

(a) Meghalaya (b) Assam (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Tripura
Answer:(b)

Context:

- Assam government has inaugurated the country's longest ropeway over a river in Guwahati,Assam.
- **Facts**
- About the ropeway: It is a 1.8-km-long ropeway over the Brahmaputra river connecting Guwahati to North Guwahati.
- Significance: The ropeway ride will facilitate the passengers to look out for the Urvashi island and catch a glimpse of the Umananda temple which was built by Ahom King Gadadhar Singha.

Link:

https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/assam/guwahati-ropeway-brahmaputra-6567892/#:~:text=The%20Assam%20government%20on%20Monday,30%20passengers%20and%20one%20operator.

Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana

Question:Consider the following with respect to Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana:
(1) It is a State Plan scheme.
(2) The pattern of funding is 100% Central Government Grant.
(3) It is an incentive scheme, hence allocations are not automatic.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
Answer:(d)

Context:

- Ministry of Agriculture is funding start-ups under the innovation and agri-preneurship component of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in 2020-21.
- Facts:
- A component, Innovation and Agri-entrepreneurship Development programme has been launched under Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana in order to promote innovation and agripreneurship by providing financial support and nurturing the incubation ecosystem.
- These start-ups are in various categories such as agro-processing, artificial intelligence, digital agriculture, farm mechanisation, waste to wealth, dairy, fisheries etc.The following are the components of this scheme:
- Agripreneurship Orientation – 2 months duration with a monthly stipend of Rs. 10,000/- per month. Mentorship is provided on financial, technical, IP issues etc.
- Seed Stage Funding of R-ABI Incubatees – Funding upto Rs. 25 lakhs (85% grant & 15% contribution from the incubatee).
- Idea/Pre-Seed Stage Funding of Agripreneurs – Funding up to Rs. 5 lakhs (90% grant and 10% contribution from the incubatee).
- Additional Facts on RKVY:
- It is a State Plan scheme

- The eligibility of a state for the RKVY is contingent upon the state maintaining or increasing the State Plan expenditure for Agricultural and Allied sectors
- The base line expenditure is determined based on the average expenditure incurred by the State Government during the three years prior to the previous year.
- The preparation of the district and State Agriculture Plans is mandatory
- The scheme encourages convergence with other programmes such as NREGS.
- The pattern of funding is 100% Central Government Grant.
- If the state lowers its investment in the subsequent years, and goes out of the RKVY basket, then the balance resources for completing the projects already commenced would have to be committed by the states.
- It is an incentive scheme, hence allocations are not automatic
- It will integrate agriculture and allied sectors comprehensively
- It will give high levels of flexibility to the states
- Projects with definite time-lines are highly encouraged

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1643788

BIS' draft standard for drinking water supply

Question:The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has prepared a draft standard for the supply system of piped drinking water.Consider the following with respect to it :
(1)The concept of district metering area should be adopted where possible.
(2) Water should be sampled at the treatment plant every four hours against quality parameters.
(3) A Water Audit should be conducted on a quarterly basis.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
Answer:(d)

- Context:
- The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has prepared a draft standard for the supply system of piped drinking water and has invited comments from water utilities on it.
- Facts:
- Labelled 'Drinking water supply quality management system — requirements for piped drinking water supply service', the draft has been prepared by the BIS' Public Drinking Water Supply Services Sectional Committee.
- It outlines the process of water supply, from raw water sources to household taps, and has been developed keeping in view the Centre's Jal Jeevan Mission for providing safe and adequate drinking water to all rural households by 2024 through tap connections.
- It states that after treatment the drinking water should conform to the Indian Standard (IS) 10500 developed by the BIS.
- The concept of district metering area (DMA) should be adopted where possible. DMA is a concept for controlling leakages in the water network, which is essentially divided into a number of sectors, called the DMAs, and where flow meters are installed to detect leaks.

108

- Water should be sampled at the treatment plant every four hours against quality parameters. In the distribution system, the sampling should be done every eight hours at the water reservoirs. Random sampling should also be done at household levels.
- A Water Audit should be conducted on a quarterly basis. Water audit is a calculation of the amount of water put into distribution against the amount that is consumed.

Link:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-understanding-bis-daft-standard-for-drinking-water-supply-6565866/

Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyna Yojna

Question:Consider the following with respect to Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyna Yojna :
(1) ESIC is implementing it under which unemployment benefit is paid to the workers covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme.
(2) The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50 per cent of average of wages from earlier 25 percent of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) relaxed norms to pay 50 per cent of average wages of three months as unemployment benefit between March 24 and December 31 this year in view of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Facts:
- The ESIC took the decision in its 182nd meeting held yesterday under the Chairmanship of Union Labour and Employment Minister.
- ESIC is implementing the Atal Bimit Vyakti Kalyna Yojna under which unemployment benefit is paid to the workers covered under Employees' State Insurance (ESI) Scheme.
- The ESIC has decided to extend the scheme for one more year upto 30th June next year. It has been decided to relax the existing conditions and the amount of relief for workers who have lost employment during the Covid-19 pandemic period.
- The eligibility criteria for availing the relief has also been relaxed.
- The payment of relief has been enhanced to 50 per cent of average of wages from earlier 25 percent of average wages payable upto maximum 90 days of unemployment.
- Instead of the relief becoming payable 90 days after unemployment, it shall become due for payment after 30 days.

Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/jobs/esic-to-settle-claims-for-unemployment-benefit-within-15-days-says-santosh-gangwar/articleshow/77679730.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=The%20Employees'%20State%20Insurance%20Corporation,of%20the%20COVID%2D19%20pandemic.

http://www.edristi.in/

Union Minister e-launches tertiary processing centres of Trifood Project

Question:Trifood Project is an initiative of which ministry?
(a) Ministry of Womenm and Child Development.
(b) Ministry of Tourism. (c) Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
(d) Ministry of Home Affairs.
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Union Tribal Affairs Minister has e-launched the tertiary processing centre of "Trifood Project".
- Facts:
- Trifood Project: It is an initiative of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs in association with the Ministry of Food Processing(MoFPI).
- Aim: To enhance the income of tribals through better utilization of and value addition to the Minor Forest Produce(MFP) collected by the tribal forest gatherers.
- Implementation: It is being implemented by Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India(TRIFED).
- Additional Facts:
- Minor Forest Produce(MFP): The Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers Act,2006 defines minor forest produce as all non-timber forest produce of plant origin.It includes bamboo, brushwood, stumps, canes, cocoon, honey, waxes, Lac, tendu leaves, medicinal plants, roots among others.
- TRIFED: It was established in 1987 to provide a good price to the products made or collected from the forest by the tribal people.It functions under the administrative control of the Ministry of Tribal affairs.

Link:

https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/tribal-affairs-ministry-launches-tertiary-processing-centres-in-cgarh-maha/1919663

'e-Sanjeevani' digital platform

Question:The 'e-Sanjeevani' digital platform comes under which ministry?
(a) Ministry of Education
(b) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
(c) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- The 'e-Sanjeevani' digital platform of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has completed 2 lakh tele-consultations.
- Facts:
- eSanjeevani: It is a digital platform that has enabled two types of telemedicine services:
- eSanjeevani: It is a doctor to doctor telemedicine system being implemented under the Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centre(AB-HWCs) programme.

- Aim: To implement tele-consultation in all the 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres in conjunction with identified Medical College hospitals in a 'Hub and Spoke' model.
- eSanjeevaniOPD: It was launched amid the Covid-19 pandemic to enable patient-to-doctor tele-consultation.

Link:

Domicile-based job quota

Question:Which state government has recently launched domicile based job quota?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Haryana (c) Rajasthan (d) Madhya Pradesh
Answer:(d)

- Context:
- The Madhya Pradesh government's recent decision to reserve all government jobs for "children of the state" raises questions relating to the fundamental right to equality.
- What does the Constitution say?
- Article 16 of the Constitution, which guarantees equal treatment under law in matters of public employment, prohibits the state from discriminating on grounds of place of birth or residence.
- Article 16(2) states that "no citizen shall, on grounds only of religion, race, caste, sex, descent, place of birth, residence or any of them, be ineligible for, or discriminated against in respect or, any employment or office under the State".
- However, Article 16(3) of the Constitution provides an exception by saying that Parliament may make a law "prescribing" a requirement of residence for jobs in a particular state. This power vests solely in the Parliament, not state legislatures.
- What has the Supreme Court said on reserving jobs for locals?
- The Supreme Court has ruled against reservation based on place of birth or residence.
- In 1984, ruling in Dr Pradeep Jain v Union of India, the court expressed an opinion that such policies would be unconstitutional but did not expressly rule on it as the case was on different aspects of the right to equality.
- In a subsequent ruling in Sunanda Reddy v State of Andhra Pradesh (1995), the Supreme Court affirmed the observation in Pradeep Jain to strike down a state government policy that gave 5% extra weightage to candidates who had studied with Telugu as the medium of instruction.
- How do some states then have laws that reserve jobs for locals?
- Constitutionally, some states also have special protections under Article 371. Andhra Pradesh under Section 371(d) has powers to have "direct recruitment of local cadre" in specified areas.
- Some states have gone around the mandate of Article 16(2) by using language. States that conduct official business in their regional languages prescribe knowledge of the language as a criterion.

Link:

Railways deploys 'Ninjas' for surveillance

Question:Ninja is a drone or unmanned aerial vehicle(UAV) recently procured by?
(a) Indian Railways (b) Indian Army (c) Indian Air Force (d) Indian Navy
Answer : (a)

- Context:
- Ninja is a drone or unmanned aerial vehicle(UAV) procured by the Indian Railways to monitor its assets, ensure safety for passengers and aid the deployed security personnel.
- Facts:
- Drones or unmanned aerial vehicle(UAV): It is an unmanned aircraft piloted from a remote pilot station.
- Drone Innovators Network(DIN): It was formed in 2018 at the World Economic Forum in Davos,Switzerland.
- Purpose: It is a community of progressive governments, supported by industry and other key stakeholders who are accelerating the adoption of drones with progressive regulatory approaches.

Link:

Rihand Super Thermal Power Project

Question:Consider the following with respect to Rihand Super Thermal Power Project:
(1) It is located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. The power plant is one of the coal based power plants of NTPC Limited.
(2) It marks the beginning of a new era for the transportation of fly ash from a remote location to a consumption centre, enabling power plants for upgrading the utilization of fly ash.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- NTPC Ltd., a central PSU under Ministry of Power and country's largest power generation company, has developed an infrastructure at its Rihand Super Thermal Power station in Uttar Pradesh to transport fly ash in bulk to cement plants at a cheaper cost.
- Facts:

- The effort marks the beginning of a new era for the transportation of fly ash from a remote location to a consumption centre, enabling power plants for upgrading the utilization of fly ash.
- The development is in line with NTPC's commitment towards 100 percent utilization of fly ash from power plants. During the financial year 2019-20, almost 44.33 million tonnes of fly ash was utilized for various productive purposes.
- Additional Facts:
- Rihand Super Thermal Power Project?
- Rihand Super Thermal Power Project is located in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh. The power plant is one of the coal based power plants of NTPC Limited.
- The coal for the plant is derived from Amlori and Dudhichua mines. The water source is from Rihand Reservoir which is constructed on Son river.

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646264

Google partners CWC for flood forecasting initiative

Question: Central Water Commission(CWC) partners with which organization to launch a flood forecasting initiative:
(a) Microsoft (b) Facebook (c) Twitter (d) Google
Answer : (d)

- Context:
- Central Water Commission(CWC) along with Google has launched a flood forecasting initiative.
- Facts:
- Flood Forecasting Initiative: It aims to provide alerts to the public regarding flood situations in the region.It also offers current water level in the flood affected regions in the country and colour-coded maps indicating flooded areas.
- Additional Facts:
- Central Water Commission is a premier Technical Organization of India in the field of Water Resources and is presently functioning as an attached office of the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
- Purpose: To initiate and coordinate with State Governments concerned for conservation and utilization of water resources throughout the country for the purpose of Flood Control, Irrigation, Navigation, Drinking Water Supply and Water Power Development.

Links:

https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/google-partners-central-water-commission-for-flood-forecasting-initiative/2055658/

ATL AI Modules

QuestionConsider the following with respect to ATL AI STEP UP MODULE:
(1) Aim of this initiative is to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in schools across the country.

(2) Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog in collaboration with Infosys have launched the 'ATL AI Step Up Module' for students.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (a)

- **Context:**
- After a successful launch of a unique initiative to take Artificial Intelligence (AI) to schools through 'ATL AI Modules', Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog in collaboration with NASSCOM have launched the 'ATL AI Step Up Module' for students**.**
- **Facts:**
- Aim of this initiative is to drive AI education and innovation to the next level in schools across the country.
- This module is the next step in bringing AI to Indian classrooms and is a successor to the AI Base module launched in February this year.
- With this new launch, through hands-on projects and activities, the step-up module encourages a deeper understanding of AI which can be applied in the real world.
- The step-up module needs no previous knowledge and introduces the concepts to students from the basics using interactive tools and activities so as to keep their attention undivided.

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1645920#:~:text=After%20a%20successful%20launch%20of,to%20drive%20AI%20education%20and

ATAL MISSION FOR REJUVENATION AND URBAN TRANSFORMATION

Question:Consider the following regarding AMRUT Scheme:
(1) It was launched in 2017 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
(2) It's to ensure universal coverage of drinking water supply and substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage and septage along with storm water drainage and green spaces & parks.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- **Context:**
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has released the ranking of states under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation(AMRUT) scheme.
- **Facts:**
- Odisha has continued to be the top performer in implementation of the AMRUT Scheme.It is followed by Chandigarh, Telangana, Gujarat and Karnataka.
- **AMRUT Scheme:**
- It was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- **Aim:**

114

- To ensure universal coverage of drinking water supply and substantial improvement in coverage and treatment capacities of sewerage and septage along with storm water drainage, non-motorized urban transport and green spaces & parks.
- **Coverage:**
- It covers 500 cities that includes all cities and towns with a population of over one lakh with notified Municipalities.

