

NAVATRA

Monthly Magazine on Current Events

Vol. - 4 >>> Issue - 12 >>> June, 2021



43rd GST Council Meeting



INS Rajput Decommissioned



Italian Open 2021



UNITED NATIONS



NITI Aayog

SDG INDIA

Index & Dashboard 2020-21



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 May to 31st May) 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.

NITI Aayog Sustainable Development Goals India Index 2021

Question : Which state has topped the list of NITI Aayog's Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) India Index version 3.0 report launched on 3rd June 2021?

a) Kerala b) Karnataka c) Maharashtra d) Bihar

Ans: a

Context



- NITI Aayog has released the third edition of the SDG India Index and Dashboard 2020–21 on 3rd June 2021.
- **Background**
 - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were set up in 2015 by the United Nations General Assembly and are intended to be achieved by the year 2030. These are 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all”.
 - In federal set up of India ,States and UTs are the key partner and mover in achieving these goals for better sustainable future for the country.
 - NITI Aayog, as the nodal institution for SDGs, has striven to provide necessary encouragement and support to forge collaborative momentum among them.
 - NITI Aayog launched the SDG India Index & Dashboard in collaboration with United Nations in 2018 as a tool to bring SDGs clearly and firmly into the policy arena in our States and UTs.
- **What is the Significance of the Index?**
 - Index is a data-driven initiative to rank our States and Union Territories by computing a composite index on the SDGs.
 - It measure progress of the States and UTs and provide inputs for evidence-driven action towards the attainment of SDGs, while instilling a tremendous spirit of competition among our sub-national constituents.
 - It provides a focused policy dialogue, formulation and implementation of these policies through development actions, in line with the global SDG framework. It helps in identifying crucial gaps related to tracking the SDGs and the need for India to develop its statistical systems.
 - Index & Dashboard, launched in 2018 and 2019 have highlighted gaps in the national and sub-national statistical systems and put the much-needed stress on robust SDG monitoring and review both at national and at sub-national level of governance.
- **SDG India Index 2021 / SDG India Index Version 3.0**
 - Like the previous editions this edition has also been prepared by NITI Aayog in collaboration with United Nations. It also measures the progress achieved thus far and still things that are needed to be done to achieve SDG 2030 goals.
 - In this 3rd edition index covers 16 Goals on 115 quantitative indicators, with a qualitative assessment on Goal 17 which is about “partnerships for the goals.” This is why theme of this year index is “Partnerships in the Decade of Action”.
- **Methodology Followed**
 - A composite score for SDG Index (2019) was computed in the range of 0–100 for each State/UT based on its aggregate performance across 16 SDGs.

- The higher the score of a State/UT, the closer it is towards achieving the 2030 national targets.
- States /UTs are classified based on the SDG India Index Score as follows:
- **Aspirant: 0–49**
Performer: 50–64
Front Runner: 65–99
Achiever: 100
- **Rankings**
States:
 - Kerala has the top rank with a score of 70 followed by Himachal Pradesh with 69 points. Further, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana shared the third spot with each state scoring 67 on the Index.
 - Bihar has emerged as the worst performer with the lowest score of 50. Jharkhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Uttar Pradesh are also some of the worst-performing states on the index.
 - Uttar Pradesh has shown maximum improvement followed by Odisha and Sikkim.
- **Union Territories:**
 - Chandigarh has topped the list with the score of 70 followed by Puducherry with 66.
 - At national level India's composite score improved from 57 in 2018 to 60 in 2019-20 with major success in water and sanitation, power and industry.

Reference: https://niti.gov.in/writereaddata/files/SDG_3.0_Final_04.03.2021_Web_Spreads.pdf

43rd GST Council meet

Question: Who chaired the meet of 43rd GST Council in the month of May 2021?

- a) Nirmala Sitharaman b) Amitabh Kant
c) Shaktikant Das d) Amit Shah

Answer : (a)

Context

- 43rd meet of GST Council was organised virtually on May 28, 2021 and finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman chaired the meet.

Facts

Key Highlights of 43rd GST Council Meeting

- The council has decided to exempt import of relief items and is being extended till October 31, 2021.
- The Council decided to keep the GST rate of 5% as it is on COVID vaccines.
- The import of medicine for black fungus, that is Amphotericin B, has also been included in the exempted category.
- The import of Covid-related relief items, even if purchased or meant for donating to government or to any relief agency upon recommendation of state authority, to be exempted from IGST till August 31, 2021.



- Amnesty scheme: To provide relief to small taxpayers, an Amnesty scheme has been recommended for reducing late fee payable by small taxpayers & medium-sized taxpayers.
- The Amnesty Scheme is recommended to benefit 89% GST Taxpayers.
- The rationalization of Late fee for Small Taxpayers to be applicable to future liabilities.
- The taxpayers can now file their pending returns and avail the benefits of this Amnesty scheme with reduced late fees.
- The maximum amount of late fee has been also reduced and will come into effect from future tax periods.
- Annual Return Filings under GST: The Annual Return filing will continue to be optional for FY 2020-21 for small taxpayers, having a turnover less than Rs 2 crores while reconciliation statements for 2020-21 will be furnished only by those taxpayers whose turnover is Rs 5 crores or more.
- Session on Compensation cess: A special session dedicated to compensation cess collection beyond July 2022 will be convened.
- The centre to borrow Rs 1.58 lakh crore to meet states' compensation demand this fiscal.
- New rates in exemptions: Group of ministers to be formed quickly, who will examine need for further reductions & decide on any new rates in exemptions and will submit the report on reduction of rates on COVID-related items by June 8, 2021.

Reference: <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/key-takeaways-from-the-43rd-gst-council-meet/articleshow/83033518.cms>

Goa Statehood Day

Question: On which date was Goa conferred statehood ?

A. 30 May 1987 B. 30 May 1962 C. 30 May 1968 D. 30 May 1964

Answer – (A)

Related facts

- On 30 May 1987 Goa was conferred statehood and Daman and Diu was made a separate union territory.
- Goa is the smallest state in India by area and the fourth smallest by population.
- Brief History of Goa
- The Portuguese ruled Goa for nearly 450 years. After the independence of India, when the Portuguese were asked to hand over Goa to India, they refused it.
- But India was liberated on 19 December 1961 through Operation Vijay and it was made a union territory with Daman and Diu.



Link:

https://m.timesofindia.com/entertainment/events/goa/goa-statehood-day-special-searching-for-aparanta/amp_articleshow/83081390.cms#aoh=16223967306812&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&tf=From%20%251%24s

Ladakhgets Centre's nod for transmission lines

Question: Ladakh recently gets Centre's nod for transmission lines at revised cost of —

A. Rs1,310crore B. Rs1,610crore C. Rs1,000crore (d) None of the above

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- Ladakh has recently (May 2021)got Centre's nod for transmission lines at revised cost of Rs 1,310 crore.
- These transmission lines will link far-flung villages of Ladakh to the grid and phase out DG sets towards achieving carbon neutrality in the Union Territory.
- The project on completion would also provide the army and the far-flung villages with clean power round the clock.
- The DPR cost of the projects has been revised from Rs 354.74 crore to Rs 1,309.71 crore by the Central Electricity Authority.



Link:

https://wap.business-standard.com/article-amp/current-affairs/ladakh-gets-centre-s-nod-for-transmission-lines-at-cost-of-rs-1-310-cr-121052900415_1.html

Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana (RGKNY)

Question:How much amount of subsidy is provided under RGKNY scheme ?

A. Rs 9,000 per acre B. Rs 8,000 per acre C. Rs 7,000 per acre
D. Rs 6,000 per acre

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- The Chhattisgarh government has recently(May 2021) announced that registration will be mandatory to benefit from its flagship Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana.
- A sum ofRs9,000peracre of subsidy is provided under this scheme.
- According to the Agriculture Development, Farmers' Welfare and Bio Technology Department, an online registration has to be done on <https://rgkny.cg.nic.in> from June 1 to September 30 to get the government's assistance in the form of input subsidy.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/registration-mandatory-for-rg-kisan-nyay-yojana.html>

‘Covid-Kavach’ a herbal products gift hamper

Question : Which state's CM launched 'Covid-Kavach' on May 29, 2021 ?

A. Chattisgarh B. Bihar C. MP D. UP

Answer (a)

Related facts

- Chattisgarh CM launched 'Covid-Kavach' on May 29, 2021.
- It is a gift hamper of herbal products which will act as immunity boosters.
- The 'Covid-Kavach' has organic Bastar cashewnut, wild forest honey, green tea, Gooseberry (amla) candy, tamarind candy, Gooseberry digestive (amla pachak), chironji dana (Seeds), herbal soap and face-pack made from herbal ingredients.
- Day of distribution
- It will be distributed to participants during the 'International Day of Yoga' on June 21.
- The gift hamper is expected to be distributed in New York by the Indian embassy.
- It will be distributed to different embassies based at New Delhi.
- Role of TRIFED
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation (TRIFED), India, selected the gift hamper with herbal products as part of an agreement reached with Indian embassies.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/cm-launches---covid-kavach---a-herbal-products-gift-hamper.html>

New Consulate General of India in Maldives

Question: In which country India has approved opening its Consulate General?

(a) Maldives (b) Philippines (c) Indonesia (d) Madagascar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 25 May 2021, Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the opening of a new Consulate General of India in Addu City, Maldives.
- This will help augment India's diplomatic presence in Maldives and make it commensurate with the existing and aspired level of engagement.
- The move will provide feasible market access to Indian companies and bolster Indian exports of goods and services.
- India and Maldives share ethnic, linguistic, cultural, religious and commercial links steeped in antiquity.
- Maldives occupies an important place in the 'Neighbourhood First Policy' and the 'SAGAR' (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision of the Government of India.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1721500>

Mohali international hockey stadium renamed

Question: Which Hockey Stadium in India has been named after legendary hockey player Balbir Singh Senior?

(a) Aishbagh (b) Mohali (c) Rajnandgaon (d) Kollam

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- The Punjab Government announced to rename the Mohali International Hockey Stadium, after three-time Olympic gold medallist Balbir Singh Senior.
- The stadium will now be known as Olympian Balbir Singh Senior International Hockey Stadium.
- Punjab Government also announced a scholarship scheme in the legend's name for meritorious hockey players of the state.
- Balbir Singh Sr is a three-time Olympics champion, having played a key role in India's wins in London (1948), Helsinki (1952) (as vice captain), and Melbourne (1956) (as captain) Olympics..
- He was the first sports personality to be honoured with the Padma Shri award in 1957.
- Punjab Government conferred him the Maharaja Ranjit Singh Award in 2019.

**Links:**

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/sports/mohali-international-hockey-stadium-renamed-after-balbir-singh-senior-258606#:~:text=After%20a%20one%20year%20wait,Singh%20Senior%20International%20Hockey%20Stadium.>

IIT Ropar develops unique detector FakeBuster

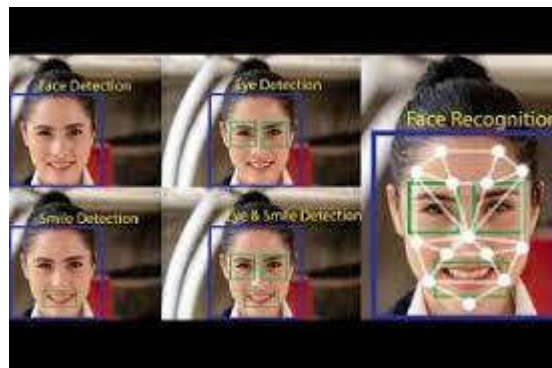
Question: Which institute has developed a unique detector FakeBuster to identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge?

(a) IIT Ropar (b) IIT Kanpur (c) IIT Roorkee (d) IIT Guwahati

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Ropar and Monash University, Australia have developed a detector named 'FakeBuster' to identify imposters attending a virtual conference without anybody's knowledge.



- It can also find out faces manipulated on social media to defame or make a joke of someone.
- This software platform is independent of video conferencing solutions and has been tested with Zoom and Skype applications.
- The Deepfake detection tool-'FakeBuster' works in both online and offline modes. It uses a 3D convolutional neural network for predicting video segment-wise fakeness scores.
- It is a form of artificial intelligence which seamlessly stitches anyone in the world into a video or photo they never actually participated in.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1719821>

Launching of mobile vaccination vans

Question : Which state has been launched mobile vaccination vans in the backdrop of Covid-19 pandemic ?

a. Jharkhand b. MP c. UP d. Rajasthan

Ans. a.

Related facts

- A special mobile vaccination campaign of the Jharkhand government has recently(May 2021) been started to protect people against Covid-19.
- Health Minister, Banna Gupta started it from the Jawahar Nagar Club Complex in Ranchi.
- He flagged off two Covid-19 security vehicles.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/health-minister-launches-mobile-vaccination-vans.html>

KIIT University

Question : What is the recent achievement of the KIIT Univ architecture school ?

- a. ranked 4th nationally by the GHRDC, New Delhi
- b. ranked 6th nationally by the GHRDC, New Delhi
- c. ranked 7th nationally by the GHRDC, New Delhi
- d. ranked 8th nationally by the GHRDC, New Delhi

Ans. a.

Related facts

- The School of Architecture & Planning, KIIT University, has recently(May 2021) been ranked 4th nationally by the Global Human



Resource Development Centre (GHRDC), New Delhi.