Links:

https://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/2020/aug/11/odisha-bags-1st-position-in-amrut-scheme-2181875.html

European Union : Nirmanshree project in Maharashtra & Odisha for skilling women

Question : To help drive change towards sustainable housing through empowering women, the European Union has launched a 1-million-euro project in four districts of Maharashtra and Odisha under which it will train _ in masonry, plumbing and electrical fitting, among others.
Fill in the blanks with appropriate option
(a)3000 women (b)1000 women (c)500 women (d)none of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- To help drive change towards sustainable housing through empowering women, the European Union has recently(August 2020) launched a 1-million-euro project in four districts of Maharashtra and Odisha under which it will train 3,000 women in masonry, plumbing and electrical fitting, among others.
- The project is being implemented in Beed and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra and the Dhenkanal and Jajpur districts 0f Odisha and is aimed at positively impacting two lakh families over the next three years.
- The European Union has invested over 100 million euros in green and sustainable projects in the country and this is the single-largest scheme solely focused on women.
- The overall cost of the project is Rs 7.4 crore, of which 90 per cent or 1 million euro will be funded by the European Union and the remaining 10 per cent will be funded by his agency.
- The project will also set up 50 social enterprises by supporting women through entrepreneurial trainings and skills.

Link:
https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/eu-launches-1mneuro-project-in-maharashtra-odisha-for-skilling-women-in-housing-sector/1915960

Krishi Megh

Question:Consider the following with respect to Krishi Megh:
(1)It is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
(2) It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management

http://www.edristi.in/

(NAARM) in Delhi.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)
Context:

- Union Agriculture Minister has launched ICAR's data recovery centre – Krishi Megh.
- **About:**
- The move is aimed at protecting the precious data of the government's premier research body Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR).
- It has been set up at National Academy of Agricultural Research Management (NAARM) in Hyderabad. NAARM, Hyderabad has been chosen as it lies in a different seismic zone with regard to the Data Centre at ICAR-IASRI in New Delhi.
- Currently, the main data centre of the ICAR is at the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) in the national capital. Krishi Megh has been set up under the National Agricultural Higher Education Project (NAHEP), funded by both the government and World Bank.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/agriculture-minister-tomar-launches-icar-s-data-recovery-centre-krishi-megh-120081101805_1.html#:~:text=To%20protect%20the%20precious%20data,Megh'%20set%20up%20in%20Hyderabad.&text=The%20data%20recovery%20centre%20has,Management%20(NAARM)%2C%20Hyderabad.

Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project ?
(a) State government gave its nod on 25 July 2020
(b) The Rs 1,000-crore project, which is aimed mainly at fruit and vegetable producers, aims to improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
(c) The project will be implemented in all the districts of the state and sanction has been given to implement it in the next six years.
(d) Only (b) & (c)
Answer : (d)
Related facts

Context

Maharashtra government on Wednesday(29 July 2020) gave its nod for the ambitious Maharashtra Agribusiness Network (MagNet) project, which will see the state government collaborating with the Asian Development Bank.

The project

- The Rs 1,000-crore project, which is aimed mainly at fruit and vegetable producers, aims to improve processing and minimise the losses in the sector of perishables.
- Lack of proper handling and storage sees wastage of nearly 30-35 per cent of the fruits and vegetables produced in the state.
- The project will be aimed at this sector and incentives will be given mainly to small and marginal farmers.

Implementation

- The project will be implemented in all the districts of the state and sanction has been given to implement it in the next six years.
- The project amount is estimated to be $142.9 million, of which 70 per cent funds will be given by the Asian Development Bank in the form of a loan, and the rest 30 per cent funds will come from the state government as own contribution.

Relaying plan for J&K roads

Question : Which of the following programme is correct regarding "macadamisation programme" for roads across J&K ?
(a) Macadam is a type of road construction, pioneered by Scottish engineer John Loudon McAdam
(b) G C Murmu has launched the 'Macadamisation program' to improve the roads across Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Both (a) & (b)
(d) None of the above
Answer : (c)
Related facts

Context

- Lieutenant Governor Girish Chandra Murmu on Thursday(23 July 2020) announced the launch of a 'Macadamisation Program' for the improvement of roads across Jammu and Kashmir.
- Murmu has approved a program for 100 percent macadamisation of all roads in the Union Territory including 11,000 km of fair-weather roads.
- Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor also announced a release of Rs 200 Crores to the Public Works Department as the first tranche so that the macadamisation work on priority roads can commence.

Macadam

- Macadam is a type of road construction, pioneered by Scottish engineer John Loudon McAdam around 1820, in which single-sized crushed stone layers of small angular stones are placed in shallow lifts and compacted thoroughly.
- A binding layer of stone dust (crushed stone from the original material) may form; it may also, after rolling, be covered with a binder to keep dust and stones together. The method simplified what had been considered state of the art at that point.

117

National Transit Pass System (NTPS)

Question.Consider the following statements with respect to National Transit Pass System (NTPS):
1) It is an online system for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo only.
2) The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (d)

- **Context:**
- Union Environment Ministry launched the National Transit Pass System (NTPS), an online system for issuing transit permits for timber, bamboo and other forest produce.
- **Facts:**
- NTPS will bring ease of business and expedite issuance of transit permits for timber, bamboo and other minor forest produce without physically going to forest offices. Through mobile application e-pass will be issued for transit of forest produce.
- The pilot project will be functional in Madhya Pradesh and Telangana for now. The system will be will be operational in all states by Diwali.
- This will enhance seamless movement of forest produce. Transit of timber, bamboo and other forest produce is governed by various state specific acts and rules.

Links:

https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/govt-launches-online-system-for-issuing-transit-permits-for-timber-forest-produce/1901281

Green-Ag Project

Question:Consider the following with respect to Green-Ag Project :
(1) It aims to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
(2) The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- The Government of India has launched the Green-Ag Project to reduce emissions from agriculture and ensure sustainable agricultural practices.
- **Objective:**
- To catalyse transformative change of India's agricultural sector to support achievement of national and global environmental benefits and conservation of critical biodiversity and forest landscapes.

- **Funding:**
- The project is funded by the Global Environment Facility while the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation, and Farmers' Welfare (DAC&FW) is the national executing agency.Other key players involved in its implementation are the Food and Agriculture Organization(FAO) and the Environment Ministry (MoEF&CC).
- **Coverage:**
- The project is being implemented in the states of Mizoram, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha and Uttarakhand.
- **Global Environment Facility(GEF):**
- It is a Trust Fund established on the eve of the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- **Aim:** To help developing countries and countries with economies in transition to meet the objectives of the international environmental conventions and agreements.
- **Trustee:** World Bank serves as the GEF Trustee administering the GEF Trust Fund (contributions by donors).
- **Financial Mechanism:** GEF is a financial mechanism for five major international environmental conventions:
- Minamata Convention on Mercury
- Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants(POPs),
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity(UNCBD),
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification(UNCCD)
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Links:

https://www.jatinverma.org/green-ag-project-to-ensure-sustainable-agriculture

Treaty & Agreements
PAG – Edelweiss partnership

Quesiton : Which one of the following statement is incorrect regarding PAG & Edelweiss Partnership ?
(a) PAG is one of the world's largest Asia-focused investment groups
(b) Edelweiss Group is India's leading diversified financial services conglomerate
(c) Both announced PAG's strategic investment of approximately USD 300 million for a 31% stake in Edelweiss Wealth Management
(d) Both announced PAG's strategic investment of approximately USD 300 million for a 51% stake in Edelweiss Wealth Management
Answer (c)
Related facts

- PAG is one of the world's largest Asia-focused investment groups.
- Edelweiss Group is India's leading diversified financial services conglomerate.
- Both announced PAG's strategic investment of approximately USD 300 million for a 51% stake in Edelweiss Wealth Management.
- **Indian financial services : Some key facts**

- India has a diversified financial sector undergoing rapid expansion, both in terms of strong growth of existing financial services firms and new entities entering the market.

Market Size — Mutual Fund industry's AUM grew from Rs 10.96 trillion (US$ 156.82 billion) in October 2014 to Rs 23.93 trillion (US$ 339.55 billion) in April 2020.

Inflow in India's mutual fund schemes via the Systematic Investment Plan (SIP) route reached Rs 82,453 crore (US$ 11.70 billion) in 2019.

Equity mutual funds registered a net inflow of Rs 8.04 trillion (US$ 114.06 billion) by end of December 2019.

India is expected to be the fourth largest private wealth market globally by 2028.

Link: https://cdn1.edelweissfin.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Edelweiss-PAG-Release-final-India.pdf

Mahindra & REE Automotive partnership

Question : Mahindra & Mahindra has recently inked a pact with Tel Aviv-based REE Automotive to explore production of electric commercial vehicles.Which one of the following statement is correct regarding Indian automobile industry ?
(a) It was the seventh largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.
(b) It was the fourth largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.
(c) It was the third largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.
(d) It was the second largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) on Wednesday(26 August 2020) said it has inked a pact with Tel Aviv-based REE Automotive to explore production of electric commercial vehicles.
- The Mumbai-based firm has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the startup to explore development and manufacturing of electric commercial vehicles for global markets, M&M said in a statement.
- The strategic collaboration will leverage REE's revolutionary electric vehicle corner module and platform technology of integrating powertrain, suspension and steering components in the arch of a vehicle wheel, it added.

- This coupled with Mahindra's well-established vehicle design, engineering, sourcing capability and manufacturing assets, is set to be a win-win strategic partnership for both companies, M&M noted.
- The partnership will support REE's global customer need for 2-2.
5 lakh electric commercial vehicle units over a few years, including any volumes for Mahindra's domestic and international markets, it added.
Production would be scaled further to support additional volume in the global as well as Indian market, the automaker said.

Indian automobile Industry at a glance

120

- India became the fifth largest auto market in 2019 with sales reaching to 3.81 million units. It was the seventh largest manufacturer of commercial vehicles in 2019.
- Domestic automobiles production increased at 2.36 per cent CAGR between FY16-20 with 26.36 million vehicles being manufactured in the country in FY20. Overall, domestic automobiles sales increased at 1.29 per cent CAGR between FY16-FY20 with 21.55 million vehicles being sold in FY20.
- The Government of India encourages foreign investment in the automobile sector and has allowed 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) under the automatic route.
- Under Union Budget 2019-20, the Government announced to provide additional income tax deduction of Rs 1.5 lakh (US$ 2,146) on the interest paid on the loans taken to purchase EVs.

Link:
https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2020/aug/26/mahindra-inks-pacts-with-israeli-firm-to-develop-electric-commercial-vehicles-2188592.html

India-Vietnam relation & Indo-Pacific partnership

Question : India-Vietnam has recently agreed to strengthen Indo-Pacific partnership.This is the outcome of which meeting ?
(a) 17th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation
(b) 16th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation
(c) 15th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation
(d) 14th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation
Answer (a)
Related facts

- India and its key SE Asian partner Vietnam on Tuesday(25 August 2020) decided to explore closer cooperation in emerging areas — civil nuclear energy, space, marine sciences and new technologies and decided to expand their Indo-Pacific partnership.
- India and Vietnam agreed to enhance their bilateral cooperation in line with India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and the ASEAN's Outlook on Indo-Pacific to achieve shared security, prosperity and growth for all in the region.
- India invited Vietnam to collaborate on one of the seven pillars of the IPOI. This is significant in the backdrop of Chinese aggression in the Indo-Pacific region including South China Sea region.
- The outcomes were result of the 17th Meeting of the India-Vietnam Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technological Cooperation co-chaired by Dr. S. Jaishankar and Pham Binh Minh, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Vietnam.
- On the occasion the two sides signed MoU for "cooperation between Sushma Swaraj Institute of Foreign Service (SSIFS), New Delhi and Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam, Hanoi" and "MoU between National Maritime Foundation, New Delhi

and Scientific Research Institute of Sea and Islands, Hanoi" were also signed on the margins of the Joint Commission Meeting.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/india-vietnam-agree-to-strengthen-indo-pacific-partnership-explore-closer-co-op-in-nuclear-energy-space/articleshow/77747601.cms

ReNew Power – UNEP partnership

Question : Clean energy firm ReNew Power and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have signed a partnership agreement to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.Which one of the following statement is correct regarding installed renewable energy capacity of India ?
(a) As on April 30, 2020, the installed renewable energy capacity stood at 87.26 GW, of which, solar and wind comprised 34.81 GW and 37.74 GW, respectively.
(b) As on April 30, 2020, the installed renewable energy capacity stood at 57.26 GW, of which, solar and wind comprised 24.81 GW and 37.74 GW, respectively.
(c) As on April 30, 2020, the installed renewable energy capacity stood at 47.26 GW, of which, solar and wind comprised 14.81 GW and 37.74 GW, respectively.
(d) As on April 30, 2020, the installed renewable energy capacity stood at 37.26 GW, of which, solar and wind comprised 10.00 GW and 37.74 GW, respectively.
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Clean energy firm ReNew Power and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) have recently signed a partnership agreement to promote increased access to renewable energy and improved energy efficiency.
- ReNew Power will partner with UNEP's District Energy in Cities Initiative as an implementation partner for renewable energy installations across India with the aim of shifting the heating and cooling sector to an energy efficient one, a company statement said.
- The partnership will also implement solar off-grid projects, studies, and assessments. Joint efforts will be promoted through annual events to showcase contributions to India's strategic vision on renewable energy.
- The strengthened partnership between the two parties, who had signed the Memorandum of Understanding on July 10, focuses on enhancing access to renewable energy and improving energy efficiency as part of the strategies that India has adopted to realize its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) under the Paris Agreement, the company said.
- ReNew Power is a renewable energy IPP (Independent Power Producer).
- t generates 5.4 GW of energy through solar and wind assets and has another 4.6 GW under various stages of development throughout the country.
- UNEP's District Energy in Cities Initiative aims to support market transformation efforts in order to shift the heating and cooling sector to energy efficient and renewable energy solutions.
- The initiative supports local and national governments to build local know-how and implement enabling policies to accelerate investment in modern – low-carbon and climate resilient – district energy systems.
- In parallel, the Initiative is working with cities and industry to identify, assess and tender bankable district energy projects based on international best practice

accumulated from 45 champion cities for district energy and 45 partners with decades of expertise in the sector.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/renew-power-unep-ink-pact-for-better-clean-energy-access-higher-efficiency/articleshow/77742956.cms

Mastercard & Goals101.ai partnership

Question : Mastercard has recently entered an alliance with Goals101.ai, the leading bank-tech and AI company.Which one of the following statement is correct regarding this alliance ?
(a) This helps banks to improve the effectiveness of their communication and makes the banking experience more personalized for their customers.
(b) This helps banks to improve the effectiveness of their communication and makes the banking experience more personalized for their BC(Banking correspondence).
(c) This helps banks to improve their NPA
(d) None of the above
Answer (A)
Related facts

- Mastercard has recently(August 2020) entered an alliance with Goals101.ai, the leading bank-tech and AI company.
- This helps banks to improve the effectiveness of their communication and makes the banking experience more personalized for their customers.
- **With Goals 101.ai, Mastercard's customer banks will now benefit from:**
- Increased customer delight and engagement with personalization
- Positive impact on key performance indicators (KPI's) like spend, transaction, frequency, engagement and latency
- Faster time to market for products and offers
- The platform identifies a consumer's purchase patterns to help banks offer a more targeted, relevant, and measurable service.
- Through this partnership, Mastercard and Goals101.ai will also launch a section within the platform called 'For You' which will unify all the bank channels and properties into one.
- This solution was conceptualized to solve for a pain point that banks currently grapple with of sending multiple communications to cardholders for offers and benefits and hence not able to drive enough traction to key notifications and meaningful offers.

Link:
https://www.nationaltribune.com.au/mastercard-partners-with-goals101ai-to-make-banking-more-personalized-automated-and-delightful/

Google – Central Water Commission partnership

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding Google & Central Water Commission partnership ?
(a) Partnership is actually a flood forecasting initiative
(b) Any user(Only a Tamilian) in the affected region having an Android smartphone with location services enabled will receive flood alerts

(c) Google is currently issuing these notifications in English, Hindi, and Tamil
(d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Google in association with the Central Water Commission (CWC) has taken flood forecasting initiative over the past several months, and sent numerous public alerts to people in impacted regions across the country.
- These alerts provide timely, updated, and critical information that can help users make informed decisions on their safety, and that of their families and friends, Google on Friday(14 August 2020) said in a statement.
- Any user in the affected region having an Android smartphone with location services enabled will receive these alerts.
- Various parts of the country, including Assam and Bihar, are grappling with floods.
- "We are currently issuing these notifications in English, Hindi, and Bengali, depending on the device language and location of users," Google said.
- Users can also use Search to enter a query on a flood-affected area to see key information on the current situation in that region.
- If there is a current flooding situation in the area, the user will see a visual overview of key information, including the rise or fall in the water level in the next day with a description of the recent situation containing specific guidance.
- A colour-coded map indicating the flooded areas is also shown and clicking on this map opens a larger, more detailed view in Google Maps where users can zoom in to get a better understanding of water levels in specific regions.

Link:
https://www.outlookindia.com/newsscroll/google-partners-cwc-for-flood-forecasting-initiative/1916180

Federal Bank – Fiserv partnership

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding Federal Bank & Fiserv partnership ?
(a) Federal Bank Chooses Fiserv to Support Launch of Their First Independent Credit Card
(b) Federal Bank Chooses Fiserv to Support Launch of Their second Independent Credit Card
(c) Federal Bank Chooses Fiserv to Support Launch of Their third Independent Credit Card
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- Federal Bank, a leading private sector bank in India, has recently(August, 2020) chosen Fiserv, Inc., a leading global provider of payments and financial services technology solutions, to Support Launch of Their First Independent Credit Card.
- The bank will also outsource associated operational processes to Fiserv.
  With a strong retail and remittance business in India, Federal Bank was looking for a flexible and scalable technology and business process outsourcing (BPO) solution to support the launch and subsequent growth of its credit card business.

- The bank will utilize FirstVision™ from Fiserv, an end-to-end managed services solution that enables card issuing and processing with global economies of scale and integrated capabilities that span the card lifecycle.
- The integrated technology and BPO solution reduce cost of ownership and provide a seamless extension to the bank's operations.
- The service-oriented architecture and open APIs(application program interfaces) of FirstVision facilitate rapid application development, enabling new capabilities to be brought to market more quickly and at a lower cost, while helping to ensure local compliance.

Link:
https://investors.fiserv.com/news-releases/news-release-details/federal-bank-chooses-fiserv-support-launch-their-first?_ga=2.128161544.585127676.1597651312-1482820552.1597651312

McDonald's India (North & East) and DotPe partnership

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding McDonald's India (North & East) and DotPe partnership ?
(a) A technology startup, DotPe provides digital transformation and commerce solutions to restaurants and F&B brands.
(b) As part of its association with McDonald's India – North and East, DotPe said it has placed the QR code across all key restaurants, and the store managers will guide the customers on its usage.
(c) Both (a) and (b)
(d) None of the above
Answer (c)
Related facts

- Gurgaon-based O2O commerce and fintech platform DotPe said on Thursday(13 August) it has partnered with McDonald's India – North and East for digital ordering solutions fully integrated with a payment gateway.
- A technology startup, DotPe provides digital transformation and commerce solutions to restaurants and F&B brands.
- As part of its association with McDonald's India – North and East, DotPe said it has placed the QR code across all key restaurants, and the store managers will guide the customers on its usage.
- The company said by offering its QR code and WhatsApp based scan-order-pay solution with direct communication and digital ordering management technology, it can assist restaurants ensure streamlined business operations while following social distancing norms and can help make customers feel safe while ordering and settling their bills.
- Customers can scan the QR code displayed in the restaurants from their mobile phones and can view the menu through their phone browsers like an e-commerce catalogue.
- The customers can order from the catalogue while remaining seated and can make the payment through the phone using mediums including UPI, PayTM, Google Pay or cards.
- The order-related communication will take place over the customer's WhatsApp number, from the WhatsApp business account of McDonald's.

- Once the order is ready, customers can pick up their order from the counter as takeaway or dine-in in the restaurant.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/services/hotels-/-restaurants/mcdonalds-india-north-east-launches-contactless-ordering-in-partnership-with-dotpe/articleshow/77529012.cms

India, Maldives ink contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of island nation

Question:India signed a contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll with which country :
(a) Sri Lanka
(b) Bangladesh
(c) Maldives
(d) Seychelles
Answer:(c)
Context:

- India and Maldives signed a contract for development of five eco-tourism zones in Addu atoll of the island nation.
- **Facts:**
- These eco tourism zones are part of grant projects being implemented under the High-Impact Community Development project (HICDP) scheme which involves a total grant assistance of 5 million US dollars to the Maldives.
- Currently, there are 9 such high-impact projects being implemented in the Maldives. Developing high-impact assets, building capacities within the local councils and supporting of the local island economy are most important objectives of these projects.
- **Addu Atoll?**
- Addu Atoll, also known as Seenu Atoll, is the southernmost atoll of the Maldives.Addu Atoll, together with Fuvahmulah, located 40 km north of Addu Atoll, extend the Maldives into the Southern Hemisphere.
- Unlike other atolls of the Maldives, Addu Atoll has a lagoon that is a natural anchorage, accessible through four natural channels. This results in a natural harbor that is very calm and safe for sea vessels.

Links:

http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=India%2C-Maldives-ink-contract-for-development-of-five-eco-tourism-zones-in-Addu-atoll-of-island-nation&id=396977#:~:text=India%20and%20Maldives%20today%20signed,atoll%20of%20the%20island%20nation.&text=He%20recalled%20that%20contracts%20for,plants%2C%20were%20awarded%20last%20month.

India-UN Development Partnership Fund

Question : India has recently contributed to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.Which of the following statement is correct regarding this partnership fund ?

126

(a) The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017.

(b) India has recently contributed $15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund

(c) The tranche of $15.46 million includes $9.46 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and $6 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.

(d) Only (a) & (b)

Answer : (d)

Related facts

- India has recently(August 2020) contributed $15.46 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund.
- The tranche of $15.46 million includes $6 million to the overall fund, in which all the developing countries are eligible for partnership, and $9.46 million dedicated to the Commonwealth countries.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is a dedicated facility within the United Nations Fund for South-South Cooperation established in 2017.
- The India-UN Development Partnership Fund is managed by the UNOSSC and implemented under the leadership of partner developing countries leveraging the strengths of United Nations Agencies, Funds and Programmes.
- Since the fund's inception in 2017, as many as 55 projects and proposals have been approved to date with a total contribution of $41.8 million towards a $150 million multi-year pledge.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/india-contributes-over-15-million-to-india-un-development-partnership-fund/articleshow/77364123.cms?from=mdr#:~:text=Synopsis,of%20India%20to%20the%20UN.

Bank of Baroda Financial Solutions Ltd. & Innoviti partnership

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding 'Bank of Baroda' & 'Innoviti' partnership ?

(a) Bank of Baroda Credit Card customers get another unique offering in terms of convenient and affordable EMI options

(b) The Bank of Baroda credit cardholders pan India would be serviced at 70,000+ Innoviti PoS terminals across 1,000+ cities.

(c) BOB Financial Solutions Limited (formerly known as 'Bobcards Limited') is a NonBanking Financial Company

(d) All above

Answer : (d)

Related facts

- Bank of Baroda Credit Card customers recently(August 2020) get another unique offering in terms of convenient and affordable EMI options, as BOB Financial Solutions Limited ties up with Innoviti Payment Solutions.
- The Bank of Baroda credit cardholders pan India would be serviced at 70,000+ Innoviti PoS terminals across 1,000+ cities.
- **Background**

- During today's times of COVID crisis, consumers are cautious about their spending and yet would need affordable options in essential categories such as healthcare, education, IT (computers and laptops), and furniture & kitchen appliances.
- This new partnership will help Bank of Baroda credit card holders' access to EMIs that can be repaid conveniently through their credit cards.
- **Procedure**

- Customers wanting to opt for EMI, only need to notify the cashier during billing.
- The cashier can convert the payment into EMI over-the-counter on the POS terminal.
- Customers then enter their PIN to access the credit seamlessly right at the cashier point.
- **BoB financial**

- BOB Financial Solutions Limited (formerly known as 'Bobcards Limited') was established in the year 1994. It is a NonBanking Financial Company, wholly owned by Bank of Baroda, one of the top banks of India.
- **Innoviti**

- The company processes over 6.5B$ of offline merchant payments (~5% of India's offline merchant payments volume as per RBI data), from over 1000+ cities with a volume throughput per installation that is 2X of the country's average.

Link:
https://innoviti.com/press-release/Bank_of_Baroda_Credit_Card_offers_EMIs_on_PoS_Terminals_in_partnership_with_Innoviti

Gujarat – UKIBC Deal

Question : UKIBC stands for —
(a)UK India Business Council
(b)UK India Business Committee
(c)UK India business Cooperation
(d)None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

Context

The UK India Business Council(UKIBC) has recently(July 2020) signed an agreement with Gujarat government(INDEXTB).

Aim

This collaborative partnership between the UKIBC and Government of Gujarat will help to boost business and industrial development in the state.
It will also aim to proactively enhance the business environment and strengthen collaboration with British businesses in Gujarat.

INDUSTRIAL EXTENSION BUREAU (INDEXTB)

INDUSTRIAL EXTENSION BUREAU (INDEXTB) is the premier agency focused on accelerating industrial development in the state.

UKIBC

The UK India Business Council (UKIBC) is a membership-based, non-profit organisation founded in 2007 to foster trade and business relations between the United Kingdom and India.

Link:
https://www.ukibc.com/gujarat-government

Sidbi and TransUnion Cibil partnership

Question : Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with credit bureau TransUnion Cibil has launched a portal to help —
(a) MSMEs
(b) Defence Pensioner
(c) Corona fighters
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

Context

- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) in association with credit bureau TransUnion Cibil has recently(July 2020) launched a portal to help Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), seeking access to finance and also help borrowers manage their credit obligations.
- while also supporting entrepreneurs towards managing their credit obligations.
- **MSME Saksham**

- The portal- MSMESaksham- aims to guide MSMEs across their credit lifecycle, from availing credit to start and grow their businesses, to managing credit lines to sustain and build structural strength of the business, as well as ensuring timely closures and renewals of credit facilities.
- **MSME statistics india 2020**

- The number of registered MSMEs in FY20 has increased by 18.49 per cent to 25.13 lakh units from 21.21 lakh in FY19, according to government data.
- The growth rate, however, declined from 39.7 per cent in the last financial year that had increased from 15.17 lakh MSMEs registered in FY18.
- Overall the number of registered MSMEs in India in the past five years stood at 90.19 lakh. According to the MSME Ministry's FY19 annual report, the MSME sector is dominated by micro-enterprises.
- India has 6.33 crore MSMEs out of which 6.30 crore — 99.4 per cent are micro-enterprises while 0.52 per cent — 3.31 lakh are medium and 0.007 per cent — 5,000 are medium enterprises.

India-European Union Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation renewed for next five years (2020-2025)

Question:Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation ,recently seen in the news is related to which countries?
(a) India-Japan
(b) India-Israel
(c) India-EU
(d) India-USA
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- India and European Union (EU) have renewed its Agreement on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the next five years (2020-2025).
- **Facts:**
- This will expand the cooperation in scientific and technological research for economic and social benefit. **The Agreement was initially signed in 2001 and renewed two times in 2007 and 2015.**
- In the last 5 years, the level of co-investment on India-EU Research Technology Development Projects for addressing societal challenges such as affordable healthcare, water, energy, food & nutrition has been stepped up.
- The cooperation has been focused on water, green transport, e-mobility, clean energy, bio-economy, health, and ICT.

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/Pressreleaseshare.aspx?PRID=1641228#:~:text=India%20and%20European%20Union%20have,past%20in%202007%20and%202015.

Relation between AI adoption and GDP growth

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding the report titled "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy" ?
(a) it is a study by Google, IT industry body Nasscom and think tank ICRIER
(b) one unit increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) intensity by Indian firms can result in a 2.5 per cent increase in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the immediate term
(c) AI intensity is measured as the ratio of AI to total sales of the firm, said the report
(d) All of the above
Answer (d)
Related facts —

Context

- One unit increase in Artificial Intelligence (AI) intensity by Indian firms can result in a 2.5 per cent increase in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in the

immediate term, a study by Google, IT industry body Nasscom and think tank ICRIER revealed on Monday(27 July 2020).