- The KIIT School of Architecture & Planning (KSAP) is at present offering a five-year degree course in Architecture. There is a proposal to start the Master Degree Programme in Urban Planning in the coming years.
- GHRDC being highly research- based organization, has been the pioneer in starting the concept and practice of rating and ranking B-Schools from the very inception of its organization and has since (1998) been involved in rating and ranking of B- Schools in India.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/kiit-univ-architecture-school-ranked-4th.html>

Prevention of Anti-Social Activity (PASA) Act in Lakshadweep

Question: Consider the following statements:

- i) **Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA) act was introduced in January 2021 in the UT of Lakshadweep. According to it, person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.**
- ii) **Praful Patel is current administrator of UT of Lakshadweep.**

Which of the above are correct?

- a) I b) ii c) i and ii both d) none

Ans: c

Context

- Praful Khoda Patel, the administrator of UT of Lakshadweep is facing severe criticism and opposition from the people of Lakshadweep and various national civil society for some of the regulations that he has passed recently using the power under article 240 of constitution.
- **Facts**
 - The draft Lakshadweep Development Authority Regulation 2021
 - It was passed recently to provide for development of Lakshadweep icelands.
 - The Regulation provides several provisions for the development of townships, acquisition, alteration, and transfer of the landed properties owned by the local people. Further, it proposes to impose restrictions on the use of landed properties in Lakshadweep.
 - People of Lakshadweep are opposing this regulation terming it undemocratic and against their interest.
- **Prevention of Anti-Social Activities Act (PASA)**
 - This act was introduced in January 2021. According to it, person can be detained without any public disclosure for a period of up to one year.
- **Article 240 of the Constitution**



- Under this article President of India has power to enact any regulation for the peace, progress and good government of any Union Territory in India.
- The power under article 240 is so vast that president can amend or repeal any law made by parliament for any union territory.
- Further any regulation made under this will have same effect as law made by parliament.
- President performs these functions by appointing an administrator for Lakshadweep under article 239 of constitution.

Reference: <https://www.livelaw.in/columns/lakshadweep-development-authority-regulation-2021-rehabilitation-and-resettlement-act-2013-174773>

Guardian Ministers

Question: Which state government has recently announced the appointment of 'Guardian Ministers' in the state?

a) Assam b) Kerala c) Punjab d) Nagaland

Ans: a

Context

- On 27th May 2021 Assam government announced the appointment of 'Guardian Ministers' for districts in the state of Assam.
- **Facts**
 - These Guardian Ministers, each a minister of Hemant Biswa Sarma Cabinet, have been given the responsibility of 2-3 districts to take stock of welfare schemes, implementation of infrastructure projects etc.
 - They will not involve directly in the administration and with people of district but will be responsible for administration in the districts under their charge.
 - The guardian ministers will be assigned with a secretary each and both will have to visit their districts at least once a month.
 - They will also have to visit the districts during emergency situations.



Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/assam-appoints-guardian-ministers-for-its-various-dists-101622023273389.html>

Kerala's new Smart Kitchen Scheme

Question: Which of the following statements regarding Kerala's new Smart Kitchen Scheme are correct:

- Smart Kitchen Scheme will be launched by June 10, 2021.
- A 3 member secretary level committee will form the guidelines for the implementation of scheme by July 10, 2021.
- Under the scheme, loans will be provided to the women of state to refurbish their kitchen.

- a) only I b) ii and iii c) all of the above
d) none of the above



Ans: b
Context

- On 26th May , 2021 Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan , announced that a 3 member secretary level committee will form the guidelines for the implementation of Smart Kitchen scheme by July 10, 2021.
- **Facts**
- Scheme will be launched by July 10, 2021.
- It was announced as election promise by the LDF party in its manifesto.
- Under the scheme, women of state will be given loan with a low-interest rate in instalment to refurbish their kitchen.
- Scheme seeks to reduce workload of women's domestic labour.

Reference: <https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/kerala-cm-says-guidelines-for-smart-kitchen-scheme-to-be-ready-by-july20210527103405/>

PM Modi addressed Virtual Vesak Global Celebrations on Buddha Purnima

Question: Which organisation/organizations has organised the Vesak Global Celebration on Buddha Purnima?

- a) Ministry of Culture, Government of India b) NITI Aayog
c) International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) d) None of the above

Ans: a and c both

Context

- PM Narendra Modi addressed the Virtual Vesak Global Celebration on 26th May 2021 on the occasion of Buddha purnima .
- **Facts**
- Event was organised by Culture Ministry in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- Event saw the participation of all the supreme heads of the Buddhist Sanghas from around the world.
- Over 50 most prominent Buddhist religious leaders from around the world addressed the congregation.
- Buddha Purnima is celebrated to mark the birth of Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism.
- It is considered a 'triple-blessed day' – as Tathagata Gautam Buddha's birth, enlightenment, and Maha Parnirvana.



Reference: <https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-modi-to-address-virtual-vesak-global-celebrations-on-buddha-purnima-11622003612682.html>

Panic buttons & GPS trackers inbuilt buses

Question : Which state Roadways buses to be equipped with panic button, GPS trackers ?

(a) UP (b) MP (c) Bihar (d) Uttarakhand

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- To ensure the safety of women, the UP government is all set to equip 11,750 UP Roadways buses with GPS trackers and panic buttons.
- The vehicles to be upgraded with these facilities include both ordinary and AC buses.
- The panic button will be helpful when there is an accident as it will be connected to 'Dial 112' while GPS will help track the accident site so that emergency services can be extended immediately.
- As soon as a passenger pressed the panic button following an accident, 'Dial' 112 would automatically come to know about it and would pass on the information to the control room of Uttar Pradesh State Roadways Transport Corporation (UPSRTC).
- Subsequently, the interceptors and officers of the corporation deployed on various routes would rush to the spot.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/up-roadways-buses-to-be-equipped-with-panic-buttons-gps-trackers.html>

M-cap of BSE-listed firms hits record high

Question: The market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of ___ on May 27, 2021. What is the appropriate option for blank space given above?

(a) Rs 220.74 lakh crore (b) Rs180.74 lakh crore (c)Rs 150 lakh crore.
(d)Rs 320.74 lakh crore

Ans. (a)

Related facts

- The market capitalisation of the BSE-listed companies reached an all-time high of Rs220.74lakhcrore on May 27, 2021.
- At the close of trade, their market capitalisation stood at Rs 2,20,74,421.11 crore.
- The 30-share BSE benchmark closed 97.70 points, or 0.19 per cent, higher at 51,115.22 on Thursday. In the previous trade, it had closed 379.99 points or 0.75 per cent higher at 51,017.52.
- In two days of market rally, investors' wealth has risen by Rs 1,67,959.92 crore to Rs 2,20,74,421.11 crore.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/m-cap-of-bse-listed-firms-hits-record-high-of-rs-220-74-lakh-cr.html>

Scheme 'Rakshak'

Question: RSP has recently (May 2021) introduced a unique incentivising scheme 'Rakshak' based on reporting of the near-miss incidents inside the plant by the employees themselves. Here, RSP stands for —

- (a)Rourkela Steel Plant (b)Ranchi Steel Plant (c)Ranipur Steel Plant
(d)None of the above

Answer- a

Related facts

- RSP has recently (May 2021) introduced a unique incentivizing scheme 'Rakshak' based on reporting of the near-miss incidents inside the plant by the employees themselves.
- Here, RSP is Rourkela Steel Plant.
- **Objective**
 - The objective is to bring to the record the near-miss cases that are the incidents occurring with no physical injury or property damage.
 - Notably, reporting and analysis of the near-miss cases are considered to be an important tool to prevent accidents. The scheme provides a scope on the part of the employees to report about the incident to the HoD or the Departmental Safety Officer (DSO) within 24 hours of the incident.
 - The DSO would make the entries in the RSP Intranet Portal and ensure implementation of the recommendations also.
 - An assessment committee comprising members from Finance, Personnel, IED and Safety Departments would assess the near-miss cases on a quarterly basis and the employees would be awarded a prize worth Rs 300 for every reported near-miss case.
 - Besides, the scheme also has annual awards in three categories, i.e., Rakshak Department, Rakshak DSO and Rakshak Karmi.
 - The first award would be in the form of a trophy and a certificate to the department concerned while the latter two awards carry prizes worth Rs 1,000 each to the individuals concerned.
 - The Safety Engineering Department of RSP is the nodal agency of the scheme for its effective implementation.

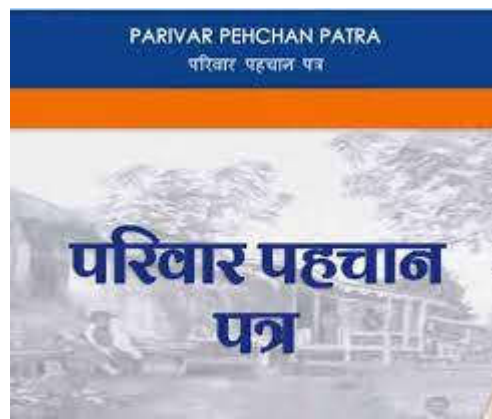
Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/rsp-introduces-incentivising-scheme—rakshak—.html>

Parivar Pehchan Patra

Question: 'Parivar Pehchan Patra(PPP)' is a web-based system and plans are being made to make this system mobile application based

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



so that the updation of real-time data is done. Which state is trying to do so?

(a)Haryana (b)Gujarat (c)Punjab (d)UP

Answer- a

Related facts

- 'Parivar Pehchan Patra (PPP)' is a web-based system and plans are being made to make this system mobile application based so that the updation of real-time data is done.
- Haryana is trying to do so.
- PPP is the tool for achieving 'paperless', 'faceless' service delivery to citizens, therefore now the entire process adopted under this scheme would be made centralised, meaning that the monitoring of every work executed under PPP would be monitored at the headquarters level.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/—parivar-pehchan-patra-work-likely-to-be-shifted-to-mobile-app-hry-cm.html>

Saline Gargle RT-PCR method

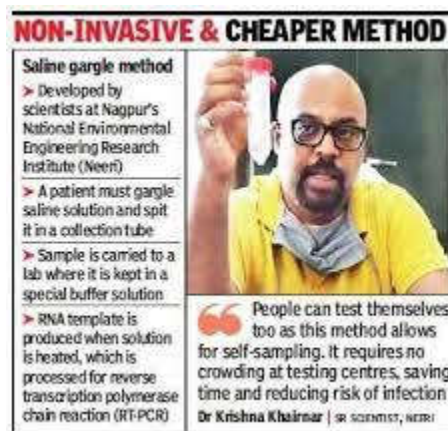
Question : Which institute has discovered the Saline Gargle RT-PCR method ?

- a. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI)
- b. Medical research institutes in India
- c. Central Salt and Marine Chemical Research Institute
- d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts

- ICMR has recently (May 2021) approved the use of Saline Gargle RT-PCR test developed by CSIR NEERI for Covid-19 detection.
- Salient features and advantages
- Nasopharyngeal swab, oropharyngeal swab and viral transport medium NOT required.
- Skilled health care workers for sample collection NOT required.
- Non-invasive sampling and patient friendly.
- Waste generation during sample collection is minimised.
- Self & Fast sampling is possible.
- Long queues of patients/persons at sample collection centre can be minimised.
- No RNA extraction kit required.
- Saves time and money.



Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1722469>

West Bengal to set up a Legislative Council

Question: Which state government has approved the formation of the Legislative Council in May 2021?

(a) West Bengal (b) Odisha (c) Rajasthan (d) Punjab

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The West Bengal cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has approved the formation of the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad).
- The Legislative Council in the State was abolished in 1969.
- For setting up the Council, a Bill has to be introduced in the Assembly and then a nod from the Governor is required.
- At present, only Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Telangana, Maharashtra, Bihar, and Uttar Pradesh have Legislative Council.
- **About the State Legislative Council:**
 - The State Legislative Council is the Upper house of the state legislature.
 - It is established under Article 169 of the Indian Constitution.
 - The size of the State Legislative Council cannot be more than one-third of the members of the State Legislative Assembly.
 - Parliament of India can create or abolish the State Legislative Council of a state if that state's legislature passes a resolution for that with a special majority.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/west-bengal-government-to-set-up-a-legislative-council/article34581812.ece>

Vatsalya Yojana for children orphaned due to Covid 19

Question: Which state has announced Vatsalya Yojana for children orphaned due to Covid 19?

(a) Uttarakhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 23 May 2021, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Tirath Singh Rawat has announced Mukhyamantri Vatsalya Yojana for orphaned children who have lost their parents due to Covid-19.
- Under the scheme, the State Government will make arrangements for their maintenance, education and training for



employment up to the age of 21 years.

- Such orphaned children of the state will be given a maintenance allowance of 3000 rupees per month.
- The state government will make laws for the paternal property of these orphans in which no one will have the right to sell their paternal property until they are adults. This responsibility will be with the
- The children whose parents have died due to Covid-19 will be given 5 per cent horizontal reservation in government jobs of the state government.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Uttarakhand-govt-announces-Vatsalya-Yojana-for-children-orphaned-due-to-Corona&id=417677#:~:text=Uttarakhand%20Chief%20Minister%20Tirath%20Singh,the%20age%20of%2021%20years.>

MOMA Market

Which State has introduced a doorstep vegetable delivery initiative MOMA Market amid Covid 19?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Manipur (d) Uttarakhand

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Manipur Chief Minister N Biren Singh has launched a smartphone application “Manipur Organic Mission Agency (MOMA) Market” for home delivery of fresh vegetables amid Covid 19 curfew.
- MOMA a unit of the state horticulture and soil conservation department launched the app under the CM’s supervision.
- MOMA has been assigned to work in the area and channel farm produces to consumers via home delivery in order to prevent vegetable losses and COVID-19 spread.
- Farmers Producer Companies (FPCs) working with MOMA will harvest vegetables from various farms. It will then be transported to cold storage and warehouses at the department’s complex in Sanjenthong and other locations.