AI Intensity

- AI intensity is measured as the ratio of AI to total sales of the firm, said the report titled "Implications of AI on the Indian Economy".
- In the absence of a direct measure of AI at the firm level, the model uses investments in software, databases and computer machinery as a proxy for AI.

Link:
https://www.news18.com/news/tech/increase-in-ai-adoption-by-one-unit-will-boost-indias-gdp-by-2-5-percent-report-2737749.html

Conference

Pulikkali, a colourful part of Onam celebrations

Question:Pulikali ,a tiger dance is a recreational folk art from the state of :
(a) Kerala
(b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Telangana
(d) Odisha
Answer : (a)

Context:

- Pulikkali, a colourful part of Onam celebrations in Thrissur, will be an online-only affair this year due to COVID-19.
- **Facts:**
- Pulikkali is a recreational folk art from the state of Kerala. The folk art is mainly practiced in Thrissur district of Kerala.
- It is performed by trained artists to entertain people on the occasion of Onam, an annual harvest festival, celebrated mainly in Kerala.
- On the fourth day of Onam celebrations (Nalaam Onam), performers painted like tigers and hunters in bright yellow, red, and black dance to the beats of instruments like Udukku and Thakil.
- Literal meaning of Pulikkali is the 'play of the tigers' hence the performance revolve around the theme of tiger hunting.
- Pulikkali was introduced in Thrissur by Shakthan Tampuran two centuries ago.

Link:

https://www.keralatourism.org/event/pulikali/40

Thumbimahotsavam 2020

Question:Consider the following with respect to Thumbimahotsavam 2020:
(1) 'Pantalu' is the official mascot forthe festival.

(2) It is to be the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Telangana.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None of these
Answer:(a)

Context:

- The WWF-India Kerala unit has joined hands with the Society for Odonate Studies (SOS) and Thumbipuranam for the first-ever State Dragonfly Festival in Kerala, named Thumbimahotsavam 2020. 'Pantalu' is the official mascot forthe festival.
- **Facts:**
- A dragonfly is an insect belonging to the order Odonata.
- Adult dragonflies are characterized by large, multifaceted eyes, two pairs of strong, transparent wings, sometimes with coloured patches, and an elongated body.
- Additional Fact:
- Dragonflies vs Damselflies:
- Dragonflies can be mistaken for the related group, damselflies (Zygoptera), which are similar in structure, though usually lighter in build; however, the wings of most dragonflies are held flat and away from the body, while damselflies hold the wings folded at rest, along or above the abdomen.
- Dragonflies are agile fliers, while damselflies have a weaker, fluttery flight.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/kerala-to-host-dragonfly-festival/article32414553.ece

Law & Justice
National Food Security Act 2013

Question:Consider the following with respect to National Food Security Act 2013:
(1) The Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of persons under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
(2) Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package of the Government of India is for the persons, who are not covered either under NFSA or any States Scheme PDS Cards.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None of these
Answer : (c)

- Context:

- The Department of Food and Public Distribution has sent letters to States Governments/UTs to include all eligible disabled persons under the National Food Security Act 2013.
- Facts:
- Section 38 of the Act mandates that the Central Government may from time to time give directions to the State Governments for effective implementation if the provisions of the Act.
- The Section 10 of the National Food Security Act, 2013 provides for coverage of persons under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana.
- The Atma Nirbhar Bharat Package of the Government of India is for the persons, who are not covered either under NFSA or any States Scheme PDS Cards. Hence, the disabled persons without ration cards are also eligible for getting benefits under Atma Nirbhar Bharat package.

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1648050

Year, Day & Week

National Sports Day

Question:Consider the following statements with respect to National Sports Day:
(1) National Sports Day is celebrated on 29th August every year to mark the birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.
(2) National Sports Awards which include the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the Arjuna award and the Dronacharya award.
Which is/are incorrect?
(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) None of these
Answer : (b)

Context:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tributes to Major Dhyan Chand and greeted all sports enthusiasts on National Sports Day.
- **Facts:**
- National Sports Day (also known as Rashtriya Khel Divas) is celebrated on 29th August every year to mark the birth anniversary of legendary hockey player Major Dhyan Chand.
- Dhyan Chand was born in 1905 and was known for his magical hockey skills. He was part of the Indian hockey team which struck gold in the Olympics of 1928, 1932, and, 1936.
- National Sports Awards which include the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna award, the Arjuna award, the Dronacharya award, and the Dhyan Chand award, are conferred on athletes every year by the President of India at the Rashtrapati Bhavan on the National Sports Day. However, this year, the names would be announced by President Ram Nath Kovind virtually.

Telugu Language Day

Question:When is the Telugu Language Day observed?
(a) August 17
(b) August 24
(c) August 21
(d) August 29
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- Telugu Language Day is observed on 29 August each year.
- The day coincides with the birthday of the Telugu poet Gidugu Venkata Ramamurthy (1863-1940).
- He championed the cause of using a language comprehensible to the common man ('Vyavaharika Bhasha') as opposed to the scholastic language ('Grandhika Bhasha').

International Day against Nuclear Tests

Question:When is the International Day against Nuclear Tests observed?
(a) August 17
(b) August 24
(c) August 21
(d) August 29
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- The International Day against Nuclear Tests is observed on August 29.
- On 2 December 2009, the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly declared 29 August the International Day against Nuclear Tests by adopting resolution 64/35. 2010 marked the inaugural commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests.
- The resolution calls for increasing awareness and education "about the effects of nuclear weapon test explosions or any other nuclear explosions and the need for their cessation as one of the means of achieving the goal of a nuclear-weapon-free world."
- The resolution was initiated by Kazakhstan with a view to commemorating the closure of the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Test site on 29 August 1991.
- **Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT):**

- The international instrument to put an end to all forms of nuclear testing is the 1996 Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Unfortunately, this has yet to enter into force.
- It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 September 1996.
- To date, 184 countries have signed the treaty and 168 have ratified it. For the Treaty to enter into Force, it must be ratified by those States with significant nuclear capabilities.

Links:
https://www.un.org/en/observances/end-nuclear-tests-day

Women's Equality Day

Question:When is the Women's Equality Day observed?
(a) August 17
(b) August 24
(c) August 21
(d) August 26
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- On 26 August 2020 Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar greeted entire women community on the occasion of women's equality day.
- The day is observed primarily in the US on August 26, to commemorate American women getting the constitutional right to vote. The Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution was adopted in 1920. The law prohibits denying citizens, of the United States, the right to vote on the basis of gender.
- Women's Equality Day was first marked in 1972. It is proclaimed each year by the President of the United States.
- Women's Equality Day is now often observed across the world to encourage and spread awareness about women's empowerment.

inks:
http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=I%26B-Minister-greets-women-community-on-occasion-of-women%26%2339%3Bs-equality-day&id=398242

International Day of Victims of Terrorism

QuestionInternational Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on:
(a) 21 August
(b) 22 August
(c) 23 August
(d) 24 August
Answer : (a)

- Context:
- International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism was observed on 21 August.

- International Day Commemorating the Victims of Acts of Violence Based on Religion or Belief was observed on 22 August.
- International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition is being observed on 23 August.
- Facts:
- The General Assembly, in its resolution 72/165 (2017), established 21 August as the International Day of Remembrance of and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism.
- It was proclaimed to honour and support the victims and survivors of terrorism and to promote and protect the full enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms.
- Additional Fact:
- The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted unanimously in its resolution 60/288, on 8 September 2006, notes that the dehumanization of victims counts among the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

Link:

https://www.un.org/counterterrorism/terrorism-victims-day#:~:text=The%20General%20Assembly%2C%20in%20its,their%20human%20rights%20and%20fundamental

Earth Overshoot Day

Question:When was the Earth Overshoot Day 2020 observed?
(a) August 7
(b) August 22
(c) August 12
(d) August 5
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- On 22 August 2020 Earth Overshoot day was observed across the globe.
- Earth Overshoot Day, which in 2020 falls on Saturday 22nd August, marks the date when humans have used all the biological resources the Earth can regenerate in that year.
- In short, this means that from the 22nd August onwards, we are using more resources that can be renewed.
- The concept of Earth Overshoot Day was first conceived by Andrew Simms of the UK think tank New Economics Foundation, which partnered with Global Footprint Network in 2006 to launch the first global Earth Overshoot Day campaign.
- World-Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the world's largest conservation organization, has participated in Earth Overshoot Day since 2007.
- It is computed by Global Footprint Network by dividing the planet's biocapacity (the amount of ecological resources Earth is able to generate that year), by humanity's Ecological Footprint (humanity's demand for that year), and multiplying by 365, the number of days in a year:
- Earth Overshoot Day = (Planet's Biocapacity / Humanity's Ecological Footprint) x 365

- Global Footprint Network is an international non profit organization founded in the year 2003. It's key strategy has been to make available robust Ecological Footprint data.
- The Ecological Footprint is a metric that comprehensively compares human demand on nature against nature's capacity to regenerate.
- **2020 Calculation:**

- Changes in carbon emissions, forest harvest, food demand, and other factors that could impact global biocapacity or the Ecological Footprint from January 1st to Earth Overshoot Day 2020 were evaluated.
- The research team concluded to a 9.3% reduction in the global Ecological Footprint compared to the same period last year.
- The downloadable research report documents that the main drivers were the carbon Footprint (reduced 14.5% from 2019) and the forest product Footprint (reduced 8.4% from 2019).

Links:
https://www.countryliving.com/uk/wildlife/countryside/a33652514/earth-overshoot-day/#:~:text=Earth%20Overshoot%20Day%20is%20computed,Earth's%20Biocapacity%20%2F%20Humanity's%20Ecological%20Footprint

World Humanitarian Day

Question:Consider the following with respect to World Humanitarian Day :
(1) This day was designated in memory of the 11 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq
(2) This year's theme is "#RealLifeHeroes".
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- On August 19, the World Humanitarian Day (WHD) is being celebrated to commemorate humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work.
- Facts:
- This day was designated in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including the chief humanitarian in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.
- In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day.
- This year World Humanitarian Day is being celebrated with the theme "#RealLifeHeroes" paying special tribute to the real-life heroes who have committed their lives to helping others in the most extreme circumstances throughout the world.

Link:

World Humanitarian Day

Question:When is the World Humanitarian Day observed?
(a) August 7 (b) August 14 (c) August 12 (d) August 19
Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- The World Humanitarian Day is observed on August 19 every year.
- This day is celebrated to commemorate humanitarian workers killed and injured in the course of their work.
- This day was designated in memory of the 19 August 2003 bomb attack on the Canal Hotel in Baghdad, Iraq, killing 22 people, including the chief humanitarian in Iraq, Sergio Vieira de Mello.
- In 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formalized the day as World Humanitarian Day.
- 2020 Theme for the day is "#RealLifeHeroes" which celebrates humanitarians – a "thank you" to the people who have committed their lives to helping others.

Links:
https://www.un.org/en/observances/humanitarian-day

Naga Independence Day

Question:When is the Naga Independence Day observed?
(a) August 7
(b) August 14
(c) August 12
(d) August 5
Answer: (b)
Related facts:

- The 74th 'Naga Independence Day' was celebrated in Nagaland and parts of Manipur on August 14 2020 amid a renewed push for a final solution to the long-drawn Naga political issue involving several extremist groups.
- The Naga Students' Federation (NSF) led the celebration in Nagaland by hoisting the 'Naga national flag', which is one of the demands made by Naga organisations for an "honourable" solution to the 23-year-old peace process.
- **History:**

- In the year 1947, India became independent from British rule. But the Nagas under the Naga National Council wished to remain free.
- So, a Plebiscite was conducted in 1951 "99.9%" of Nagas had voted in favour of a sovereign Naga nation.
- Following this, the Nagas did not take part in the first and second general elections that were held in 1952 and 1957. Hence according to the Nagas, the Bordoloi and Hydari Agreements were not implemented.
- Nagaland had attained statehood in 1963.

- The moderates signed the Shillong Accord in 1975, seen as the first peace agreement, but the hardliners had rejected it outright and continued with the armed movement for Naga sovereignty.

Links:
https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/naga-independence-day-celebrated-in-nagaland-manipur/article32354930.ece

Organ Donation Day

Question : Organ Donation Day is observed every year on —
(a)13th of August
(b)12th of August
(c)11th of August
(d)10th of August
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- Organ Donation Day is observed every year on 13th of August.
- The aim of this day is to motivate normal human beings to pledge to donate organs after death, and to spread awareness about the importance of organ donation.
- Organ Donation is donating a donor's organs like heart, liver, kidneys, intestines, lungs, and pancreas, after the donor dies, for the purpose of transplanting them into another person who is in need of an organ.
- The Ministry of Health & Family Welfare of India launched the 6th World and first ever Indian Organ Donation Day and Organ Donation Congress in 2010 in New Delhi.

Link:
https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/topic/organ-donation-day#:~:text=Organ%20Donation%20Day%20is%20observed,the%20importance%20of%20organ%20donation.

World Elephant Day

Question:When is the World Elephant Day observed?
(a) August 7
(b) August 4
(c) August 12
(d) August 5
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- The World Elephant Day is observed every year on 12th August to spread awareness about the animal.
- It was launched in 2012 to bring attention to the urgent plight of Asian and African elephants.
- Poaching, habitat loss, human-elephant conflict and mistreatment in captivity are some of the threats to both African and Asian elephants.

http://www.edristi.in/

- Indian Elephant has also been listed in the Appendix I of the Convention of the Migratory species in the recently concluded 13th Conference of Parties on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS) at Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat in February this year.
- **Surakhsya:**

- The Minister for Environment and Forest Prakash Javadekar released document on Best Practices and launched beta version of a portal on Human Elephant Conflict on the eve of World Elephant Day, 2020.
- The National Portal on human elephant conflict called "Surakhsya" is for collection of real time information and also for managing the conflicts on a real time basis.
- At present the beta version of the portal is being launched for data testing before the pan India roll out for adoption by the states, which is likely to be done before year end.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644770

International Youth Day

Question:When is the International Youth day observed?
(a) August 7
(b) August 4
(c) August 12
(d) August 5
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

- International Youth Day is observed on 12th August every year.
- International Youth Day gives an opportunity to celebrate and mainstream young peoples' voices, actions and initiatives, as well as their meaningful, universal and equitable engagement.
- 2020 theme for the day is "Youth Engagement for Global Action."
- In 1999, the UN General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The first IYD was observed in 2000.