Links:

<https://www.byscoop.com/manipur-cm-n-biren-singh-launches-moma-market-for-home-delivery-of-fresh-vegetables/>

Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance

Question: Which State government has launched the Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Madhya Pradesh (c)



Uttar Pradesh (d) Delhi

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Maharashtra government has launched the “Mission Oxygen Self-Reliance” scheme to meet the state’s oxygen needs.
- Special incentives will be given to oxygen-producing industries under this scheme.
- Target has been set up to produce 3000 MT of oxygen per day.
- At present, the state’s oxygen generation capacity is 1300 MT per day.
- Units set up in Vidarbha, Marathwada, Dhule, Nandurbar, Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg regions will be eligible for incentives up to 150 per cent of their eligible fixed capital investments and units set up in the rest of Maharashtra will be eligible for up to 100 per cent general incentives.
- The government will also give a refund on gross SGST, stamp duty, electricity duty and unit subsidy of power cost for five years and interest subsidy for MSME units with a fixed capital investment of up to Rs 50 crore.
- Only those applying before June 30 will get the benefits of this policy.

Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=417603>

Karnataka ranks first in Health and Wellness Centres

Question: Which state has been ranked first in establishing Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Program?

(a) Karnataka (b) Punjab (c) Maharashtra (d) Uttar Pradesh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Karnataka has been ranked first in establishing Health and Wellness Centres under Ayushman Bharat Program to provide comprehensive primary health care in rural areas.
- Karnataka is leading in implementing the project for 2020-2021.
- While the Centre had set a target of establishing 2,263 centres, the State has upgraded 3,300 centres till March 31.
- With the objective of providing quality health care for all under the Ayushman Bharat – Arogya Karnataka scheme, all PHCs are being upgraded under National Health Mission.
- The state has a target of upgrading 11,595 Centres as HWCs. Counselling sessions for adults, public yoga camps, ENT care, first aid during emergency and referrals to tertiary hospitals are some of the services being offered in these centres.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/karnataka/health-and-wellness-centres-karnataka-ranks-first/article34590753.ece>

Jharkhand ranked first for implementing Smart City Mission schemes

Question: Which state has been ranked first in the implementation of Smart City Mission schemes?

(a) Jharkhand (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Odisha (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Jharkhand has been ranked first in the Smart City projects implementation.
- Rajasthan came second in the rankings. The rankings were released by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).
- At the same time, Jharkhand's Capital Ranchi has risen to 12th position in terms of progress of the ongoing mission plans in 100 cities.
- Delhi is at number 11 in the list of States and Union Territories.
- Earlier, there was a system of issuing ranking in one month, fortnight, week by the Smart City Mission. But, now these rankings are updated frequently through the online process. In this ranking, the implementation and progress of the schemes run by the Smart City Mission are the basis and the points for various tasks are determined.

**Links:**

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/j—khand-clinches-1st-rank-for-implementing-smart-city-mission-schemes.html>

India, Russia to establish a 2+2 ministerial dialogue

Question: Recently with which country India has announced to establish a 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue?

(a) Russia (b) United Kingdom (c) France (d) Brazil

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India and Russia have agreed to establish a 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at the Foreign & Defence Minister level between the two countries.
- Russia is the 4th country and 1st Non-Quad member country with which India has established the '2+2 Ministerial dialogue' mechanism.
- India has such a mechanism with the US, Japan and Australia.
- The step is expected to boost the bilateral strategic partnership between India & Russia.



- Diplomatic relations between India and Russia began even before India achieved independence, on 13 April 1947.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-russia-to-establish-a-22-ministerial-dialogue-between-foreign-defence-ministers/article34431910.ece>

India second largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific

Question: What is India's rank in the insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific region as of S&P Global Market Intelligence data?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India has been ranked second-largest insurance technology market in Asia-Pacific according to S&P Global Market Intelligence data.
- India accounts for 35 per cent of the \$3.66 billion insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the region,
- As of data, at least 335 private insurtechs are operating in Asia-Pacific, with about 122 of them disclosing \$3.66 billion in aggregate capital raised via private placement deals.
- China and India are collectively home to nearly half of private insurtech companies in the APAC region and attracted about 78 per cent of the investments.
- Insurance technology investors are attracted to India since it is one of the fastest-growing insurance markets in the world.



Links:

<https://www.cnbctv18.com/finance/india-second-largest-insurance-technology-market-in-asia-pacific-report-9341191.htm#:~:text=India%20has%20at%20least%2066,S%26P%20Global%20Market%20Intelligence%20data.>

India loses Farzad-B gas field in Iran

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) India lost the ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf held by Iran.

(2) India in 2008 had discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block later named as Farzad-B.

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)

- India lost the ONGC Videsh Ltd-discovered Farzad-B gas field in the Persian Gulf after Iran awarded a



contract for developing the giant gas field to a local company.

- The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has signed a contract worth USD 1.78 billion with Petropars Group for the development of Farzad B Gas Field in the Persian Gulf.
- The field holds 23 trillion cubic feet of in-place gas reserves, of which about 60 per cent is recoverable. It also holds gas condensates of about 5,000 barrels per billion cubic feet of gas.
- ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), the overseas investment arm of state-owned Oil and Natural Gas Corp (ONGC), had in 2008 discovered a giant gas field in the Farsi offshore exploration block.
- OVL and its partners had offered to invest up to USD 11 billion for the development of the discovery, which was later named Farzad-B.

Links:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/oil-and-gas/india-loses-ongc-videsh-discovered-farzad-b-gas-field-in-iran/82727693#:~:text=India%20on%20Monday%20lost%20the,field%20to%20a%20local%20company.&text=The%20buyback%20contract%20signed%20on,over%20five%20years%2C%20Shana%20said.>

India and Israel sign a three-year work program for cooperation in Agriculture

Question: With which country India has signed a three-year work program for cooperation in Agriculture?

(a) Israel (b) China (c) USA (d) United Kingdom

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 May 2021, India and Israel signed a three-year work program for cooperation in Agriculture cooperation.
India and Israel are implementing the “INDO-ISRAEL Agricultural Project Centres of Excellence” and “INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence”.
- India and Israel have had bilateral relations since 1993 in the agricultural sector. This is the 5th Indo-Israel Agriculture Action Plan (IIAP).
- The three-year work program (2021-2023) will aim to grow existing Centres of Excellence, establish new centers, increase CoE's value chain, bring the Centres of Excellence into the self-sufficient mode, and encourage private sector companies and collaboration.
- As for the “INDO-ISRAEL Villages of Excellence”, this is a new concept aimed at creating a model ecosystem in agriculture across eight states, alongside 13 Centers of Excellence within 75 villages.
The IIVOE program will focus on: (1) Modern Agriculture infrastructure, (2) Capacity Building, (3) Market linkage.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1721269>

COVID-19 antibody detection kit DIPCOVAN

Question: Which institute has developed the COVID-19 antibody detection kit DIPCOVAN?

(a) IIT Kanpur (b) DRDO (c) IIT Delhi (d) IIT Guwahati

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- Defence Institute of Physiology and Allied Sciences (DIPAS), a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has developed an antibody detection-based kit 'DIPCOVAN'.
- The DIPCOVAN kit can detect both spike as well as nucleocapsid (S&N) proteins of SARS-CoV-2 virus with a high sensitivity of 97 per cent and specificity of 99 per cent.
- The kit has been developed in association with Vanguard Diagnostics Pvt Ltd, a development and manufacturing diagnostics company based at New Delhi.



About the DIPCOVAN:

- DIPCOVAN is intended for the qualitative detection of IgG antibodies in human serum or plasma, targeting SARS-CoV-2 related antigens.
- It offers a significantly faster turnaround time of just 75 minutes to conduct the test without any cross-reactivity with other diseases. The kit has a shelf life of 18 months.

Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1720604>

Border Roads Organisation 61st Raising Day

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960.

(2) BRO is entrusted with the task of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and northeastern states.

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)

- On 7 May 2021 BRO celebrated its 61st Raising Day (foundation day).
- The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) was formed on 7 May 1960, with the primary goal of securing India's borders and developing infrastructure in remote areas of India's north and northeastern states.
- BRO is a leading road construction agency under the Ministry of Defence.
- Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhary is the current Director-General of BRO.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=416129>

6 UNESCO heritage sites added in India

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Six sites have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.

(2) 38 Indian sites have been inscribed in the UNESCO world heritage sites.

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 Minister of Culture Prahlad Singh Patel announced that Six sites have been added to India's tentative list of UNESCO world heritage sites.
- The six sites are namely Satpura Tiger Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghath in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram.
- With the addition of these six sites, the UNESCO has 48 proposals in tentative list of India.
- These proposals will remain in the tentative list for a year after which the government will decide which one of them to push for in their final dossier to UNESCO.
- Currently, there are 38 UNESCO World Heritage Sites located in India.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/destination-of-the-week/varanasi-ghats-kanchipuram-temples-unesco-world-heritage-tentative-list-sites-cultural-legacy-7322598/>

Birsa Jeevan Ayush programme

Question : On which date did Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren inaugurate the 'Birsa Jeevan Ayush Program' online ?

a. 10 May 2021 b. 20 May 2021 c. 16 May 2021 d. 12 May 2021

Ans. a

Related facts

- On 10th May 2021 Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren inaugurate the 'Birsa Jeevan Ayush Program' online.
- Other announcements of the day



- He has announced that the vaccination drive for people in the age group of 18 to 44 years will begin from May 14th onwards.
- The vaccination for those aged 18 years and above will be free and the cost will be borne by the State Government.
- The vaccination drive for the 18-44 years age group could not be launched in the state from May 1 due to shortage of COVID vaccine.
- Presently the State has a stock of 3.34 lac doses of COVID vaccine to begin the vaccination drive for 18-44 years age people from May 14 onwards free of cost. More than 1.57 crore people of the state's population fall in this age bracket.
- Birsa Jeevan Ayush kits
- These kits has also been launched on the day under 'Birsa Jeevan Ayush Program'.

Links:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/covid-patients-to-get—birsa-jeevan-aayush-kits—in-state.html>

Dairy sector in India

Question: How much would growth in dairy sector in this fiscal?

(a) 5-6% (b) 8-9% (c) 15-16% (d) 12-13%

Answer- a

Related facts

- Revenue of the organised dairy sector in India, after churning to a decadal-low growth of 1 per cent last fiscal, is expected to grow 5-6 per cent to `1.5 lakh crore this fiscal, Crisil said on May 27, 2021.
- Crisil is a reknowned rating agency.
- Healthy demand revival in value added products (VAP, 30-35 per cent of organized sector revenue) post pandemic effect last fiscal, lower restrictions as compared with the earlier covid wave, and steady demand for liquid milk (65-70 per cent or organized sector revenue) will help support overall growth in the current fiscal.
- With increasing demand, milk procurement prices are expected to increase; albeit higher sale of VAP will buttress material impact on profitability. Besides, skimmed milk powder (SMP) inventory will also decline by end of this fiscal from the peak seen last fiscal, easing working capital borrowings.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/business/dairies-to-log-5-6-growth-this-fiscal—crisil.html>

RAI survey

Question : RAI survey stands for —

(a) Retailers Association of India (b) Rescuer's Association of India



(c) Raders Association of India (d) None of the above

Answer (a)

Related facts

- RAI (Retailers Association of India) survey result released on May 2021.
- Findings
- As India battles the severe second wave of Covid-19 and states undergo lockdowns, retailers across the country have witnessed a sales de-growth of 49 per cent in April compared to the same period of 2019.
- In March, the nationwide sales de-growth was recorded at 12 per cent.
- Region-wise, western India was the most impacted in April with a contraction of 72 per cent, followed by 45 per cent in the north.
- South and eastern India witnessed a contraction of 40 per cent and 38 per cent, respectively, in retail sales last month.
- Among the sectors, sales of sports goods and footwear contracted by 66 per cent and 61 per cent, respectively, followed by a 59 per cent de-growth in both jewellery and beauty, wellness and personal care categories.
- Other categories – food and grocery, apparel and clothing, quick service restaurant and consumer durables and electronics — witnessed a sales contraction of 49 per cent, 47 per cent, 45 per cent and 31 per cent, respectively.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/business/retailers-witness-massive-sales-de-growth-rai-survey.html>

‘SAANS’ campaign

Question: ‘SAANS’ (Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully) campaign is related to which state?

(a) Punjab (b) Himachal Pradesh (c) UP (d) MP

Answer- a

Related facts

- Punjab Government on Wednesday (27 May 2021) launched SAANS campaign to prevent and treat pneumonia amongst State’s children.
- Here, SAANS stands for — Social Awareness and Action to Neutralise Pneumonia Successfully.
- It is notable that mild, moderate and severe pneumonia in a Covid hit child can become an additional co-morbid condition to which he or she can succumb to death.
- Pneumonia is one of the leading causes of childhood mortality in the country and it contributes to approximately 15 percent of mortality.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/punjab-launches-saans-campaign-to-prevent-treat-pneumonia-in-children.html>

MoU signed for digital transformation of Tribal Schools

Question: With which organization Ministry of Tribal Affairs signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools?

(a) Microsoft (b) Google (c) World Bank (d) Asian Development Bank

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Ministry of Tribal Affairs and Microsoft signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the joint initiative for Digital Transformation of Tribal Schools.
- This includes the introduction of Ashram Schools and Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS) in tribal areas.
- **About the project:**
 - Microsoft will make an Artificial Intelligence curriculum available for the tribal students in Hindi and English.
 - In the first phase of the programme, 250 EMRS are to be established. Out of these 250 schools, 50 schools will be given intensive training. And five hundred master trainers will be trained in the first phase.
 - The teachers are to be trained in a phased manner to use Artificial Intelligence application and production technologies such as Office 365. This will introduce the teachers to the world of collaboration and help them understand how teaching shall be increased with virtual field trips.
 - The teachers will also be provided with E-Certificates and E-badges from the Microsoft Education centres at the end of the programme.



Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=417144#:~:text=Tribal%20Affairs%20Ministry%20and%20Microsoft,Residential%20Schools%20and%20Ashram%20Schools.&text=Under%20the%20program%2C%20250%20Eklavya,will%20be%20given%20intensive%20training.>

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Links:

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=417144#:~:text=Tribal%20Affairs%20Ministry%20and%20Microsoft,Residential%20Schools%20and%20Ashram%20Schools.&text=Under%20the%20program%2C%20250%20Eklavya,will%20be%20given%20intensive%20training.>

Medicine from the sky project

Question: Which state government has announced to pilot Medicine from the sky project for delivery of medicines by drones?

(a) Telangana (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Kerala

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Telangana government has selected 16 primary healthcare centres (PHCs) spread around Vikarabad area hospital for pilot testing the ambitious 'Medicine from the sky', the first-of-its-kind project involving delivery of medicines through multiple drones.
- The area hospital has been selected as the central point owing to the presence of cold chain facilities and the selected PHCs are both within the Visual Line of Sight (VLOS) and Beyond Visual Line of Sight (BVLOS) range.
- **About the project:**
 - A consortium of seven operators headed by Blue Dart Med-Express had been selected for the project to be launched in the VLOS range of 500 metres initially and will be scaled up gradually to a 9 km range.



- The project would be launched in three waves starting with a pilot followed by mapping the route network for the operation of drones for delivering vaccine/medicine in the desired community health centres and PHCs.
- The project is being launched following the approval granted by the Civil Aviation Ministry to the request made by the State to grant conditional exemption from the Unmanned Aircraft System Rules 2021 for conducting experimental BVLOS drone flights for delivery of vaccines.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/medicine-from-the-sky-pilot-at-vikarabad-area-hospital/article34590408.ece>

IIT develops portable tech-traditional eco-friendly mobile cremation system

Question: Which institute has developed a portable eco-friendly mobile cremation system?

(a) IIT Kanpur (b) IIT Ropar (c) IIT Bombay (d) IIT Guwahati

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- IIT Ropar has developed a portable eco-friendly electric cremation system.
- It is one of its kind of technology that produces no smoke despite using wood for cremation. It is based on wick-stove technology.
- The cart has been developed in collaboration with the company Cheema Boilers Limited.
- The cart-shaped mobile cremation system has stainless steel insulation on both sides of the cart for reducing heat loss and wood consumption.
- It takes less time to dispose of the body entirely as compared to normal wood-based cremation.
- It uses half wood than normal wood-based cremation, so it is an eco-friendly technology.



Links:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718264#:~:text=IIT%20develops%20portable%20tech%2Dtraditional%20eco%2Dfriendly%20mobile%20cremation%20system&text=Indian%20Institute%20of%20Technology%2C%20Ropar,smokeless%20cremation%20despite%20using%20wood.>

Delhi Police launched COVI Van for senior citizens

Question: Which State/UT police has launched a COVI Van Helpline for senior citizens?

(a) Delhi (b) Chandigarh (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Maharashtra



Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- Delhi Police has launched a COVI Van Helpline number (012- 26241077) for senior citizens in needs amid Covid-19.
- After receiving any call from COVI Van, deployed police official on COVI Van with a beat officer will go to the house of senior citizens and help them in getting their needs, including any essential item, vaccination and medicines.
- The facility has been launched at the Greater Kailash police station of South Delhi.
- All the precautions including – sanitisation, gloves, masks and social distancing – will be taken while and after every visit.

Links:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/delhi-news/covi-van-to-the-rescue-of-senior-citizens-in-south-delhi-101620599261067.html>

Ayush Ghar-Dwar program

Question: Which state has launched the Ayush Ghar-Dwar program?

(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Uttarakhand (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Tripura

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 14 May 2021, Himachal Pradesh Government launched a state-wide wellness programme AYUSH Ghar Dwar, in Sloan district.
- Ayush Ghar-Dwar has been launched to keep the home isolated Covid-19 positive patients healthy by practising Yoga.
- This program has been started by the Department of AYUSH in collaboration with the Art of Living organisation.
- Under the program, approximately 1000 virtual groups on social media platforms like zoom, WhatsApp and Google meet will be formed to connect with COVID positive patients in home isolation.
- The initiative intends to provide a holistic healthcare approach through AYUSH to ensure not only physical but also mental, social and spiritual wellbeing.



Links:

[http://himachalpr.gov.in/\(X\(1\)\)/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=21902](http://himachalpr.gov.in/(X(1))/OnePressRelease.aspx?Language=1&ID=21902)

Missing boat Mercedes discovered

Question : The Indian Coast Guard, in yet another successful Search and Rescue operation at Sea, has located missing Tamil Nadu fishing boat Mercedes in a massive search operation launched since 24 Apr 21 at a distance of about 1100 KMs (590 miles) from ___. Which one of the following is an appropriate option for fill in



the blank ?

A. Goa B. Chennai C. Vishakapattnam D. Kocchi

Ans. A.

Related facts

- The Indian Coast Guard, in yet another successful Search and Rescue operation at Sea, has located missing Tamil Nadu fishing boat Mercedes in a massive search operation launched since 24 Apr 21 at a distance of about 1100 KMs (590 miles) from Goa.
- Background
- The fishing boat had sailed for Deep Sea fishing on 06 Apr 21 with 11 crew onboard West of Kerala for a 30 days voyage from Thengapattnam Fishing harbour in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Fisheries authorities on 24 Apr 21 intimated regarding sighting of debris by other fishing boats operating in the area presuming the fishing boat Mercedes to be sunk.
- After four days of continuous search amidst challenges of distance from mainland and weather, the missing boat was located around 200 miles (around 370 kilometers) from Lakshadweep Islands.
- ICG Dornier located and corroborated the presence of the fishing boat today morning. MRCC (Mumbai) established communication with the fishing boat on satellite phone held by the boat and ascertained the crew to be safe.
- In the interim, information was also received from TN fisheries authorities that the crew of IFB Mercedes had called up home through Satellite phone to indicate that they are safe.
- ICG ship on deployment off Lakshadweep was diverted to render logistic and medical assistance to the crew. The fishing boat is returning to its base port under escort of ICG ship and would reach around 03 May 21.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1714707>

First state to use digital flood reporting system

Question – Which of the following state became the first state in the country to introduce digital flood reporting system on 8 May 2021?

(a) Bihar (b) Assam (c) Karnataka (d) Kerala

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- Assam became the first state in the country to introduce digital flood reporting system on 8 May 2021.
- It is named as FRIMS.
- FRIMS stands for — Flood Reporting and Information Management System (FRIMS).
- This flood reporting system has been developed jointly by the Assam State Disaster Management Agency (ASDMA) and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).



- It is notable that current practice of flood reporting passes through a time intensive manual verification and quality control system.
- The FRIMS will replace the present manual system with the web cum mobile application-based technology driven system which will help in efficient delivery of relief, ex-gratia, rehabilitation grants to the flood affected people besides tracking of damages to agricultural crops, loss of livestock, infrastructure damages etc. and providing financial assistance for restoration.
- It is notable that Assam has a mandatory flood reporting protocol from May 15 to October 15 every year.
- Therefore, FRIMS has become operational from 15 May 2021.

Link:

https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/assam-comes-up-with-a-real-time-digital-flood-reporting-and-information-management-system/articleshow/82485024.cms?utm_source=contentofinterest&utm_medium=txt&utm_campaign=cppst

India-EU Leaders' Meeting

Question- Consider the following statements related to the recently concluded Indo-EU leaders meeting ,2021-

- (i) On 8 May 2021, the virtual meeting of the leaders of the Indo-European Union took place.
- (ii) This is the first time ,when the European Union has hosted a meeting with India in the EU +27 format.
- (iii) This meeting has been organized at the initiative of the Prime Minister of Belgium, the current Chairman of the European Union Council.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct?

- (a) Only (i) and (ii) (b) Only (ii) and (iii) (c) Only (i) and (iii) (d) All of the above

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- On 8 May 2021, the virtual meeting of the leaders of the Indo-European Union took place.
- This is the first time ,when the European Union has hosted a meeting with India in the EU +27 format.
- This meeting has been organized at the initiative of the Prime Minister of Portugal, the current Chairman of the European Union Council.
- An India-EU trade round table conference was also held to highlight the principles of cooperation in climate ,digital and healthcare, along with the meeting of EU leaders.
- Also, a 150 million euro finance contract for the Pune Metro Rail project was signed by the Ministry of Finance, Government of India and European Investment Bank.

Link:

https://mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/33853/Joint_Statement_on_IndiaEU_Leaders_Meeting_May_08_2021

Forensic audits of listed companies

Question : SEBI will compile auditor list to do forensic audit of listed companies. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

1. The applying firm should have at least ten years of experience in the field of forensic audit.
2. Applicant firm should have at least 20 full-time employees
3. The applicant should have had experience of undertaking at least 15 forensic audits in past three years and at least three such audits should have been undertaken upon assignment by the regulatory body or government agency or public sector enterprise.
4. In addition, total revenue of the firm from forensic audit assignments in the last three financial years must be at least Rs 1 crore.

(A) Only 1. & 2. (B) Only 3. & 4.

(C) Only 1.,2. & 4. (D) All above

Ans.(D)

Related facts

- SEBI will compile auditor list to do forensic audit of listed companies.
- This announcement has been made in a recent(May 2021) public notice issued by SEBI.
- Eligibility criteria
- Eligibility criteria has been disclosed by SEBI and that is as follows —
 1. The applying firm should have at least ten years of experience in the field of forensic audit.
 2. Applicant firm should have at least 20 full-time employees
 3. The applicant should have had experience of undertaking at least 15 forensic audits in past three years and at least three such audits should have been undertaken upon assignment by the regulatory body or government agency or public sector enterprise.
 4. In addition, total revenue of the firm from forensic audit assignments in the last three financial years must be at least Rs 1 crore.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/markets/sebi-to-empanel-auditors-to-conduct-forensic-audits-of-listed-companies-121052501141_1.html

‘Har Ghar Jal’ UT

Question : Which Union Territory has achieved the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ status ?

A. Puducherry B. Laddakh C. Delhi D. None of the above

Ans. A

- Puducherry has recently(May 2021) achieved the ‘Har Ghar Jal’ status.
- This is done by ensuring that every rural home in the Union Territory gets a household tap connection.

- 'Har Ghar Jal' status group of four state
- With this, the UT becomes the fourth State/UT after Goa, Telangana and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to provide assured tap water supply to every rural home under Union Government's flagship programme, Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Further, the State of Punjab and the UTs of Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman & Diu have also crossed the milestone of covering 75% of rural homes with assured tap water supply. 26.31 lakh households (76%) of Punjab out of 34.73 lakh have tap water supply and the State of Punjab plans for 100% coverage of all rural households by 2022.
- Puducherry's success
- All 1.16 lakh rural households in Puducherry have tap water supply now. The UT has achieved the 'Har Ghar Jal' status much ahead of the target fixed.
- During Annual Action Plan finalization of the UT in April, 2021, it was urged to utilize various funds available through the convergence of different programmes like MGNREGS, JJM, SBM (G), 15th FC Grants to PRIs, District Mineral Development Fund, CAMPA, CSR Fund, Local Area Development Fund, etc.
- Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM)
- JJM is a flagship programme of the Union Government, which aims to provide tap water connection to every rural household of the country by 2024.
- Under Jal Jeevan Mission, in 2021-22, in addition to Rs 50,011 Crore budgetary allocation for JJM, there is also Rs 26,940 Crore assured fund available under the 15th Finance Commission tied-grant to RLB/ PRIs for water & sanitation, matching State share and externally aided as well as State funded projects.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1717483>

Clinical trial of COVAXIN in the age group of 2 to 18 Years

Question- On 11 May 2021, Covid-19 Subject Expert Committee has recommended which vaccine to be tested on children between 2 to 18 years of age?

(a) Covishield (b) Covaxine (c) Sputnik light (d) Novavax

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- The National Regulator of the country, the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), after careful examination, has accepted the recommendation of Subject Expert Committee (SEC) and accorded permission to conduct the Phase II/III clinical trial of Covaxin (COVID vaccine) in the age group 2 to 18 years, to its manufacturer Bharat Biotech Ltd on 12.05.2021.
- M/s Bharat Biotech International Ltd., Hyderabad (BBIL) had proposed to carry out a Phase- II/III clinical trial of Covaxin in the age group of 2 to 18 years.
- The trial will be conducted in 525 healthy volunteers.