Links:
https://www.un.org/en/observances/youth-day

World Tribal Day

Question:When is the World Tribal Day observed?
(a) August 10
(b) August 4
(c) August 9
(d) August 5
Answer: (c)
Related facts:

http://www.edristi.in/

- International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples or World Tribal Day is observed on August 9 every year from 1994.
- The day is aimed at promoting and protecting the rights of the world's indigenous population.
- 2020 Theme of the World tribal day is COVID-19 and Indigenous Peoples' Resilience.
- The date recognizes the first meeting of the United Nations Working Group on Indigenous Populations in Geneva in 1982.
- As a continuation of 2019 being observed as the Year of Indegenous Languages, this year the World Tribal Day celebrations are focussed on preservation and documentation of tribal languages.
- In Tamilnadu, anthropologists have identified more than 500 tribes with their own unique culture, way and view of life as well as dialects.
- Of these six – the Thodas, Paniyars, Kattunaickars, Irulas, Kurumbas and Kothars can be seen in the Nilgiris district that nestles in the Western Ghats.
- Linguistics departments in the South like University of Kerala, The Centre for Advanced Stufies Anmalai University as well as the Linguistics department of the Bharathiyar University Coimbatore have made efforts to collect, preserve and document these languages.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/News?title=World-Tribal-Day-being-observed-today&id=396845

<h1 style="text-align:center; color:#4a7ebb;">World Biofuel Day</h1>

Question:When is the World Biofuel Day observed?
(a) August 10
(b) August 4
(c) August 2
(d) August 5
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- World Biofuel Day is observed every year on 10th August.
- This day is observed to create awareness about the importance of non-fossil fuels as an alternative to conventional fossil fuels.
- There are three major areas of Biofuels- Ethanol, Bio-diesel and Biogas.
- This day also honors the research experiments by Sir Rudolf Diesel who ran an engine with peanut oil in the year 1893. His research experiment had predicted that vegetable oil is going to replace fossil fuels in the next century to fuel different mechanical engines.
- In India, World Biofuel Day is being celebrated by Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas since 2015.
- In 2020,a webinar on the occasion of the World Biofuel day was organized by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas, with the theme "Biofuels towards Atmanirbhar Bharat".

Links:
https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644755

<h1 style="text-align:center; color:#4a7ebb;">National Handloom day</h1>

http://www.edristi.in/

Question:When was the National Handloom day celebrated?
(a) August 7
(b) August 4
(c) August 2
(d) August 5
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

National Handloom Day is organised on August 7 by the Ministry of Textiles.

Year 2020 marks the 6th National Handloom Day beginning from 2015.

7th August was chosen as the National Handloom Day to commemorate the Swadeshi Movement which was launched on the same date in the year 1905.

The objective is to generate awareness about the Handloom Industry among the public and its contribution to socio-economic development.

On this occasion Textiles Minister Smriti Irani launched India's first Handloom Craft Village Sharan in Himachal Pradesh.

Further,ten handloom craft villages will be launched soon to promote local weaved products.

Links:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1644093

World Sanskrit Day

Question:When was the World Sanskrit Day 2020 observed?
(a) August 3
(b) August 4
(c) August 2
(d) August 5
Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- World Sanskrit Day, also known as Vishvasamskritadinam, was celebrated across the world on August 3 2020.
- This is an annual event aimed to promote revival and maintenance of Sanskrit.
- This day is celebrated on Shraavanapoornima, that is the Poornima day of the Shraavana month in the Hindu calendar.
- Samskrita Bharati,a non-profit Sanskrit organisation is involved in promoting the day.

Links:
http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=396382

International Tigers day

http://www.edristi.in/

Question:Consider the following statements regarding All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018:
(1) India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is 70 percent of the global tiger population.
(2) Among states, Karnataka topped the tiger estimation, with 526.
(3) Jim Corbett national park in Uttarakhand has the most number of tigers at 231.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 2 and 3
(c) 1 and 3
(d) 1 ,2 and 3
Answer:(c)

- **Context:**
- On the occasion of International Tigers day (July 29, 2020), Union Environment Minister released the All India Tiger Estimation Report-2018. The All India Tiger Estimation is undertaken every four years, the latest in 2018.
- **Key findings of the Report:**
- India's tiger population now stands at 2967 which is 70 percent of the global tiger population.
- Among states, MP topped the tiger estimation, with 526 (it had 308 last time), going past Karnataka (524 this time, 406 earlier). Uttarakhand remained on the third spot, with 442 tigers, up from 340 previously.
- Jim Corbett national park in Uttarakhand has the most number of tigers at 231. It is followed by Nagarhole (127) and Bandipur (126), both in Karnataka, Bandhavgarh in MP (MP) and Kaziranga in Assam (104 each).
- Jim Corbett is the only reserve with more than 200 tigers and has the highest tiger density in India at 14.
- Sohagi Barwa Wildlife Sanctuary, which used to be a non-tiger zone in UP, now has one tiger.
- In 1973 there were only 9 tiger reserves in the country, which has now gone up to 50.
- Nearly a third of India's tigers are living outside tiger reserves and nearly 17 of the 50 reserves are approaching the peak of their capacity at sustaining their populations.

link:

https://www.indiatoday.in/information/story/international-tiger-day-2020-date-significance-history-and-save-wildlife-quotes-1705524-2020-07-29

World Day Against Trafficking

QuestionConsider the following statements with respect to World Day Against Trafficking in Persons:
1) In 2017, the WHO designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
2) The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons will focus on the first responders to human trafficking.
Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (b)

- **Context:**
- The 2020 World Day Against Trafficking in Persons is being celebrated on July 30.
- **About:**
- In 2013, the United Nations designated July 30 as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons.
- **This year's theme:**
- The 2020 theme for the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons will focus on the first responders to human trafficking.
- These are the people who work in different sectors – identifying, supporting, counselling and seeking justice for victims of trafficking, and challenging the impunity of the traffickers.
- **NOTE:**
- The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), as guardian of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the Protocols thereto, assists States in their efforts to implement the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons (Trafficking in Persons Protocol).

Links:

https://www.un.org/en/events/humantrafficking/index.shtml#:~:text=Member%20States%20also%20adopted%20resolution,and%20protection%20of%20their%20rights.%E2%80%9D

Books

PM Modi greets people on Prakash Purab Utsav of 'Guru Granth Sahib'

Question:Consider the following with respect to Guru Granth Sahib:
(1) It is written in the Gurmukhi script, in various languages, including Lahnda, Braj Bhasha, Kauravi, Sanskrit etc
(2) Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, did not add any of his own hymns.
(3) The Adi Granth, its first rendition, was compiled by the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3 (c) 1 and 3 (d) 1,2 and 3
Answer:(d)

- Context:
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted people on the Prakash Purab Utsav of the holy book Guru Granth Sahib.
- About:
- The first Prakash Purab Utsav marked the installation of Guru Granth Sahib in Harmandir Sahib, also known as the Golden temple, in 1604.
- Guru Granth Sahib is the central religious scripture of Sikhs. It is regarded by Sikhs as the final, sovereign and eternal living Guru following the lineage of the ten human gurus of the religion.

- The Adi Granth, its first rendition, was compiled by the fifth Guru, Guru Arjan (1563–1606).
- Guru Gobind Singh, the tenth Sikh Guru, did not add any of his own hymns; however, he added all 115 hymns of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Sikh Guru, to the Adi Granth and affirmed the text as his successor. This second rendition became known as Guru Granth Sahib and is sometimes also referred to as Adi Granth.
- The Guru Granth Sahib is written in the Gurmukhi script, in various languages, including Lahnda, Braj Bhasha, Kauravi, Sanskrit, Sindhi, and Persian.

Link:

http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=397717#:~:text=Prime%20Minister%20Narendra%20Modi%20today,service%2C%20compassion%20and%20furthers%20harmony.

Miscellaneous

State Bank of India's research report – Ecowrap

Question : According to Ecowrap(State Bank of India's research report) real GDP of India likely to contract by —
(a) 10.9 per cent in financial year 2021 (b) 9.2 per cent in financial year 2021
(c) 8.7 per cent in financial year 2021 (d) 7.2 per cent in financial year 2021
Answer (a)
Related facts —

- 'Ecowrap' is released on 1 september 2020.
- It is a State Bank of India's research report.
- **Key findings**

- After the country's economy contracted by a record 23.9 per cent in April-June quarter, real GDP for FY21 is expected to shrink by 10.9 per cent.
- It had earlier estimated real gross domestic product (GDP) at (-) 6.8 per cent for the current fiscal.
- The first quarter GDP contraction compares with 3.1 per cent growth in the preceding January-March quarter and 5.2 per cent expansion in the same period a year back.
- It estimates Q2 real GDP decline in the range of (-) 12 per cent to (-) 15 per cent, while Q3 GDP is seen between (-) 5 per cent and (-) 10 per cent. Q4 is expected to be in (-) 2 per cent to (-) 5 per cent range.
- The report said the country's GDP growth plunged to 23.9 per cent in Q1 FY21 due to the nationwide lockdown imposed on March 25, 2020, in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and is much worse than market and its estimates.
- "Assuming that it remains at 57 per cent of GDP in nominal terms, we will see at least around 14 per cent decline in PFCE(private final consumption expenditure) growth in FY21, as against an average of 12 per cent growth for the nine-year period ended FY20," the report said.
- This indicates an average swing of 26 per cent in current fiscal indicating a consumption washout, it added.

Survey of Picodi.com

Question : Picodi.com is an international e-commerce platform that provides discount coupons.It surveyed that an average monthly wage of India is ——
(a)437 dollar (b)515 dollar (c)337 dollar (d)217 dollar
Answer (a)
Related facts

- With an average monthly wage of Rs 32,800 ($437), India has been ranked a lowly 72nd among 106 countries surveyed by Picodi.com, an international e-commerce platform that provides discount coupons.
- Switzerland topped the chart, according to a global ranking of average wages prepared by Picodi.com.
- Switzerland, where the average wage converted into rupees amounts to Rs 4,49,000 ($5,989), topped the ranking, while in Cuba the average wage is the lowest at Rs 2,700 ($36)
- Switzerland was followed by Luxembourg and the United States, whose citizens on an average earn Rs 3,00,900 ($4,014) and Rs 2,64,900 ($3,534), respectively
- Others in the top ten list include Denmark ($3,515), Singapore ($3,414), Australia ($3,333), Qatar ($3,232), Norway ($3,174), Hong Kong ($3,024) and Iceland ($2,844).
- India, with the average wage of Rs 32,800, outranked countries such as Kazakhstan (Rs 32,700), Brazil (Rs 26,000), or Egypt (Rs 16,400).
- Picodi.com analysis team looked into earnings in countries around the world and created a global ranking of average wages.

Link:
https://www.picodi.com/ph/bargain-hunting/average-wages

Report on Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments

Question : DSCI stands for —
(a) Data Security Council of India (b) Data Security Conference of India
(c) Data Settlement Council of India (d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Data Security Council of India (DSCI) and PayPal India, on Wednesday(26 August 2020) released a study report on Fraud & Risk Management in Digital Payments.
- The report attempts to discuss the sophisticated online payment fraud mechanisms, threats in the payment ecosystem, incorporating better fraud prevention strategies, role of upcoming technologies, and recommendations for various stakeholders involved in the payment ecosystem.

Key findings

Types of Frauds
E-Commerce frauds can be broadly categorised into:
Buyer side frauds – fraudulent claims, chargebacks, fake buyer accounts, promotion/coupon abuse, etc.
Merchant side frauds – selling counterfeit, non-fulfilment, etc.
Cyber security frauds – account takeover, identity theft, card detail theft, triangulation fraud, etc.

Key Challenges
Fraud detection, enforcement, investigation and legislative challenges
Lack of multilevel awareness
Cross-industry or expertise collaboration
Security is seen as a cost overhead and not essential investments by stakeholders
Privacy laws
Organised criminal involvement
Future Fraud Possibilities
Spoofing of Current fraud prevention & detection mechanisms which rely on control parameters like location information; device identifiers like IMEI, MAC address; goods/services identities like SKUs/Barcodes
Exploitation of supply chain vulnerabilities at system & human process interchange
Exploiting risk transfer controls like buyback, insurance settlement of earlier transactions

Link:
https://www.dsci.in/content/fraud-and-risk-management-in-digital-payments

Japan : Emergency loan for India to fight Covid-19 pandemic

Question : On which date Japan and India established diplomatic relations ?
(a) 28th April, 1952 (b) 28th April, 1962 (c) 28th April, 1972 (d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- Japan announced on Monday(31 August 2020) it will extend a emergency support loan of up to 50 billion yen (almost Rs 3,500 crore) to back India's response to the Covid-19 crisis, including implementation of health and medical policies and development of hospitals equipped with ICUs.
- Japanese ambassador Satoshi Suzuki, and CS Mohapatra, additional secretary in India's department of economic affairs exchanged notes regarding the provision of the yen loan for the response to the Covid-19 emergency.
- A statement issued by the Japanese embassy noted that the Indian government has taken several measures, including health sector reforms, in response to the spread of Covid-19. "This loan provides the necessary funds for emergency response in the fight against Covid-19 in India," it said.
- This is the largest amount of financial assistance announced by any country so far to support India's response to the Covid-19 crisis, which has had widespread impacts on the economy and health sector.
- The terms and conditions of the loan include an interest rate of 0.01% per annum and a redemption period of 15 years, including a four-year grace period.
- Suzuki and Mohapatra also exchanged notes for the provision of grant aid worth 1 billion yen under Japan's Official Development Assistance scheme for India's

Economic and Social Development Programme, which is being implemented by the health ministry.

- As of October 2019, the total number of Japanese companies registered in India is 1,454. The number has increased by 13 (0.9% growth), compared to 1,441 in 2018.
- The total number of Japanese business establishments in India, as of October 2019, is 5,022, a decrease by 80 (1.6% decline) as compared to 5,102 in 2018.
- West Bengal and Haryana showed the largest increase in the number of Japanese companies. There was a significant increase in the number of companies in such sectors as information and communications as well as services.