- In the trial, the vaccine will be given by intramuscular route in two doses at day 0 and day 28.
- As rapid regulatory response, the proposal was deliberated in Subject Expert Committee (SEC) (COVID-19) on 11.05.2021.
- The Committee after detailed deliberation recommended for grant of permission to conduct proposed Phase II/III clinical trial to certain conditions.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718192>

Sanjeevani Pariyojana

Question: Which state has launched Sanjeevani Pariyojana- a supervised home care initiative — to help people with mild to moderate symptoms in rural areas access medical care without having to leave their homes and travel to a hospital on 24th May 2021?

a) Harayana b) Uttar Pradesh c) Rajasthan d) Delhi

Ans: a

Context

- Government of Harayana has launched Sanjeevani Pariyojana- a supervised home care initiative — to help people with mild to moderate symptoms in rural areas access medical care without having to leave their homes and travel to a hospital on 24th May 2021.

▪ **Facts**

- Project will be launched in pilot mode from district of Karnal and later will be extended to other district.
- It will extend medical care in rural areas to spread awareness about the second wave of Covid-19 virus and how to treat it.
- The initiative will include an integrated command and control center for managing critical resources like availability of hospital beds, oxygen supply, ambulance tracking and door-to-door awareness campaign to give a bird's-eye view of the healthcare system to district administration.
- A hotline will also be set up for coordination and 24*7 monitoring.



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/khattar-to-launch-sanjeevani-pariyojana-for-quick-medicare-access-at-home-7327429/>

Mylab Coviself

Question: Recently ICMR has approved India's first self testing Covid kit called Mylab Coviself. Which organisation has made this kit?

a) Bharat Biotech , Pune b) DRDO c) MyLab Discovery Solutions, Pune
d) none of the above

Ans: c
Context

- Recently India's first self-testing Covid Kit has been approved by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR).
- This kit has been developed by MyLab Discovery Solutions, Pune.
- **Facts**
 - Having self testing kit means that anyone can collect their own nasal sample and test it for SARS-CoV-2.
 - Earlier USA has also approved such kit last year.
 - MyLab Covishelf uses rapid antigen test, in which a nasal swab sample is tested for the virus and gives results within 15 minutes. Taking the test takes hardly two minutes.
 - This easy-to-use test combines with MyLab's AI-powered mobile app so that a user can know his/her positive status, submit the result to ICMR directly for traceability, and know what to do next in either result.
 - This testing kit cost Rs 250, while RT-PCR test, which is considered as gold standard for Covid testing, costs between Rs 400 to Rs 1,500 and a rapid antigen test in laboratory costs Rs 300-900 in different states.



Reference: <https://www.insightsonindia.com/2021/05/21/what-is-mylab-coviself/>

Complete ban on use of herbicide glyphosate in Telangana

Question: In May 2021, the Telangana government has banned the use of herbicide glyphosate in agriculture. Under which act will anyone who violates the ban be punished ?

- (a) Pesticide Act ,1965 (b) Pesticides Act 1968 (c) Pesticide Act ,1972
(d) Pesticide Act ,1982

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- In May 2021, the Telangana government has imposed a complete ban on the use of glyphosate in agriculture.
- Its over-use is causing more harm to soil and human health.
- Any person who violates the ban will be punished under the Pesticide Act 1968.
- Glyphosate is a type of herbicide (Weed Killer) that is commonly used to destroy



weeds in HTBT cotton crops.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/agri-business/telangana-govt-bans-controversial-herbicide-glyphosate/article34501985.ece>

Post-Covid care centres ‘Umang’

Question : In which state will Post-COVID care centres ‘Umang’ be started in all major government hospitals ?

A. Haryana B. Madhya Pradesh C. Gujarat D. Maharashtra

Ans. (A)

Related facts

- Post-COVID care centres ‘Umang’ will be started in all major government hospitals in Haryana, Health Minister Anil Vij said on May 22, 2021.
- These centres will be started to ensure complete recovery post COVID-19.
- These Centres named ‘Umang’ are being started where the Corona recovered patients will not only be treated but will also be given training by trainers for their physical fitness through Yoga and Pranayam.
- Besides this, services of physiotherapists and other physicians will also be available at these Centres.
- Till now, more than 650000 people have recovered from COVID-19 in the state. The state also has over 60000 active cases.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/haryana-to-open-post-covid-care-centres—umang-.html>

‘Mera Paani — Meri Virasat’ Scheme to be linked to ‘Meri Fasal — Mera Byora’

Question : Which state’s CM said that “Mera Paani -Meri Virasat” Scheme will be linked to “Meri Fasal – Mera Byora” ?

A. Haryana B. Bihar C. Rajasthan D. Uttar Pradesh

Ans. (a)

Related facts

- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has recently(May 2021) said that “Mera Paani -Meri Virasat” Scheme will be linked to “Meri Fasal – Mera Byora” so that the farmers get the benefit of incentive money without any delay.
- He was presiding over a review meeting of “Mera Paani – Meri Virasat” Scheme.
- Haryana Government will provide incentive money to farmers who conserve water. Farmers who sow other crops instead of paddy crops will be provided incentive money.
- This scheme was implemented last year, under which incentives were given at the rate of Rs 7,000 per acre to the farmers who sow alternative crops (which consume less water) instead of paddy.

- As a result, the farmers sowed other crops instead of paddy in 96,000 acres of land. Due to its success in the first year, Haryana Government has decided to encourage farmers under this Scheme this year as well.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/—mera-paani—meri-virasat—scheme-to-be-linked-to—meri-fasal—mera-byora—in-haryana.html>

Khelo India State Centre of Excellence in Srinagar

Question : The training facilities for which sport have been included in the Khelo India State Center of Excellence in Srinagar ?

(a) Kayaking and Canoeing (b) Rock climbing (c) Golf (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The KISCE(Khelo India State Center of Excellence), which was launched in April 2021, after revamping facilities in the existing J&K Water Sports Academy in the state, earlier had training facilities only for rowing.
- The Khelo India programme has been introduced to revive the sports culture in India at the grass-root level by building a strong framework for all sports played in our country and establish India as a great sporting nation.
- To accomplish the above objectives, Khelo India programme has been divided into 12 verticals, namely:
 1. Play field development
 2. Community coaching development
 3. State level Khelo India centres
 4. Annual sports competition
 5. Talent search and development
 6. Utilization and creation/Upgradation of sports infrastructure
 7. Support to National/Regional/State sports academies
 8. Physical fitness of school children
 9. Sports for women
 10. Promotion of sports amongst people with disabilities
 11. Sports for peace and development
 12. Promotion of rural and indigenous/tribal games



Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1720847>

INS Rajput

Question : The Indian Navy's first destroyer INS Rajput decommissioned at on May 21, 2021. Which one of the following statement is correct regarding this ?

- (a) It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam
- (b) It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai
- (c) It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Kolkata
- (d) It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Chennai

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The Indian Navy's first destroyer INS Rajput decommissioned at on May 21, 2021.
- It was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- About INS Rajput
- INS Rajput was commissioned on 04 May 1980, at Poti, Georgia (erstwhile USSR), as the lead ship of the Rajput Class Destroyers of the Indian Navy with Capt (later Vice Admiral) Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani as the first Commanding Officer.
- During her service, the ship had the distinction of being part of both the Western and Eastern Fleets.
- She was based in Mumbai till Jun 1988 and thereafter was re-based at Visakhapatnam as part of the Eastern Fleet.



Link:

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/national/ins-rajput-decommissioned>

Toll free helpline Elderline

Question – On 14 May 2021, the toll-free helpline Elderline(14567) has been started in which state?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Karnataka

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- On May 14, 2021, the toll-free helpline ElderLine(14567) has been started in Uttar Pradesh.
- To address the problems of the elderly during the Covid pandemic, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has started state-wise call centers in major states under the Elderline scheme.
- On April 28, 2021, this facility was introduced in 4 states ,Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan ,Tamil Nadu and Karnataka.
- The facility has been in operation in Telangana for more than 1 year.
- Contact can be made through the toll free number 14567 at these call centers.
- The service is expected to be rolled out in all states by the end of May, 2021.
- Elderline operates with the help of Tata Trusts and NSE Foundation.

Link:

<https://www.ciicovid19update.in/uploads/1/3/1/3/131362769/tollfree.pdf>

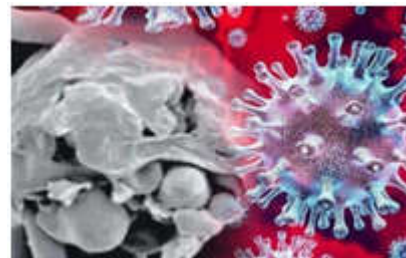
What is White Fungus disease?

Question: Which of the following statement regarding White fungus disease, which has been in news recently are true?

- i) Cases of white fungus have been reported in the city of Patna, Bihar recently.
ii) White fungus aka Aspergillosis is an infection caused by Aspergillus, a common mold (a type of fungus).
iii) Like the black fungus (mucormycosis), white fungus also affects drastically those who have poor level of immunity.
a) I b)ii,iii c) all of the above d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context



- Four cases of white fungus disease aka Aspergillosis have been identified in Patna, Bihar recently.
- **Facts**
About White fungus (Aspergillosis)
 - Aspergillosis is an infection caused by Aspergillus, a common mold (a type of fungus) that lives indoors and outdoors.
 - Most people breathe Aspergillus spores every day without getting sick. Only those people with weak immune response gets affected drastically by the fungus.
 - The types of health problems caused by Aspergillus include allergic reactions, lung infections, and infections in other organs. Its symptoms are quite similar to Covid symptoms, making it difficult to differentiate from Covid infection.
 - The different types of Aspergillosis can cause different symptoms.
 - The symptoms of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) (Mostly affects asthma patients) are similar to asthma symptoms, including:
 - Wheezing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Cough
 - Fever (in rare cases)
 - Symptoms of allergic Aspergillus sinusitis include:
 - Stuffiness
 - Runny nose
 - Headache
 - Reduced ability to smell
 - Symptoms of an aspergilloma ("fungus ball")(mostly to those people who have tuberculosis) include:
 - Cough
 - Coughing up blood
 - Shortness of breath

- Symptoms of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (mostly affects people with lung diseases including tuberculosis) include:
 - Weight loss
 - Cough
 - Coughing up blood
 - Fatigue
 - Shortness of breath
- Fever is a common symptom of invasive aspergillosis.
- Invasive aspergillosis usually occurs in people who are already sick from other medical conditions, so it can be difficult to know which symptoms are related to an Aspergillus infection. However, the symptoms of invasive aspergillosis in the lungs include:
 - Fever
 - Chest pain
 - Cough
 - Coughing up blood
 - Shortness of breath
- Other symptoms can develop if the infection spreads from the lungs to other parts of the body.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/aspergillosis/symptoms.html>
<https://www.indiatvnews.com/health/white-fungus-black-fungus-difference-in-symptoms-early-detection-and-prevention-706069>

Government launches first of its kind six- month CBID Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan

Question: Consider the following statements regarding governments recently launched six- month CBID Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan?

- i) The program aims to create a pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level .
- ii) These workers will be called ‘Divyang Mitra’.
- iii) The Rehabilitation Council of India and University of Melbourne have jointly developed the curriculum of the program to train the above mentioned workers.

Which of the above are true:

- a) i,ii b) ii,iii c) i, ii,iii d) none

Ans: c

Context

- Union Minister of Social Justice & Empowerment Dr Thaawarchand Gehlot virtually launched a 6- month Community Based Inclusive Development (CBID) Program on rehabilitation of Divyangjan recently.
- Facts
 - Person with disabilities (PwDs) are an important human resource and if appropriate facilities/opportunities are given, they can



excel in any field be it education, sports performing/fine arts.

- To achieve this a course has been developed under the CBID with the collaboration of The Rehabilitation Council of India and University of Melbourne to train man power who will help in the rehabilitation of PwDs.
- The National Board of Examination in Rehabilitation under the Rehabilitation Council of India will conduct examinations and award certificates to pass-out candidates.
- The program aims to create a pool of grass-root rehabilitation workers at community level who can work alongside ASHA and Anganwadi workers to handle cross disability issues and facilitate inclusion of persons with disabilities in the society.
- The program has been designed to provide competency based knowledge and skills among these workers to enhance their ability for successfully discharging their duties.
- These workers will be called 'Divyang Mitra' i.e. friends of persons with disabilities.
- The Rehabilitation Council of India intends to roll out the course initially on a pilot basis for two batches in 7 National Institutes of the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities and 7-9 voluntary organisations having experience in Community Based Rehabilitation programme.
- Initially the programme will be available in English, Hindi and 7 regional languages, namely, Gujarati, Marathi, Odiya, Bengali, Telugu, Tamil and Garo.

Reference: [http://ddnews.gov.in/national/government-launches-first-its-kind-six-month-cbid-program-rehabilitation-divyangjan#:~:text=rehabilitation%20of%20Divyangjan-Government%20launches%20first%20of%20its%20kind%20six%2D%20month,Program%20on%20rehabilitation%20of%](http://ddnews.gov.in/national/government-launches-first-its-kind-six-month-cbid-program-rehabilitation-divyangjan#:~:text=rehabilitation%20of%20Divyangjan-Government%20launches%20first%20of%20its%20kind%20six%2D%20month,Program%20on%20rehabilitation%20of%20)

GoI increases Fertilizer Subsidy by 140%

Question: Recently government has increased the amount of subsidy being offered on di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilizers to farmers. What is the current amount of subsidy being offered?

- a) Rs 1,200 per bag b) Rs 500 per bag c) Rs 1000 per bag
d) None of the above

Bag size of 50 kg

Ans: a

Facts

- Government on 19 May 2021 has announced an increase in subsidy for di-ammonium phosphate (DAP) fertilisers from Rs 500 per bag (50-kg) to Rs 1,200 per bag.
- Prices of Ammonia, Phosphorous etc have been increasing rapidly internationally because of which prices of fertilizers have been increasing at very fast rate in the country



.Government was facing severe criticism in its inability to control the raising prices of fertilizers in the country.

- The GoI was spending Rs 80,000 crores for chemical subsidies earlier. Now, with the increase in subsidy, the Government of India will spend an additional Rs 14,775 crores.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/government-hikes-subsidy-on-dap-fertiliser-by-140-farmers-to-get-dap-at-old-rates-7321922/>

SAMVEDNA

Question: Which organisation has launched a telephonic counseling helpline named SAMVEDNA to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic?

- a) NITI Aayog
- b) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences
- c) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR)
- d) None of the above

Ans: c

Facts

- National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has launched a Tele-Counselling facility for children called SAMVEDNA(Sensitizing Action on Mental Health Vulnerability through Emotional Development and Necessary Acceptance) .
- It is a Toll-Free Helpline launched to provide psycho-social mental support for Children affected during COVID 19 Pandemic.
- This service is available on a toll-free No: 1800-121-2830 from Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. This service is exclusively for children .



Reference: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseIframePage.aspx?PRID=1719426#:~:text=With%20an%20objective%20of%20providing,Health%20Vulnerability%20through%20Emotional%20Development>

Plasma Therapy for COVID-19 Treatment dropped

Question: Which covid treatment therapy has been dropped recently from the covid treatment protocol by Indian Council of Medical Research, in India?

- a) Plasma therapy b) Ayush Therapy c) Stem Cell therapy d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- India recently dropped convalescent plasma therapy



(CPT) from its national clinical management protocol for Covid-19.

▪ **Facts**

- The decision to drop plasma therapy from Covid-19 treatment protocol has been taken by AIIMS-ICMR Covid-19 National Task Force and the Health Ministry.
- This suggests that that convalescent plasma offers no therapeutic benefits in patients admitted to hospital with the disease.

▪ **About Plasma Therapy**

- The therapy uses blood plasma from people who have recovered from Covid-19 to help others recover.
- Plasma is a rich source of antibodies. Antibodies are proteins that fight against the invading virus.
- Plasma from a COVID-19 recovered patient is injected into the COVID-19 infected patient.
- It involves normal blood collection practices. Later plasma is extracted from the blood using blood fractionation process. Also, a machine called Aphaeresis is used to extract plasma from the donor.
- India's largest trial PLACID had earlier found that convalescent plasma was ineffective in arresting Covid-19.

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-drops-plasma-therapy-covid-treatment-7319290/>

India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre

Question: India's first Agriculture Export Facilitation Centre has been launched in which city recently?

a) Pune b) Rohtak c) Lucknow d) None of the above

Ans: a

Facts

- The Maharashtra Chamber of Commerce Industries and Agriculture and NABARD (National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development) has launched the first Agricultural Export Facilitation Centre of India in the city of Pune.
- Facility was inaugurated on 14th may 2021.
- The facility will be available to anyone in the agricultural sector, who plans to export their products overseas.
- The centre will bring the expertise of current agro exporters and government officials both serving and retired. This will help the new exporter with the all the nuances of export process.
- The process includes export registration, market assessment, standards of recipient countries, and adjustments required to match those standards, the kind of logistics involved in the operation, among other issues.



Reference: <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/pune/nw-open-agro-export-facilitation-centre/articleshow/82665809.cms#:~:text=Up%20Next&text=Pune%3A%20The%20Maharashtra%20Chamber%20of,and%20adhere%20to%20global%20standards.>

Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021

Question: Which of the following statements are true

- i) Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021 has brought changes into the IGCR, 2017 rules.
ii) It is done to boost trade facilitation.

a) I b) ii c) both d) none

Ans: c

Facts

- The Government of India recently brought changes to the Customs (Imports of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) rules, IGCR 2017 to boost trade facilitation. This was done through the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Amendment Rules, 2021.
- The IGCR, 2017 lay down the procedures and manner in which an importer can avail the benefit of a concessional Customs duty on import of goods required for domestic production of goods or providing services.
- Earlier, the concessional customs duty on imports was not provided to those who did not have an in-house manufacturing facility. Now, under the new rules they can now import goods at concessional rates, get the job done in other manufacturing units.
- This will be particularly beneficial for MSMEs.
- However, some sectors such as gold, jewellery, precious stones and metals have been excluded.



Reference: <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=417244>

Assembly Elections in five States, 2021

Question: Consider the following statements regarding the Assembly Elections held in five States in 2021:

- (i) The Assembly Elections were conducted from 27 March to 29 April 2021.
(ii) In West Bengal, the ruling All India Trinamool Congress won 213 seats.
(iii) In Kerala, the Communist Party of India (Marxist) won 62 seats.
(iv) In Assam, the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party won 60 seats.

Which of the statements given above is / are correct

(a) only (i), (ii) and (iv) (b) only (ii) and (iii) (c) only (i), (iii)) And (iv) (d) All of the above

Answer:d

Related facts:



- On 2 May 2021, Election Commission of India announced results of assembly elections in five states.
- These assembly elections were held in Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Puducherry from 27 March to 29 April 2021.
- In Tamil Nadu, Kerala & Puducherry, elections were held in single phase on 6 April 2021.
- Assembly Elections in West Bengal were held in 8 phases.
- In Assam, the Assembly elections were held in three phases.
- **Election Results –**
- **Assam**
 - In Assam's 126-member assembly, Bharatiya Janata Party has won the most 60 seats.
 - Indian National Congress won 29 seats, All India United Democratic Front won 16 seats, Asom Gana Parishad 9 seats, United People's Party Liberal 6 seats, Bodoland Peoples Front 4 seats, Communist Party of India (Marxist) 1 seat and an Independent 1 seat.
 - Bharatiya Janata Party has garnered highest 33.21% vote percentage share.
 - Himanta Biswa Sarma was sworn in as the new Chief Minister of Assam on May 10.
- **Kerala**
 - Of the 140 member constituent Assembly in Kerala, Communist Party of India (Marxist) won 62 seats.
 - Among other major parties, the Indian National Congress got 21 seats, the Communist Party of India got 17 seats and the Indian Union Muslim League got 15 seats.
- **Puducherry**
 - Out of 30 assembly seats of the Union Territory of Puducherry, the All India N.R. Congress won highest 10 seats while the Bharatiya Janata Party got 6 seats.
 - Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won 6 seats, Indian National Congress 2 seats and Independents secured 6 seats.
 - On 7 May 2021, All India NR Congress chief N Rangasamy sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Puducherry.
- **Tamil Nadu**
 - Of the 234-member assembly seats in Tamil Nadu, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won the highest 133 seats.
 - Among other major parties, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam won 66 seats, Indian National Congress 18 seats and Bharatiya Janata Party secured 4 seats.
 - On 7 May 2021, Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam(DMK) leader MK Stalin sworn-in as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister.
- **West Bengal**
 - The results to West Bengal were declared for 292 seats out of the 294 assembly seats.

- The remaining 2 seats elections will be held later.
- All India Trinamool Congress won the highest 213 seats.
- Among other parties, Bharatiya Janata Party got 77 seats, Rashtriya Secular Majlis Party got 1 and an independent won the seat.
- All India Trinamool Congress Chief Mamata Banerjee lost the election to BJP candidate Suwendu Adhikari in the Nandigram constituency.
- On 5 May 2021, Mamata Banerjee sworn in as the Chief Minister of Bengal for the third consecutive time.

Links:

<https://results.eci.gov.in/Result2021/partywiseresult-S03.htm>

DRDO's Anti-Covid Drug

Question: What is the name of recently launched DRDO's Anti-Covid Drug?

a) Aayush 65 b) Coronil c) 2-DG d) None of the above

Ans: c

Facts

- On May 17, 2021, the DRDO released the first batch of 2-DG drugs.
- Drug is approved for emergency medical usage.
- **About 2-DG drug**
- 2-DG (2-Deoxy – D – Glucose) is developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS). INMAS is a laboratory operating under DRDO.
- The drug ensures faster recovery of hospitalised patients and will reduce supplemental oxygen dependence during clinical trials.
- It accumulates in infected cells and stops viral synthesis. This accumulation makes the drug unique.
- The drug comes in a powdered form in sachets. It is consumed orally after dissolving in water.



Reference : <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/drdo-2-dg-anti-covid-drug-all-you-need-to-know/articleshow/82701791.cms>

Punjab to join COVAX facility

Question: Which Indian state has recently decided to join global COVAX facility?

a) Punjab b) Kerala c) MP d) none of the above

Ans: a

Context

- The Punjab Government recently announced that it is to join COVAX facility in order to increase its COVID-19 supplies.



- **Facts**

- Punjab is facing a shortage of COVID-19 vaccines, and in order to get doses, it would be joining the Covax facility.
- Many other state and even BMC has also said that they would be importing vaccine on their own.
- **About COVAX**

- COVID-19 Vaccines Global Access, abbreviated as COVAX, is a worldwide initiative aimed at equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines directed by Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance (formerly the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunization, or GAVI), the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), and the World Health Organization (WHO).
- Covax aims to stop vaccine nationalism
- However it only cooperates with national governments as of now , so it is unclear whether Punjab is even eligible or not to buy vaccine from it.

Reference: <https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/health/covid-19-as-punjab-faces-vaccine-shortage-state-hopes-to-join-covax-facility-check-details/2252749/>

Notified Disease

Question: Which state government has recently included Black Fungus Disease (mucormycosis) under notified disease in state?

a) Harayana b) Delhi c) Uttar Pradesh d) Rajasthan

Ans: a

Context

- Recently Harayana has included Black Fungus Disease (mucormycosis) under notified disease in the state.
- **Facts About Mucormycosis**
- Mucormycosis (previously called zygomycosis) is a serious but rare fungal infection caused by a group of molds called mucormycetes.
- These molds live in the environment and if ingested can generate the infection.
- Mucormycosis mainly affects people who have health problems or take medicines that lower the body's ability to fight germs and sickness i.e. immunocompromised people.
- It has 50% of mortality rate. There are different type of Mucormycosis with different symptoms:-
- Rhinocerebral (sinus and brain) mucormycosis infects sinus and brain and can cause one-sided facial swelling, Headache, fever and Black lesions on nasal bridge or upper inside of mouth that quickly become more severe.



Pulmonary (lung) mucormycosis includes fever, cough, chest pain , breath shortedness.

Cutaneous (skin) mucormycosis can look like blisters or ulcers, and the infected area may turn black. Other symptoms include pain, warmth, excessive redness, or swelling around a wound.

Gastrointestinal mucormycosis includes abdominal pain, vomiting.

Disseminated mucormycosis typically occurs in people who are already sick from other medical conditions.

- The disease becomes life threatening in already immunocompromised covid 19 recovered patients as it starts infecting the brain. Its rapid spread worsens the condition leading to multiple organ failure. In due process, it damages immunity and makes patients infection-prone.
- **What does notified disease means**
- Once a disease is included under notified category, special monitoring protocols are set up for that disease.
- The doctors have to report about the occurrence of disease in their patients to the Chief Medical Officer of the district.
- It will help authorities to collect information of the spread of the disease, monitor the disease and set off early warnings.
- **What is a notified disease?**
- Notified diseases are also called Notifiable diseases. It is any disease whose occurrence has to be reported to the Government by law.
- State government has the authority to declare any disease as notified disease as health is state subject. Central government maintains the list of notified disease .

Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/chandigarh/7316320black-fungus-declared-notified-disease-in-haryana-vij/>
<https://www.edristi.in/mucormycosis-and-covid-19/>

National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage

Question : On May 12, 2021, the Union Cabinet approved which production-related incentive scheme ?

- (a) National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage
- (b) National Programme on Advanced Physics
- (c) National Programme on Advanced Computing
- (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The Union Cabinet has recently (May 2021) approved a Rs. 18,100-crore Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for



manufacturers of Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC) battery storage, to reduce imports.

- The scheme is called the NPACC.
- NPACC stands for — National Programme on Advanced Chemistry Cell Battery Storage.
- Organiser of the programme is Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises.
- The plan is to set up 50 gigawatt hour (GWh) manufacturing capacity for ACC batteries by attracting investments totaling Rs. 45,000 crore.
- Requires each selected ACC battery Storage manufacturer to set-up an ACC manufacturing facility of minimum 5 GWh capacity, achieve a domestic value addition of at least 25% and incur the mandatory investment Rs.225 crore /GWh within twenty four months.
- Furthermore, the beneficiary firms need to ensure a minimum 60% domestic value addition at the Project level within sixty months.
- The incentive will be disbursed over a period of five years. It will be paid out on the basis of sales, energy efficiency, battery life cycle, and localization levels.
- Advanced Chemistry Cell (ACC)
- It is the new generation of advanced storage technologies that can store electric energy either as electrochemical or as chemical energy and convert it back to electric energy as and when required.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1717938>

first indigenous anti COVID drug

Question : On which date Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the first batch of indigenous medicine of Corona ?