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1650053

Karnataka CM flags off Bengaluru to Solapur RORO train

Question:The maiden 'Roll On Roll Off' (RORO) train will be operated between Solapur and :
(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai (c) Bengaluru (d) Sikanderabad
Answer:(c)

Context:

- Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa flagged off first RORO train from Bengaluru to Solapur.
- **Facts:**
- The maiden 'Roll On Roll Off' (RORO) train between Bengaluru and Solapur in Maharashtra consists of open flat wagon on which trucks with goods are loaded.
- It will be operated by the South Western Railway (SWR).
- The train will take 17 hours to reach its final destination which is at a distance of about 682 kms.
- The train will run via Dharmavaram, Guntakal, Raichur and Wadi to reach Bale near Solapur in Maharashtra.
- Benefits:
- As many as 42 trucks with goods can be carried at time in this train. The RORO service reduces accidents on the road, improves safety, saves fuel, and foreign exchange.
- It ensures faster transport of essential goods, perishables, food items and smaller cargo.
- While it facilitates the large-scale movement of goods and reduces pollution, the cost of transport is lesser than transport by road.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/cm-flags-off-roro-train-from-bengaluru-to-solapur/article32478588.ece#:~:text=Chief%20Minister%20B.S.,trucks%20on%20open%20flat%20wagons.

NCPUL organises "World Urdu Conference" in New Delhi

Question:World Urdu Conference organised by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language is held in which city?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Mumbai (c) Lucknow (d) New Delhi
Answer:(d)

- Context:
- Union Education Minister addressed the inaugural session of the two days World Urdu Conference organised by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) in New Delhi(27-28 August,2020).
- Facts:
- The Education Minister also announced that Urdu writers and literators will be honoured with awards and honours in the name of important personalities of Urdu like Amir Khusrow, Mirza Ghalib, Agha Hashar, Ram Babu Saxena and Daya Shankar Naseem to encourage Urdu writers for literary and creative services by the Urdu Council from next year.
- The National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, Department of Secondary and Higher Education, Government of India.
- It was setup in 1996 as the National Nodal Agency for the promotion of the Urdu language.

Link:

Union Education Minister virtually addresses inaugural session of World Urdu Conference organised by National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language

GREAT ANDAMANESE TRIBE

Question:Consider the following with regard to Great Andamanese tribe:
(1) The Great Andamanese are one of three PVTGs that reside in the Andamans archipelago. (2) They speak Jeru among themselves.
Which is / are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- **Context:**
- Five members of the Great Andamanese tribe, a Particularly Vulnerable Tribal group (PVTG), have tested positive for COVID-19.
- **Facts:**
- The Great Andamanese are one of five PVTGs that reside in the Andamans archipelago and this is one of the first cases of COVID-19 infection among the endangered PVTGs of the region.
- The Great Andamanese, who number just 74, speak Jeru among themselves.
- The five PVTGS residing in Andamans are Great Andamanese, Jarawas, Onges, Shompens and North Sentinelese.

Link:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/covid-19-reaches-remote-great-andamanese-tribe-five-members-test-positive/article32453913.ece

http://www.edristi.in/

Walmart Inc. has teamed up with Microsoft Corp. in a joint bid to acquire TikTok

Question : Walmart Inc. has recently teamed up with Microsoft Corp. in a joint bid to acquire TikTok. TikTok, owned by China-based —
(a) ByteDance Ltd. (b) ByteRhythm Ltd. (c) ByteBounce Ltd. (d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

* Walmart Inc. has recently(August 2020) teamed up with Microsoft Corp. in a joint bid to acquire TikTok, a surprise move that signals the retail giant's desire to become a force in technology and media and reach younger shoppers.
* Walmart said in an emailed statement that the move could help grow its third-party online marketplace unit along with its nascent advertising arm, two areas that Chief Executive Officer Doug McMillon has said he'd like to expand.
* The two companies already work together, as Walmart uses Microsoft's Azure cloud platform across the entire company.
* Microsoft has been in discussions for weeks to buy TikTok's business in the U.S., Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Other companies have also emerged as potential bidders, including Oracle Corp. and Twitter Inc. It's unclear how far those discussions have gone.
* Microsoft is the only company to publicly confirm acquisition talks.
TikTok, owned by China-based ByteDance Ltd., is fielding interest in its operations in the U.S. and a handful of other countries.
* President Donald Trump recently ordered ByteDance to sell TikTok's U.S. assets within 90 days.

Link:
https://translate.google.co.in/#view=home&op=translate&sl=en&tl=hi&text=Read%20more%20at%3A%0Ahttps%3A%2F%2Feconomictimes.indiatimes.com%2Fnews%2Finternational%2Fbusiness%2Fwalmart-joins-microsoft-in-pursuit-of-deal-to-acquire-tiktok%2Farticleshow%2F77789208.cms%3Futm_source%3Dcontentofinterest%26utm_medium%3Dtext%26utm_campaign%3Dcppst

One-stop repository of India's land bank

Question : Commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal has recently launched a one-stop repository of the country's land bank comprising information on available and vacant plots, satellite view of terrain and heat maps on the natural resources there.Which one of the following statement is correct regarding Indian real estate industry ?
(a) FDI in the sector (includes construction development and construction activities) stood at US$ 42.50 billion from April 2000 to March 2020.
(b) FDI in the sector (includes construction development and construction activities) stood at US$ 22.50 billion from April 2000 to March 2020.
(c) FDI in the sector (includes construction development and construction activities) stood at US$ 32.50 billion from April 2000 to March 2020.
(d) FDI in the sector (includes construction development and construction activities) stood at US$ 12.50 billion from April 2000 to March 2020.

Answer (a)
Related facts

- In a move to make it easy for investors to identify sites for setting up manufacturing units, commerce and industry minister Piyush Goyal on Thursday(27 August 2020) launched a one-stop repository of the country's land bank comprising information on available and vacant plots, satellite view of terrain and heat maps on the natural resources there.
- The National GIS-enabled Land Bank system- a database of industrial areas and clusters across states- has information on more than 3,300 industrial parks across 31 states and UTs covering about 4.75 lakh hectare land.
- "Information available includes forest, drainage; raw material heat maps (agricultural, horticulture, mineral layers); multiple layers of connectivity", the commerce and industry ministry said in a statement, adding that the project is launched for six states with others likely to be onboarded by December.
- The portal will also have information related to champion sectors and high priority sectors under "Make in India" such as state and district wise net industrial land available, relevant contact details, traces the land available for investment, current external infrastructure geo-tagged such as road, rail, airport and dry port connectivity to all industrial hotspots.
- It added that states will identify products unique to each district to develop districts as export hubs, and integrate with their district level exports strategies which would then feed into the state level export strategies.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/ease-of-investment-one-stop-repository-of-indias-land-bank-launched/articleshow/77783625.cms

Axis Bank's Liberty Savings Account

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding Axis Bank's Liberty Savings Account ?
(A) It offers customers the option of maintaining a minimum balance of ₹25,000 per month or spending the same amount every month using the bank's debit card.
(B) It also provides a complimentary insurance cover of ₹20,000, which includes expenses incurred for covid-19-related hospitalization.
(C) The product is aimed at salaried professionals aged under 35.
(D) All above
Answer (D)
Related facts

- Axis Bank has recently(August 2020) launched a new savings account called the Axis Liberty Savings Account, aimed at millennial customers.
- It offers customers the option of maintaining a minimum balance of ₹25,000 per month or spending the same amount every month using the bank's debit card.
- It also provides a complimentary insurance cover of ₹20,000, which includes expenses incurred for covid-19-related hospitalization.
  A daily hospital cash cover of ₹20,000 for a year is available for hospitalization.
- The product is aimed at salaried professionals aged under 35.
- Liberty Saving Account customers can expect to earn similar interest rates as regular Axis Bank saving bank accounts offer.

Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens

QuestionConsider the following with respect to Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens :
(1) It is the third zoo in the country to house hunting cheetahs after Hyderabad zoo and Mysuru zoo.
(2) It has managed to get one male and two females from a cheetah conservation centre in South Africa under an animal-exchange programme.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (b)

Context:

- Mysuru zoo has become the second Indian zoo to house the African cheetah, the fastest land animal, as it managed to get one male and two females from a cheetah conservation centre in South Africa under an animal-exchange programme.
- **Facts**
- Sri Chamarajendra Zoological Gardens, popularly known as 'Mysuru Zoo', is one of the oldest zoos of the country established in 1892, by the erstwhile ruler of Mysuru Sri Chamarajendra Wadiyar Bahadur.
- Mysuru zoo is the second zoo in the country to house hunting cheetahs after Hyderabad zoo which has a pair of African Cheetah.

Link:

http://www.mysorezoo.info/html/news_events.php

Telangana Srisailam power plant fire

Question:Srisailam Dam recently seen in the news is constructed across which river?
(a) Cauvery (b) Mahanadi (c) Krishna (d) Godavari
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Nine people were killed after a massive fire swept through the Srisailam hydroelectric plant.
- Facts:
- The Srisailam Dam is constructed across the Krishna River in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh near Srisailam temple town.
- It is the 2nd largest capacity working hydroelectric station in the country.
- The dam was constructed in a deep gorge in the Nallamala Hills in between Kurnool and Mahabubnagar districts.

Link:

Aarogya Setu introduces 'Open API Service'

'Open API Service' has been launched by?
(a) Niti Aayog (b) Arogya Setu (c) e-NAM (d) e-Pathshala
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- Aarogya Setu has introduced 'Open API Service', a novel feature to help the people, businesses and the economy to return to normalcy.
- Facts:
- Aarogya Setu app has started a new technological solution in order to help businesses and the economy to start functioning while being safe.
- The new Open API Service will enable organizations to check the status of the Aarogya Setu app of their employees and integrate it into its various Work from Home features.
- The Open API Service of Aarogya Setu, addresses the risk of COVID-19 infections and will assist businesses and the economy to return to normalcy.The new service can be availed by organizations and business entities, which are registered in India with more than 50 employees. Organizations can easily check the health status of their employees on a real time basis using new technology.

Link:

Consumer Affairs Ministry launches online system for registration of jewellers

Question:Web portal 'www.manakonline.in' is launched by which ministry ?
(a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (b) Ministry of Finance
(c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs (d) Ministry of Earth Sciences
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- The Union Minister for Consumer Affairs launched the online system of Registration and Renewal of Jewellers and online system of recognition and renewal of the Assaying and Hallmarking Centres.
- Facts:
- This online system can be accessed through Bureau of Indian Standards web portal www.manakonline.in.

- These online modules will bring about ease of doing business for both the jewellers and the entrepreneurs who have established Assaying and Hallmarking Centres or wish to do so.
- Hallmarking of precious metals will be mandatory from 1st June 2021.
- With hallmarking of gold jewellery and artefacts becoming mandatory, the number of jewellers coming forward for registration is expected to go up 5 lakh from the present 31,000.now BIS Hallmark will be issued for three categories only. They are 14 carat (14K585), 18 (18K750) carat and 22 (22K916) carat only with A&H centre's identification mark/number and jewellers identification mark/number.

Link:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1647640

Online farm-to-fork service portal

Question : MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday(17 August 2020) launched an online farm-to-fork service VedKrishi.com promoted by farmers for selling non-toxic farm produce. The platform set-up by Nagpur-based farmer producer organization —
(a) VedKrishi Farmer Producer Company
(b) VedKheti Farmer Producer Company
(c) NityamKrishi Farmer Producer Company
(d) AtharvaKrishi Farmer Producer Company
Answer (a)
Related facts

- MSME Minister Nitin Gadkari on Monday(17 August 2020) launched an online farm-to-fork service VedKrishi.com promoted by farmers for selling non-toxic farm produce.
- The platform set-up by Nagpur-based farmer producer organization VedKrishi Farmer Producer Company.
- Company will home deliver grocery products including dairy goods, vegetables, grains, and pulses, apart from pickles, juices, sauces, etc.
- The company will connect farmers directly with consumers through the platform. Registered consumers would be able to schedule their order in advance for one year.
- Moreover, Vedkrishi will also support other farmers through consultation around best practices in organic farming.
  However, the online portal is not operational as of now and will take some time to launch services.
- For farmers, VedKrishi would offer advice on day-to-day farming issues and paid visits to Vedkrishi farms to "understand more about VedKrishi," the website read adding that it would also help in "sustainable income for farmers.
- The portal once operational will bear resemblance to other grocery portals like Grofers and BigBasket. Moreover, consumers would be able to know farmers they are buying goods from with details mentioned along with the product listed on the portal.

Google : 'The Anywhere School'

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding 'The Anywhere School' ?
(a) Infosys has launched 'The Anywhere School'
(b) Google has launched 'The Anywhere School' with over 50 new features
(c) Apple has launched 'The Anywhere School' with over 80 new features
(d) IBM has launched 'The Anywhere School' with over 80 new features
Answer (b)
Related facts

- As millions of students navigate learning from home, Google has announced a new initiative called The Anywhere School, bringing over 50 new features across Meet, Classroom, G Suite and other products to hundreds of thousands of viewers in more than 250 countries around the world.
- In September, the video-calling app Google Meet will have a larger tiled view of up to 49 people and an integrated Jamboard whiteboard for collaboration.
- The company said in a statement on Tuesday(11 August 2020) that it will also release new controls so moderators can choose to always join first, end meetings for all participants, disable in-meeting chat, and much more.
- In October, Google will launch custom and blurred backgrounds in Meet to provide some extra privacy.
- Teachers can now share a link to invite students to their class, which makes joining a class much easier.
- Classroom will soon be available in 10 additional languages, for 54 languages in total.

CCI : Acquisition of C&S Electric

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding acquisition of C&S Electric ?
(a) The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Ltd by Siemens Ltd.
(b) The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 49 per cent of the share capital of C&S Electric Ltd (C&S) by Siemens Ltd (Siemens India).
(c) At the time of closing of the proposed combination, the scope of business of C&S shall include high-voltage (HV) switchgear components and panels
(d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has recently(August 2020) approved proposed acquisition of C&S Electric Ltd by Siemens Ltd.