(a) 17 MAY 2021 (b) 16 MAY 2021 (c) 15 MAY 2021 (d) 14 MAY 2021

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- Defense Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched the first batch of indigenous medicine of Corona on May 17,2021.
- The anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of the drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) has been developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences (INMAS), a lab of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), along with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1719393>

India's first video-based Wealth Community

Question : Which Indian e-commerce payment system and financial technology company has launched the Paytm Wealth Community to revolutionize how Indians learn, discuss, and trade in the capital markets ?

(a) Paytm (b) PayPal (c) FreeCharge (d) MobiKwik

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- Paytm is an Indian e-commerce payment system and financial technology company.
- It has recently (April 26, 2021) launched India's first video-based Wealth Community.
- This community would revolutionize how Indians learn, discuss, and trade in the capital markets.
- Paytm Wealth Community is India's first investing community based on Video and will enable users to attend live sessions from subject matter experts across an array of wealth topics like Stocks, F&O, IPO, ETFs, Mutual Funds, Gold, Fixed Income, Personal Finance etc.
- Users will be able to learn from experts, interact with them to clarify doubts, and also chat with other users on the platform to discuss various wealth-related topics.
- The platform is very intuitive, offers live video content of 30 to 60 minute duration on an interactive chat platform, conducted by experts in multiple languages like Hindi, English, Gujarati, and others. In beta, a limited set of creators have been onboarded by Paytm.
- The Paytm Wealth community is owned and operated by OCL Ltd. (Paytm) and is initially being offered in beta mode on the Paytm Money platform.
- Paytm Wealth Community also offers the unique opportunity for subject matter experts and experienced investors to become content creators, share their knowledge with millions of budding investors, and create a personal brand in the Indian Capital Markets.



Link:

<https://www.paytmoney.com/blog/wealth-community/>

Ministry of Corporate Affairs : CCI approvals

Question: CCI approved the acquisition of YES Asset Management (India) Limited (YES AMC) and YES Trustee Limited (YES Trustee) by GPL Finance and Investments Limited (GPL) on May 18, 2021. What is the full form of CCI?

- (a) Competition Commission of India (b) Corporate Commission of India
(c) Corporate Council of India (d) None of the above

Answer- a

Related facts

- CCI approved the acquisition of YES Asset Management (India) Limited (YES AMC) and YES Trustee Limited (YES Trustee) by GPL
- Finance and Investments Limited (GPL) on May 18, 2021.



- The proposed combination envisages acquisition of 100% equity shares of YES AMC and YES Trustee by GPL.
- By way of these acquisitions, GPL will acquire Yes Mutual Fund and become its sole sponsor.
- GPL
- GPL is registered with the Reserve Bank of India as a non-deposit taking and non-systemically important Non-Banking Financial Company.
- GPL is part of the White Oak Group. The White Oak group is an investment management and investment advisory group founded by Mr Prashant Khemka.
- YES AMC & YES Trustee belongs to the YES Bank Limited group. It acts as an asset management company / investment manager to YES Mutual Fund.
- CCI
- CCI stands for Competition Commission of India.
- The Competition Act
- The Competition Act, 2002, as amended by the Competition (Amendment) Act, 2007, follows the philosophy of modern competition laws. The Act prohibits anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position by enterprises and regulates combinations (acquisition, acquiring of control and M&A), which causes or likely to cause an appreciable adverse effect on competition within India.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1719649>

Enhancement of facilities under the Customs(Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules,2017

Question : CBIC has recently (May 2021) informed trade about enhancement of facilities under Import of goods at concession rate. Which year's budget stated that the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 (IGCR, 2017) would be amended to boost trade facilitation ?

(a) Budget 2021-22 (b) Budget 2020-21 (c) Budget 2019-20 (d) Budget 2018-19

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- The Finance Minister had in her Budget Speech this year announced that the Customs (Import of Goods at Concessional Rate of Duty) Rules, 2017 (IGCR, 2017) would be amended to boost trade facilitation.
- Accordingly, the Central Board of Customs and Indirect Taxes(CBIC) had immediately enhanced the scope of these rules on 2nd February 2021.
- The CBIC has now issued a Circular No.10/2021-Customs, dated 17th May 2021 in order to assist the trade in understanding the improvements in the IGCR, 2017 so that they may make full use of the new facilities.
- The changes are aimed at facilitating the trade, particularly MSME, who have limited options to manufacture and trade but have entrepreneurial abilities to make and sell goods and services.
- One major change that accommodates the needs of trade and industry is that the imported goods have been permitted to be sent out for 'job work'.

- Another major incentive now provided is to allow those who import capital goods at a concessional Customs duty to clear them in the domestic market on payment of duty and interest, at a depreciated value.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719706>

Online portal for plasma donation

Question : NACHA President Ganesh Kar along with his NRI friends has recently(May 2021) launched a portal/App 'Blood4us' to handle blood plasma donations. What is the full form of NACHA ?

- (a) North America Chhattisgarh Association
- (b) North Atlantic Chhattisgarh Association
- (c) North America Chhattisgarh Alliance (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- North America Chhattisgarh Association (NACHA) President Ganesh Kar along with his NRI friends has recently(May 2021) launched a portal/App 'Blood4us' to handle blood plasma donations.
- The portal hopes to streamline the process of plasma donation in light of the Covid wave that has hit India.
- The organization is registered in the US as a non-profit group.
- The portal aims to save lives and arrange plasma by establishing real-time and seamless contact between donors and recipients.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/nri-launches-online-portal-for-plasma-donation.html>

Second-fastest growing retailer in world

Question : Which firm has been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in the 2021 ?

- (A) Reliance Retail (B) Future Retail (C) V-mart (D) Shoppers stop

Ans.(A)

Related facts

- Reliance Retail has recently(May 2021) been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in the 2021.
- 2021 ranking of global retail power houses



- This ranking has been done by Deloitte.
- Reliance Retail has been ranked second fastest growing retailer in the world in the 2021.
- Reliance Retail has down from top rank secured the previous years.
- It has been ranked 53rd in the list of Global Powers of Retailing, improvement from 56th earlier.
- The list is topped by US giant Walmart Inc, which retains its position as world's top retailer.
- Amazon.com Inc improved its position to rank second. Costco Wholesale Corporation of US slipped a rank to be placed third followed by Schwarz Group of Germany.
- The top 10 has seven US retailers and one from the UK (Tesco PLC at 10th position). Other US retailers in the top 10 include The Kroger Co (ranked 5th), Walgreens Boots Alliance, Inc (6th) and CVS Health Corporation (ranked 9th). Germany's Aldi Einkauf GmbH & Co. oHG and Aldi International Services GmbH & Co. oHG is placed at 8th position.
- Reliance Retail's position
- Reliance Retail is the only Indian entry in the global list of 250 retailers. It features consecutively for the 4th time in the list of Global Powers of Retailing and World's Fastest Retailers.
- Deloitte
- London based Deloitte is a multinational professional services network with offices in over 150 countries and territories around the world.
- It is one of the Big Four accounting organizations and the largest professional services network in the world by revenue and number of professionals.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/mukesh-ambani-s-reliance-retail-second-fastest-growing-retailer-in-world-121050900260_1.html

Oxygen supply in India's north-eastern region

Question : How many oxygen production plants will Japan and UNDP provide for the Northeast?

(a) Twelve (b) Ten (c) Eight (d) Nine

Ans.(c)

Related facts

- Japan and UNDP will provide eight oxygen production plants for the Northeast.
- These production plants will help provide oxygen to more than 1300 beds of hospitals in the region.
- This was announced by Union Minister Jitendra Singh on May 11, 2021.
- It is notable that government of Japan and UNDP India have been jointly supporting the Indian government's response to the Covid-19 pandemic since June last year through the strengthening of health and social protection systems



and reviving livelihoods to address the impact of the virus on the lives of the most vulnerable population.

Link:

<https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/industry/japan-undp-join-efforts-to-boost-oxygen-supply-in-indias-north-eastern-region/82542689>
<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/japan-undp-join-hands-to-boost-oxygen-supply-in-northeast-india-amid-covid-surge/755430>

Expert Committees for suggesting standards under the OSH & WC Code, 2020

Question- Recently the Ministry of Labor and Employment constituted an expert committee to review the standard of OSH and WC Code 2020. Under whose chairmanship has the Expert Committee for Factories and Dock Works been formed?

(a) P.K. cculpture (b) Dr.R. K. Elangovan (c) Sanjeev Kumar (d) DK Shami

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- Ministry of Labour & Employment has recently set up Expert Committees for suggesting standards under the OSH&WC Code, 2020
- The Expert Committees for Factories and Dock Works are constituted under Chairmanship of Dr. R. K. Elangovan, DG, DGFASLI, Mumbai.
- The other two Expert Committees for the Building & Other Construction Works and the Fire Safety are constituted under Chairmanship of Shri P.L.N. Murthy, VP & Head Domestic Operations, L &T Hydrocarbon, Chennai and Shri D. K. Shami, Fire Advisor to the Government of India, MHA respectively.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1708924>

Launch of online complaint management portal of NCSC

Question: On 14 April 2021, Union Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched online complaint management portal of which commission?

(a) National Backward Commission (b) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
(c) National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (d) National Commission for Women

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- On April 14, 2021, on the occasion of the 130th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar, Union Minister of Communications and Information Technology,



Law and Justice Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the online complaint management portal of the National Scheduled Castes Commission (NCSC).

- The objective of NCSC is to organize a grievance redressal mechanism for the Scheduled Caste population through this portal.
- The portal, created in collaboration with Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), will facilitate e-filing of complaints and their monitoring.
- This portal is linked to the website of the Commission.
- The National Commission for Scheduled Castes has been constituted under Article 338 of the Constitution.

Link:

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

Launch of India Energy Dashboards

Question : Which organisation has recently(12 APR 2021) launched the India Energy Dashboards ?

(a) NITI Aayog (b) NHPC (c) Powergrid (d) Vidyut Niyamak Aayog

Ans. (a)

Related facts

- The India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0 launched by NITI Aayog on April 12, 2021.
- India Energy Dashboards (IED) is an endeavour to provide single-window access to the energy data for the country.
- Energy data published/provided by Central Electricity Authority, Coal Controller's Organisation, and Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas is compiled in the Dashboards.
- NITI Aayog launched the Version 1.0 in May 2017.
- **The key features of the enhanced version, India Energy Dashboards Version 2.0, are –**
- The IED provides time series data from FY 2005-06 until FY 2019-20; Enhanced data download – It enables easy downloading of data into convenient spreadsheet formats in a cleaner, more intuitive way; IED provides data at sub-yearly frequencies as well. This includes monthly data and API linked data from some portals maintained by the government agencies. The monthly data is sourced from the monthly reports that are regularly published for the electricity, petroleum and natural gas sectors.
- API linked data from Saubhagya, UJALA, PRAAPTI and Vidyut PRAVAH has been incorporated in the portal; A 'Feedback and Suggestions' forum for the engagement of energy data user community has been incorporated; A semi-automated workflow/ issue-tracking system for managing periodic updates to the IED.



- The workflow system performs basic checks and data validation, helping to avoid incorrect data entry; Addition of technical and financial data of electricity utilities available from the regulatory documents in the state of Maharashtra.
- Regulatory data specifically for the area served by the state-owned distribution utility – MSEDCL has been added. The Dashboards will include other states data in future.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1711204>

International

Update on Forbes 30 under 30 Asia: 2021

Question : Gurugram based startup MoovFarm recently came into limelight because of which reason ?

- Its founders made their way to Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list
- Its founders became richest Asian
- Its founders achieved US prudential award
- Both b. & c.

Ans. a.

- Gurugram based startup MoovFarm recently(May 2021) came into limelight because of Its founders made their way to Forbes 30 under 30 Asia list.
- MoovFarm's Co-founders are Jitesh Arora, Abhijeet Mittal, and Aashna Singh.
- They embarked their entrepreneurial journey in 2019 with MoovFarm, an award-winning technology start-up for dairy farmers.
- MoovFarm also raised \$600k USD from Dutch-based accelerator Rockstart and a Dutch based Investment firm, Navus Ventures in 2020.
- The most used services of the app include E-dairy Mitra, MoovFarm Saba and the Cattle Trading platform.
- Through E-dairy Mitra service, the farmers can connect with qualified expert veterinarians and get all their queries resolved at a minimal price.
- MoovFarm Saba is an online farmer community for dairy farmers where they can access knowledge content, peer support and receive tips from experts.
- The cattle trading platform allows farmers to sale/purchase cattle without any hassle.



Link:

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/moovfarms-co-founders-make-their-way-to-forbes-30-under-30-asia-list20210522144134/>

UNITE AWARE platform

Question: Which country will launch a mobile tech platform Unite Aware for the United Nations Peacekeepers?

- (a) USA (b) China (c) Russia (d) India

Answer: (d)
Related facts:

- India will launch 'UNITE AWARE', a mobile tech platform for the United Nations Peacekeepers to improve their safety and security in the line of duty.
- The platform will provide terrain-related information to the UN Peacekeepers.
- It will be launched during India's United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Presidency term in August 2021 (Presidency of the UNSC Council is held by each of the members in turn for one month).
- With project cost of USD 1.64 million, India is developing it in partnership with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Operational Support.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-to-launch-mobile-tech-platform-for-un-peacekeepers-in-august/articleshow/82931983.cms>

Guillermo Lasso

Question: Who has sworn in as the President of Ecuador in May 2021?