155

- The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100 per cent of the share capital of C&S Electric Ltd (C&S) by Siemens Ltd (Siemens India).
- At the time of closing of the proposed combination, the scope of business of C&S shall include low-voltage (LV) switchgear components and panels, LV and medium voltage (MV) power busbars as well as protection and metering devices of C&S.
- Other businesses of C&S, such as MV switchgear and package sub-station, lighting, diesel generating sets, engineering, procurement and construction business and the "Etacom" busbars business will be retained by the existing promoters of C&S.
- Siemens India focuses on the areas of power generation and distribution, intelligent infrastructure for buildings and distributed energy systems, automation and digitalization in the process and manufacturing industries.
- It also supplies smart mobility solutions for rail and road transport and infrastructure solutions for Smart Cities.

Link:
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/cci-approves-siemens-acquisition-of-cs-electric/article32404371.ece

Private firms employ more women in R&D

Question:Consider the following with respect to Vigyan Jyoti:
(1) It is an initiative of the Ministry of Education.
(2) It is aimed at creating a level playing field for the meritorious girls in high schools to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics(STEM) in higher education.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- Context:
- The Science and Technology Indicators (STI), 2018 has been released.
- Facts:
- STI: It is prepared by National Science and Technology Management Information System, a division of the Department of Science Technology,
- The report is based on data provided by a range of scientific establishments across the country.
- India's private sector research companies appear to employ a larger proportion of women in core research and development activities than government-funded major scientific agencies.
- Additional Facts:
- Vigyan Jyoti: It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology aimed at creating a level playing field for the meritorious girls in high schools to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics(STEM) in higher education.
- Gender Advancement for Transforming Institutions(GATI): It aims to develop a comprehensive charter and a framework for assessing gender inequality in STEM.
- Knowledge Involvement in Research Advancement through Nurturing(KIRAN): It is an initiative of the Ministry of Science and Technology that aims to bring gender parity in the Science & Technology sector by inducting more women talent in the research & development domain through various programmes.

156

Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurates the Thalassemia Screening and Counselling Centre at Indian Red Cross

Question:Consider the following statements regarding Thalassemia:
(1) It is inherited disorder of red blood cells and are not preventable.
(2) India has the largest number of children with Thalassemia major in the world.
(3) The only cure available for such children is bone marrow transplantation (BMT).
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 and 2
(b) 1 and 3
(c) 2 and 3
(d) 1,2 and 3
Answer:(c)

- Context:
- Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare inaugurated a Thalassemia Screening and Counselling Centre at Indian Red Cross Society's National Headquarters (IRCS NHQ) Blood Bank.
- Facts:
- Haemoglobinopathies, such as Thalassemia and sickle cell disease are inherited disorders of red blood cells and are preventable.
- In India, Thalassemia Major (TM) and the severe form of Thalassemia Intermedia (TI) constitute the major burden of disease.
- These Thalassemia syndromes are caused by inheritance of abnormal (beta) Thalassemia genes from both parents or abnormal beta-Thalassemia gene from one parent and abnormal variant haemoglobin gene (HbE, HbD) from the other parent.
- India has the largest number of children with Thalassemia major in the world, about 1 to 1.5 lakhs, and about 10,000 -15,000 children having Thalassemia major are born every year.

Death Valley just hit the highest temperature recorded ever

Question:Death Valley has registered a temperature of 54.4 degrees Celsius which could be the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth.What are the reasons for extreme Heat in Death Valley:
(1) Solar heating
(2) Trapping of warm air
(3) Warm mountain winds
(4) Migration of warm air from other areas
Which is/are correct?

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

- Context:
- Death Valley has registered a temperature of 54.4 degrees Celsius or 129.9 degrees Fahrenheit which could be the hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth.
- Facts:
- Death Valley: It is a desert valley in Eastern California,US in the northern Mojave Desert bordering the Great Basin Desert.
- It is one of the hottest places on Earth along with deserts in the Middle East and the Sahara.
- Reasons for extreme Heat in Death Valley:
- Solar heating: The valley's surface undergoes intense solar heating because the air is clear and dry and the land is dark and sparsely vegetated.This is especially noticeable in summer when the sun is nearly directly overhead.
- Trapping of warm air: Warm air naturally rises and cools.But in Death Valley this air is subject to continual reheating as it is trapped by high, steep valley walls and recycled back to the valley floor.Warm air also is trapped by the valley's north–south orientation which runs perpendicular to prevailing west-to-east winds.
- Migration of warm air from other areas (advection): Warm desert regions adjacent to Death Valley, especially to the south and east often heat air before it arrives in Death Valley.
- Warm mountain winds: As winds are forced up and over mountains (e.g. the numerous ranges west of Death Valley), the winds can be warmed in several ways.The resulting dry, warm winds are known as foehn winds.

Link:

https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/19/highest-recorded-temperature-ever-death-valley

Centre to launch projects for lion, dolphin conservation

Question:Consider the following with respect to India's Asiatic Lions:
(1) They are confined to Gir National Park and its surrounding environments in Gujarat's Saurashtra district.
(2) It has status of critically endangered in IUCN list.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(a)

- Context:
- Prime minister has announced the launch of Project Dolphin and Project Lion to protect these species in their natural habitat in a holistic manner.
- Facts:
- Project Lion:
- The project is aimed at conservation of India's Asiatic Lions.It will focus on habitat development, engaging technologies in lion management and addressing the issues of disease in lions.

- Aisatic Lion: They are confined to Gir National Park and its surrounding environments in Gujarat's Saurashtra district.
- IUCN Status: Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule-I
- CITES: Appendix I
- Project Dolphin:
- The project is aimed at the conservation of the Gangetic Dolphins – both riverine as well as the oceanic dolphins in India.
- Gangetic river dolphin: It is India's national aquatic animal found in parts of the Ganges, Meghna and Brahmaputra river systems in India, Nepal and Bangladesh.
- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972: Schedule I
- CITES: Appendix I.

Links:

https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646491#:~:text=Prime%20Minister%20Shri%20Narendra%20Modi,Project%20Lion%20and%20Project%20Dolphin.&text=The%20Union%20Minister%20also%20stated,landscape%20in%20a%20holistic%20manner.

Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card

Question:'Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card is laumched by which of the following banks?
(a) State Bank of India (b) ICICI Bank (c) Punjab National Bank (d) HDFC Bank
Answer:(d)

- **Context:**
- HDFC Bank launched 'Shaurya KGC (Kisan Gold Credit) Card', a loan product for the armed forces.
- **Facts:**
- A first-of-its-kind product for over 45 lakh Indian armed forces personnel, it is based on the Kisan Credit Card guidelines by the government, the lender said in a statement.
- The credit card comes with a life cover of Rs 10 lakh as against Rs 2 lakh for an average card.
- It will provide finance for agricultural requirements like production of crop, post-harvest maintenance and consumption needs. It can also be used to purchase farm machinery, irrigation equipment or construct storage structures.
- The tri-colour themed card is for Army, Navy, Air Force and para military forces.
- This is a part of the bank's 'Har Gaon Hamara' initiative.

Links:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/business/india-business/hdfc-bank-launches-shaurya-kgc-card-for-armed-forces-key-points/articleshow/77541810.cms#:~:text=NEW%20DELHI%3A%20HDFC%20Bank%20on,product%20for%20the%20armed%20forces.&text=The%20new%20product%20was%20launched,of%20India's%2074th%20Independence%20Day.

Price Monitoring and Resource Unit set up in Karnataka

Consider the following with respect to Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU):
(1) It has been set up in Tamil Nadu under the aegis Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.
(2) The primary function of PMRUs is to assist NPPA in monitoring of prices of drugs, ensuring availability of drugs and raising consumer awareness.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer:(b)

- **Context:**
- A Price Monitoring and Resource Unit (PMRU) has been set up in Karnataka under the aegis of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA), Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, Government of India.
- **Facts:**
- PMRU will function at the State level under the direct supervision of the State Drug Controller for increasing outreach of NPPA.
- PMRUs are societies registered under the Societies Registration Act having its own Memorandum of Association/ Bye laws.
- The Board of Governors of PMRU includes the representatives from Central Government and State Government concerned and other stakeholders.
- NPPA, under its Central Sector Scheme named Consumer Awareness, Publicity and Price Monitoring (CAPPM), has already set up of PMRUs in 12 States/ UTs. NPPA has plans to set up PMRUs in all the 36 States/ UTs. The expenses of PMRUs, both recurring and non-recurring are borne by NPPA under the Scheme.
- The primary function of PMRUs is to assist NPPA in monitoring of prices of drugs, ensuring availability of drugs and raising consumer awareness.

Links:

https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1645545#:~:text=Union%20Minister%20of%20Chemicals%20and,tweeted%20to%20announce%20the%20same.&text=PMRU%20will%20function%20at%20the,for%20increasing%20outreach%20of%20NPPA.&text=The%20expenses%20of%20PMRUs%2C%20both,by%20NPPA%20under%20the%20Scheme.

Organic Farming

QuestionConsider the following with respect to organic farming:
(1) India ranks first in number of organic farmers and in terms of area under organic farming.
(2) The organic e-commerce platform www.jaivikkheti.in is being strengthened for directly linking farmers with retail as well as bulk buyers.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 **(d) None of these**
Answer : (b)

- **Context:**

- Union Ministry of Agriculture informed about its initiatives and achievements in the field of organic farming.
- **Facts:**
- India ranks first in number of organic farmers and ninth in terms of area under organic farming.
- Sikkim became the first State in the world to become fully organic and other States including Tripura and Uttarakhand have set similar targets.
- With the aim of assisting farmers to adopt organic farming, two dedicated programs namely Mission Organic Value Chain Development for North East Region (MOVCD) and Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana (PKVY) were launched in 2015 to encourage chemical free farming.
- The organic e-commerce platform www.jaivikkheti.in is being strengthened for directly linking farmers with retail as well as bulk buyers.

Links:

http://agricoop.gov.in/divisiontype/rainfed-farming-system/programmes-schemes-new-initiatives

Aerospace engineering start-ups

Question : National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL)has joined hands to establish an Innovation cum Incubation Centre with external private funding to promote start-ups in the emerging area of Aerospace technologies. Which one of the following statement is correct regarding NAL ?
(a) It was established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) at Delhi in 1942
(b) its headquarters was later moved to Lucknow in 1960
(c) It is a high-technology oriented institution focusing on advanced disciplines in aerospace
(d) None of the above
Answer (c)
Related facts

- National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) and Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-National Aerospace Laboratories (CSIR-NAL) has recently(August 2020) joined hands to establish an Innovation cum Incubation Centre with external private funding to promote start-ups in the emerging area of Aerospace technologies.
- Under this program start-ups in the area of Aerospace engineering would be incubated, mentored and supported for product and prototype development and their validation.
- This partnership may pave a way for establishing Innovation cum Incubation Centres in other CSIR laboratories which are working in different thematic areas.
- This partnership will help to create employment opportunities to the youth of our country as it is the need of the hour.
- **National Aerospace Laboratories(NAL)**

- National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), is India's first largest aerospace firm.

- It was established by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) at Delhi in 1959 and its headquarters was later moved to Bangalore in 1960.
- It is a high-technology oriented institution focusing on advanced disciplines in aerospace.

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646878

Invisible shield for electromagnetic interference

Question : Scientists from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India have fabricated —
(a) Invisible shield for electromagnetic interference
(b) Power saver device for powerlooms (c) Environmental monitoring device
(d) None of the above
Answer (a)
Related facts

- H G Wells' 'Invisible Man' tweaked optical properties of the body to become invisible. Scientists have now achieved a similar feat by designing a metal mesh structure instead of continuous film on desired transparent substrates to make it a transparent shield for electromagnetic interference (EMI).
- Scientists from Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, an autonomous institute of the Department of Science & Technology, Govt. of India have recently(August 2020) fabricated these transparent and flexible EMI shields made of metal meshes using the crack templating method via spray coating which is pioneered in their laboratory.
- The invisible shield can be used in various military stealth applications and can cover electromagnetic wave emitter or absorber devices without compromising their aesthetics.
- The CeNS team has developed a copper metal mesh on polyethylene terephthalate (PET) sheet as its substrate, which exhibited a visible transmittance (T), a parameter of visible transparency of about 85% and sheet resistance (Rs) ~ 0.83 ohm per square.
- These transparent and flexible EMI shields made of metal mesh coatings on desired transparent substrate they have developed through their research published in the journal 'Bulletin of Materials Science' showed remarkably high values for total EMI shielding (SET), with the average value being ~ 41 dB over a wide spectral range of the Ku band (12 to 18 GHz).
- Instead of continuous film of metal (Cu) coating on any transparent substrate (glass, PET) where transparency can be compromised.
- In this method, the CeNS team has deposited metal mesh networks on the substrate, which covers only 7% area of substate, unlike 100% coverage of continuous film.
- This makes metal mesh transparent compare to continuous metal film. Metal mesh provides better electromagnetic shielding compare to same thickness of continuous metal film where transparency can be compromised.
- This metal mesh can be created on any desired substrates such as acrylic, polycarbonate, glass, etc. without compromising the conductivity of the electrodes.

- The team lead by Prof. G U Kulkarni, along with his co-workers from CeNS and industrial partner Hind High Vacuum (HHV) Pvt. Ltd. have set-up a semi-automated production plant funded by DST-Nanomission in CeNS-Arkavathi campus for production of transparent conducting glasses which shows the potential for transparent EMI shields as well.

Link:
https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1646583

European Union support to flood victims in South Asia

Question : Which one of the following statement is correct regarding European Union support to South Asian flood victims ?
(a) The European Union is providing 1.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
(b) The European Union is providing 13.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
(c) The European Union is providing 15.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
(d) The European Union is providing 18.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- The European Union on Tuesday(11 August 2020) said it is providing 1.65 million euro in humanitarian aid in response to severe flooding that has affected South Asia most notably Bangladesh, India and Nepal.
- The funding comes on top of the 1.8 million euro announced earlier this year to support families affected by a series of disasters, including Cyclone Amphan that ravaged India and Bangladesh in May.
- This brings the total EU support to victims of disasters in the region to 3.45 million euro, EU's European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO).
- A further 500,000 euro will be used in India to provide food and livelihood assistance, emergency relief supplies, and water and sanitation services.
- The funding is part of the EU's Acute Large Emergency Response Tool (ALERT). Measures to prevent the spread of the coronavirus will be incorporated in all programming.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/european-union-to-give-1-65-million-euro-to-support-victims-of-floods-in-south-asia/articleshow/77483346.cms?from=mdr

40 mm Under Barrel Grenade Launcher

Question : Which ammunition factory has recently sent the first consignment of 40 mm UBGL ammunition to the Border Security Force ?

(a)Ammunition factory khadki, Pune (b)Field gun factory, Kanpur
(c)Ordnance factory Dumdum (d)Ordnance factory Dehradun
Answer (a)
Related facts

- The Ammunition Factory, Khadki (AFK) handed over the first consignment of the indigenously-designed and manufactured 40-millimetre Under Barrel Grenade Launcher (UBGL) ammunition to the Border Security Force (BSF) on Tuesday(11 August 2020).
- The 40 mm UBGL ammunition is fired from a launcher, which is fitted under a rifle in the 5.56 mm INSAS.
- The trigger system of the launcher is fitted to the rifle in such a way that the soldier can fire both the rifle bullet and the grenade from the same posture.
- The launcher can fire the grenade up to a range of 400 metres.
- The advantages of 40 mm UBGL ammunition as against traditional hand grenade are that it is light weight, It can be fired by the same equipment by the soldier, and it is also a very safe ammunition for carrying by the soldiers.
- The ammunition is manufactured in four types: UBGL Practice, UBGL High Explosive Dual Purpose, UBGL High Explosive Anti Personnel, and UGBL Red Phosphorus.
- The 40 mm UBGL, whose ammunition was handed over on Tuesday, is one of the 101 items on the import embargo list of defence systems or platforms, announced by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh.

Link:
https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/pune/afk-hands-over-first-consignment-of-grenade-launcher-ammunition-to-bsf-6552160/

Papum Reserve Forest (RF)

Question:Papum Reserve Forest (RF) is located in which state?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Assam (c) Tripura (d) Manipur
Answer:(a)
Context:

- A study has flagged a high rate of deforestation in Papum Reserve Forest (RF), a major hornbill habitat in Arunachal Pradesh.
- **Facts:**
- Papum Reserve Forest (RF) is an Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas (IBAs) in Arunachal Pradesh.
- It is located between two IBAs, Itanagar Wildlife Sanctuary to the east and Pakke Wildlife Sanctuary to the west.
- Papum Reserve Forest forms part of the Eastern Himalayas Endemic Bird Area. A large part of the site is covered by Sub-tropical Dry Evergreen and Semi-evergreen Forests, while the higher areas are under Subtropical Broadleaf Hill Forest cover.
- Papum RF is a nesting habitat of three species of the large, colourful fruit-eating hornbills: Great, Wreathed and Oriental Pied. The 862 sq.km.

Links:

Eravikulam National Park

Question:Eravikulam National Park is situated in which state?
(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Maharashtra
Answer:(a)
Context:

- A massive landslide last week crushed a settlement of 83 tea estate workers in Munnar in Idukki, Kerala. The landslide happened on August 6 at Pettimudi, a hamlet in Rajamala ward under Munnar village panchayat in Kerala's Idukki district.
- **About:**

- Rajamala includes Eravikulam National Park, and the landslide was triggered from a shola forest region in the national park. Rocks, slurry and sludge crashed down a distance of around 1½ km to a patch of valley in Pettimudi, crushing the houses of estate workers.
- The location where the landslide was triggered has a 40° slope, and any slope above 20° is vulnerable to slipping during heavy rain. The soil has a high content of sand, which absorbs more water, takes a loose form, and is at risk of slipping down.
- **Previous landslides:**
- 2019: 59 persons died in Kavalappara, Malappuram. In Puthumala, Wayanad, another landslide killed 17.
- 2018: In various landslides in Idukki, 60 died. Elsewhere, a landslide in Thamarassery, Kozhikode killed 14, and another in Kurancheri, Thrissur killed 1.

Links:

https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/many-killed-in-munnar-mishap/article32291655.ece

Kozhikode plane crash

QuestionConsider the following with respect to The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99)?
(1)MC99 is designed to be a single, universal treaty to govern nuclear liability around the world.
(2)The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99) establishes nuclear liability in the case of death or injury to the people of country by another country.
Which is/are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these
Answer : (d)
Context:

The crash of the Air India Express plane at Kozhikode on August 7 could make the airline liable to pay compensation of Rs 1.19 crore per passenger in case of death or bodily injury, according to the charter of passenger rights notified by the Central government in February last year.

Facts:

As per the charter of passenger rights for air travellers, the compensation is calculated based on payment of damages of up to 1,13,100 Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), or around Rs 1.19 crore, for international flights.

The limits of liability during international flights for airlines have been defined under The Carriage By Air (Amendment) Act of 2016, based on India's adoption of the Montreal Convention in 2009, which unifies rules governing compensation to passengers globally.

The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99)?

The Montreal Convention 1999 (MC99) establishes airline liability in the case of death or injury to passengers, as well as in cases of delay, damage or loss of baggage and cargo. MC99 is designed to be a single

Links:

https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/air-india-express-kozhikode-kerala-plane-crash-compensation-passengers-6549921/#:~:text=The%20crash%20of%20the%20Air,the%20Central%20government%20in%20February

Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria district,Bangladesh

Question : In a significant decision, Bangladesh has decided to construct a monument for the Indian soldiers who died in —
(a)1971
(b)1976
(c)1968
(d)1962
Answer : (a)
Related facts —

- In a significant decision, Bangladesh has decided to construct a monument for the Indian soldiers who died in 1971 during the country's struggle for independence from Pakistan.
- Bangladesh War Liberation Minister Mozammel Haque made the announcement on Friday(7 August 2020).
- This comes amid Dhaka's push to reinforce ties with India notwithstanding recent efforts by Beijing and Islamabad to woo it.
- **Place**
- The Hasina government has selected 3.5 acres in Ashuganj of Brahmanbaria district, bordering Tripura, due to its significance in the Liberation War of 1971.

- Indian army fought some decisive battles with the Pakistan Army in 1971 along with Bangladeshi freedom fighters in Ashuganj.
- Bangladesh has a National Memorial on the outskirts of Dhaka for all 1971 martyrs, but the proposed one is meant for Indian soldiers alone.
- Bangladesh had earlier felicitated Indian soldiers and veterans, and posthumously honoured former prime minister Indira Gandhi and several other distinguished Indians for their role in the Liberation War.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/bangladesh-to-construct-standalone-war-memorial-for-indian-soldiers-killed-by-pak-in-1971/articleshow/77446371.cms

Infosys Finacle

Question : Which bank selects Infosys Finacle for transformation of transaction banking business ?
(a) National Bank of Bahrain (b) National Bank of Qatar
(c) National Bank of Kuwait (d) National Bank of Saudi Arabia
Answer : (a)
Related facts

- National Bank of Bahrain and Infosys Finacle recently(August) announced the bank's decision to adopt the Finacle Cash Management Suite to digitally transform its transaction banking business.
- NBB will be implementing the Finacle Liquidity Management Platform, and upgrading its existing Finacle Corporate Online Banking platform to a full-fledged Digital Engagement Suite – with the latest versions of the Finacle Corporate Online and Mobile Banking solutions, along with the Finacle Digital Engagement Hub.
- Finacle is a core banking product developed by the Infosys that provides universal Digital banking functionality to banks.
- In August 2015, Finacle became part of EdgeVerve Systems Limited, a wholly owned product subsidiary of Infosys.

Link:
https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-cm/national-bank-of-bahrain-selects-infosys-finacle-for-transformation-of-transaction-banking-business-120080400356_1.html

Microorganism decontamination box : Suraksha

Question : CSIO stands for —
(a) Central Scientific Instruments Organisation
(b) Council of Scientific Instruments Organisation
(c) Central Scientific Ideology Organisation
(d) None of the above
Answer : (a)
Related facts

http://www.edristi.in/

- Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), along with AMESYS INDIA has been developed a microorganism decontamination box.
- The decontamination device has been named as 'Suraksha'.
  UVC light and heat are used in the box.
- It can sanitize an object in 10-15 minutes. People can decontaminate their belongings like wallet, keys, mobile, masks and any other thing.
  Decontamination box is developed by AMESYS INDIA and designed by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)-CSIO.
- This box is useful for places like home, barber shops, restaurants and hospital units.

Link:
https://www.csio.res.in/home.php
https://www.dnaindia.com/india/video-covid-19-csio-amesys-india-develops-decontamination-box-suraksha-2834725

India's 1st DGCA-approved drone training school

Question : Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding Bombay Flying Club ?
(a) The Bombay Flying Club has become the first DGCA-approved drone training school of the country
(b) In an order dated July 20, the DGCA approved the club's application "for conducting remote pilot training for remotely piloted aircraft systems".
(c) The ministry has started from June 8 the registration process for non-compliant drones which were not registered with DGCA and have not been granted DANs.
(d) DANs stands for — Drone Alignment Numbers
Answer : (d)
Related facts

Context

- The Bombay Flying Club has become the first DGCA-approved drone training school of the country, the Civil Aviation Ministry said Monday(27 July 2020).
- In an order dated July 20, the DGCA approved the club's application "for conducting remote pilot training for remotely piloted aircraft systems".
- However, it said the club will have to fulfill certain conditions regarding aerial photography, safety, insurance and take clearances from local administration, the Defence Ministry, the Home Ministry, the Indian Air Force and the Airports Authority of India.
- **DANs**

- The ministry has started from June 8 the registration process for non-compliant drones which were not registered with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) and have not been granted drone acknowledgement numbers (DANs).

- **Registered drones**

- It gave a similar one-time opportunity for voluntary disclosure of such drones between January 14 and January 31. A total of 19,553 non-compliant drones were registered during this period.

- On June 5, the ministry had issued draft rules for manufacturing and use of drones in the country wherein it has proposed that an authorised drone manufacturer or importer can sell its devices only to an individual or entity approved by the DGCA.
- It will issue the final rules once it deliberates on comments received from the stakeholders on draft rules.

Link:
https://www.business-standard.com/article/current-affairs/bombay-flying-club-country-s-first-dgca-approved-drone-training-school-120072800042_1.html

Robotic Solution Delivery Facility

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding robotic solution delivery facility ?
(a) ABB opened this new facility in Bengaluru
(b) It supports the digital transformation of manufacturing in India
(c) The facility houses a state-of-the-art shop floor that can run proof of concepts and factory acceptance tests for 1,000 ABB robots every year
(d) All above
Answer : (d)
Related facts

- Engineering major ABB India on Friday(31 July 2020) said that it has opened a new robotics facility to support the digital transformation of manufacturing in India.
- The new ABB robotics solutions delivery facility will enable Indian customers to reap the benefits of Industry 4.0 including cutting-edge robotics and digitalisation technologies to help India become a resilient high-tech manufacturing economy in the world.
- Spread over 3,600 sq mt at the ABB Nelamangala factory premises in Bengaluru, the new facility will enable ABB India to deliver robotic applications and digital solutions for a variety of Indian industries, including automotive, food and beverage, electronics and other upcoming sectors.
- The facility houses a state-of-the-art shop floor that can run proof of concepts and factory acceptance tests for 1,000 ABB robots every year, which doubles the company's capacity.
- The facility includes a demonstration center where the latest technologies in robotic welding, gluing and material handling will be showcased and can be used to carry out joint prove-out sessions with customers.
- ABB will also integrate an ABB AbilityTM Connected Services team that can remotely monitor an installed base of ABB robots to conduct predictive maintenance and high uptime.
- The ABB is one the leading suppliers of robot, robot systems and machine and factory automation solutions, having shipped over 4,00,000 robot solutions across the globe.

Link:
https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/indl-goods/svs/engineering/digital-transformation-abb-india-opens-new-robotic-solution-delivery-facility-in-bengaluru/articleshow/77280040.cms

http://www.edristi.in/

World's largest virtual fintech event

Question : Which of the following statement is incorrect regarding World's largest virtual fintech event ?
(a)FCC, NPCI & PCI were the host of event
(b)FCC stands for — Fintech Convergence Council
(c)NPCI stands for — National Payments Council of India
(d)PCI stands for — Payments Council of India
Answer : (c)
Related facts

- World's largest Global Fintech Fest held virtually on 22 July 2020.
  FCC, NPCI & PCI were the host of event.
- The key aim of the Global Fintech Fest is to restate India's leadership in post Covid-19 world.
- **FCC**

- Fintech Convergence Council (FCC) is formed under Internet and Mobile Association of India(IAMAI).
- IAMAI is a young & vibrant association with ambitions of representing the entire gamut of digital businesses in India.
- **NPCI**

- The National Payments Corporation of India is an umbrella organisation for operating retail payments and settlement systems in India.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI), enabling digital payments and settlement systems in India, is an initiative of RBI and IBA.
- **PCI**

- The Payments Council of India was formed under the aegis of IAMAI in the year 2013 catering to the needs of the digital payment industry.
- It is an apex non-governmental body representing companies in payments and settlement system.

Link:
https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/money-and-banking/fcc-npci-to-host-worlds-largest-virtual-fintech-event/article32152181.ece#

JV for manufacturing bitumen

Question : Which of the following statement is correct regarding IOC & TOTAL Joint-Venture ?
(a)This is a 50:50 joint venture
(b) The new JV will combine the R&D and marketing strengths of both IOC and Total to manufacture and market innovative bitumen
(c) The joint venture company will set up manufacturing units across the World.
(d)Only (a) & (b)
Answer : (d)
Related facts —

Context

- French energy giant Total SA and the country's top oil firm Indian Oil Corp (IOC) on Monday(27 July 2020) announced a 50:50 joint venture to manufacture and market high-quality bitumen derivatives and specialty products for the growing road-building industry in India.
- The new JV will combine the R&D and marketing strengths of both IOC and Total to manufacture and market innovative bitumen formulations and superior quality products such as polymer-modified bitumen, crumb rubber modified bitumen, bitumen emulsions and other specialty products.
- The joint venture company will set up manufacturing units across the country with cost-effective logistics solutions, keeping innovation, safety, and sustainability at the helm of its operations.
- The JV will also explore possibilities to cater to other South Asian markets.
- **Background**

- The government has a strong focus on developing the country's road infrastructure with mega projects like 'Bharatmala' which envisages the development of 34,800 kms of roads at an estimated investment of over Rs 5 lakh crore in the first phase.

Link:
https://auto.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/indian-oil-frances-total-form-jv-to-make-superior-quality-bitumen/77213434