(a) Guillermo Lasso (b) Andres Arauz (c) Lenin Moreno (d) Yaku Perez

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- On 24 May 2021, Guillermo Lasso assumed the office of the President of Ecuador.
- He is the country's first right-wing president in 14 years.
- Guillermo Lasso, leader of centre-right CREO party had won Ecuador's Presidential Elections 2021 with over 52 per cent of votes against Andres Arauz.
- Ecuador is a country straddling the equator on South America's west coast.



Links:

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/world/lasso-inaugurated-as-first-right-wing-ecuador-president-in-14-years-14878410>

International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

Question: Which organisation is celebrating International Week of Solidarity with Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories from May 25 to 31, 2021?

a) United Nation b) African Union c) SAARC d) None of the above

Ans: a

Facts

- United Nations is observing “International Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories” from May 25 to 31, 2021.
- In the UN Charter, a Non-Self-Governing Territory is defined as a Territory “whose people have not yet attained a full measure of self-government.”
- Chapter XI of the UN Charter provides for “Declaration regarding Non-Self-Governing Territories”.
- The charter provides that, member states who are administering non-self-governing Territories, shall recognize the interests of inhabitants of these Territories are paramount.



Background

- In 1946, several UN Member States identified a number of Territories under their administration that were not self-governing and placed them on a UN list. Countries administering Non-Self-Governing Territories are called administering Powers. As a result of the decolonization process over the years, most of the Territories were removed from the list.

Reference: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/non-self-governing-week>

US\$ 50 billion global vaccination plan



Question: Which organization has proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan that would cover at least 40 per cent of the global population by the end of 2021?

- (a) International Monetary Fund (b) World Bank (c) World Health Organisation
(d) GAVI

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The International Monetary Fund has proposed a \$50 billion global vaccination plan to combat the Covid 19 crisis.
- The plan proposes to cover at least 40 per cent of the global population by the end of 2021 and at least 60 per cent by the first half of 2022.
- The vaccination target requires additional upfront grants to Covax, donating surplus doses and free cross-border flows of raw materials and finished vaccines.
- The proposal was elaborated by IMF in the Global Health Summit 2021 hosted by Italy(G20 2021 Presidency) & European Commission.

Links:

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/nation/imf-proposes-50-billion-global-vaccination-plan-256941>

UK launches plan for Global Pandemic Radar

Question: Which country has announced the plan to develop Global Pandemic Radar to identify Covid 19 variants?

(a) United kingdom (b) USA (c) China (d) Russia

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The United Kingdom will work with World Health organization to to develop a “pandemic radar” system to identify new corona virus variants quickly and track emerging diseases globally.
- This advanced international pathogen surveillance network is planned to ensure the world is never “caught unawares again”.
- Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced the plans, ahead of the Global Health Summit hosted by Italy and the European Union (EU).
- **About the radar:**
 - The radar is expected to be fully up and running with a network of surveillance hubs before the end of 2021, with the aim of significantly improving global health security going into next year.
 - WHO will lead an implementation group, supported by global health charity the Wellcome Trust, to launch the new international partnership to identify, track and share data on new coronavirus variants and monitor vaccine resistance in populations.

**Links:**

<https://www.reuters.com/world/uk/britain-work-with-who-pandemic-radar-track-diseases-2021-05-20/>

Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index

Question: What is the rank of India in Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index published by released by EY (Earnest and Young)?

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

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- India has moved up a position to the third spot in the 57th EY Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) released by EY(Ernst & Young).
- This dramatic change has been driven by the



Indian government's policy ambitions, which has led solar PV to be the most cost competitive source of power in the region and improving further with the passage of time.

- Also, India's solar sector is expected to grow significantly post the COVID-19 pandemic, with generation from solar PV forecast to exceed coal before 2040.
- India also committed to setting up 450 GW for renewable energy power capacity (installed) by 2030 in the recent climate summit hosted by the US.
- The US retains the top position on RECAI. China has remained a buoyant market and maintains the second position.

Links:

https://www.ey.com/en_in/news/2021/05/india-ranks-3rd-in-the-renewable-energy-country-attractiveness-index-released-by-ey

Moctar Ouane

Question: Who has been appointed as Prime Minister of Mali?

- (a) Moctar Ouane
- (b) Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga
- (c) Modibo Keita (d) Moussa Mara

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Moctar Ouane is reappointed as Prime Minister of Mali.
- He was appointed as Prime Minister of the caretaker government in August 2020 after the removal of Ibrahim Boubacar Keita.
- Ouane will have to form a new government with room for the political class, under the instructions of President Bah N'Daw.
- In April 2021, Mali's interim government had announced that it would hold a constitutional referendum on October 31 and an election in February 2022.
- Mali is facing a political crisis due to disputed legislative elections and economic crisis due to economic stagnation, corruption, and the Covid-19 pandemic.



Links:

<https://www.france24.com/en/africa/20210514-mali-s-interim-prime-minister-moctar-ouane-to-form-new-government>

New president of Tibetan exile government

Question: Who has been elected the new president of the Tibetan exile government?

- (a) Penpa Tsering (b) Lobsang Sangay (c) Pema Yangchen
- (d) Choekyong Wangchuk

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The former speaker of Tibet's parliament-in-exile, Penpa Tsering, has been elected the new president of the exile government.
- Nearly 64,000 Tibetans living in exile in India, Nepal, North America, Europe, Australia and elsewhere voted in the election, which was held in two rounds in January and April.
- It was 3rd direct election of leadership after the withdrawal of Dalai lama from politics.



Links:

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/penpa-tsering-elected-president-tibetan-exile-government-77690565>

International Day of Living Together in Peace

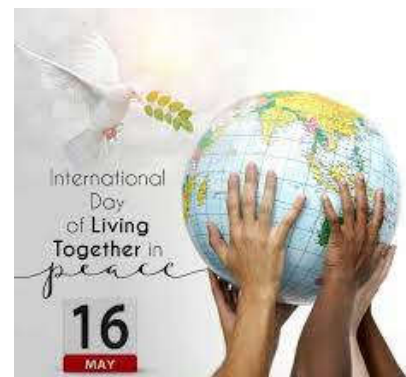
Question: When is the International Day of Living Together in Peace observed?

(a) 10 May (b) 15 May (c) 16 May (d) 20 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- International Day of Living Together in Peace is observed every year on May 16 since 2018.
- The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.
- The United Nations General Assembly decided to celebrate 16th May as the International Day of Living Together in Peace on 8th December 2017.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/living-in-peace-day>

WHO BioHub Facility

Question: At which of the following place WHO has announced to setup its BioHub Facility?

a) New York b) Geneva c) Spiez d) Wuhan

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 24 May 2021; the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Swiss Confederation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to launch the first WHO BioHub Facility.
- It will be as part of the WHO BioHub System, which was announced in November 2020.



- This facility will enhance the rapid sharing of viruses and other pathogens between laboratories and partners globally.
- This first WHO BioHub facility will be based in Spiez, Switzerland, and will serve as a centre for the safe receipt, sequencing, storage and preparation of biological materials.
- The biological materials kept here for distribution to other laboratories, in order to inform risk assessments, and sustain global preparedness against these pathogens.
- Close international collaboration to ensure the timely sharing of epidemiological and clinical data as well as biological materials is of utmost importance.
- Switzerland supports the WHO BioHub initiative in its initial phase by providing the necessary infrastructure of a Swiss bio-safety laboratory in Spiez.
- Swiss Federal Councillor Alain Berset said that with this, we hope to contribute to the establishment of an international exchange system for SARS-CoV-2 and other emerging pathogens.

Links:-

<https://www.who.int/news/item/24-05-2021-who-and-switzerland-launch-global-biohub-for-pathogen-storage-sharing-and-analysis>

Mount Nyiragongo Volcano Erupted Again

Question: Mount Nyiragongo Volcano, which has erupted again on 22 May 2021, is located in which of the following country?

a) DR Congo b) Philippines c) Nigeria d) Indonesia

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 22 May 2021, it was reported that Mount Nyiragongo an active stratovolcano In DR Congo was started erupting.
- Its Lava approached the Goma airport and moved towards the city centre of eastern Goma.
- It was later confirmed by the North Kivu province's military governor that the eruption was at around 17:00 GMT.
- A highway to Beni was cut off by lava, and authorities urged residents from the city of Goma to evacuate.
- The lava ejected from the volcano causing thousands of people to leave their homes.
- The eruption resulted in at least 15 deaths, mostly caused by car crashes in the ensuing evacuation.
- The volcano's deadliest eruption happened in 1977, when more than 600 people died.
- Mount Nyiragongo is one of the world's more active volcanoes



Links:-

<https://www.ndtv.com/world-news/mass-evacuation-in-goma-city-of-democratic-republic-of-congo-after-nyiragongo-volcano-eruption-scary-2450149>

Italy hosts the Global G 20 Health Summit

Question: A global health summit was organised recently by G-20 grouping under the presidency of Italy. Which nation/organisation co-hosted the event?

- a) WHO b) European Union (EU)
c) USA d) none of the above

Ans: b

Facts

- The Global G20 Health Summit was hosted by Italy as part of its G20 presidency along with co-host European Commission amid the surge and spread of the coronavirus cases.
- Event also had the presence of big drug makers of the world . Rich nation leaders and big drugmakers promised to do more to bridge the startling divide in fighting COVID-19, with an increased flow of badly-needed vaccines to poorer regions.
- The summit adopted the agenda to overcome Covid-19 pandemic. It also decided to develop and endorse a Rome Declaration of principles.
- In Rome Declaration, the leaders called for voluntary licensing and technology transfers to boost vaccine production. But there was no consensus on a contested push by the United States and other nations for pharmaceutical companies to waive valuable patents.
- G20 has also contributed in the launch of ACT-Accelerator as it was launched after G20 called for a global mechanism to accelerate development of tests, treatments and vaccines.
- ACT-Accelerator is used for “Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator”. It is also called as Global Collaboration to Accelerate Development, Production and Equitable Access to COVID-19 diagnostics, therapeutics and vaccines.



Reference: <https://www.reuters.com/world/g20-health-summit-looks-boost-vaccine-access-drugmakers-offer-cut-price-shots-2021-05-21/>

Expantion in tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Sites

Question : Six Indian places has recently been(May 2021) added to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Site. Which one of the following is among them ?

- (a) Satpura Tiger Reserve (b) Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi
(c) Megalithic site of Hire Benkal (d) All above

Ans.(d)

Related facts

- Six Indian places has recently been(May 2021) added to tentative list of UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- The sites on the tentative list are: Satpura Tiger



Reserve, Iconic riverfront of the historic city of Varanasi, Megalithic site of Hire Benkal, Maratha Military Architecture in Maharashtra, Bhedaghat-Lametaghat in Narmada Valley- Jabalpur, and temples of Kanchipuram

- Role of ASI
- The submissions were made by Archaeological Survey of India(ASI), which is responsible for the conservation and preservation of Indian monuments.
- Total proposals
- With the addition of these six sites, UNESCO has 48 proposals in the tentative list of India.

Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/lifestyle/destination-of-the-week/varanasi-ghats-kanchipuram-temples-unesco-world-heritage-tentative-list-sites-cultural-legacy-7322598/>

COVID Relief Consignment from Brunei and Singapore

Question:in which operation has been involved INS Jalashwa?

- (a)Operation Samudra Setu II (b)Operation Samudra Manthan
(c)Operation Sagar Ratna (d)None of the above

Answer- a

Related facts

- As part of on-going COVID Relief Operation 'Samudra Setu II' launched by the Indian Navy, INS Jalashwa embarked with 18 Cryogenic Oxygen Tanks and other critical COVID Medical Stores including 3650 Oxygen Cylinders and 39 Ventilators from Brunei and Singapore, arrived Visakhapatnam on 23 May 21.
- 15 of the 18 Cryogenic Tanks are filled with Liquid Medical Oxygen.
- The COVID relief materials including Oxygen Containers and Ventilators were facilitated by the Indian Missions and the consignment are being handed over to Govt agencies in various States and NGOs.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1721107>

Global Prime Residential Index

Question: What is the ranking of Mumbai in latest Global Prime Residential Index?

- A. 36th rank B. 32nd rank C. 30th rank D. 40th rank

Answer- A

Related facts

- Mumbai and New Delhi have moved one spot down to 32nd and 36th rank respectively in the latest(released May 2021) Knight Frank's Prime Global Cities Index Q1.
- Bengaluru has moved down four spots to 40th rank in the latest Index.
- India's top property markets have witnessed a slight decline in the prime residential prices.
- India's top property markets
- These markets have witnessed a slight decline in the prime residential prices.
- Mumbai – Prime residential market registered a decline of 0.1% with an average price of ₹63,758 per square feet.
- Bengaluru – It saw a decline of 2.7% year-on-year in prime residential prices.
- New Delhi – It remained flat in terms of annual capital value change in prime residential market to an average price of ₹33,572 per square feet.
- Prime residential property
- It is defined as the most desirable and most expensive property in a given location, generally defined as the top 5 per cent of each market by value.
- The Prime Global Cities Index
- It is a valuation-based index tracking movement in prime residential prices in local currency across 45-plus cities worldwide using Knight Frank's global research network.
- Three Chinese cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai and Guangzhou lead the index this quarter.
- Shenzhen recorded the strongest performing world region with a growth of 18.9%, while New York was the weakest performing market with negative 5.8% growth.



Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/news/india/mumbai-ranks-36-bengaluru-40-in-global-prime-residential-index-by-knight-frank/amp-11620298653136.html>

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE MIDWIF

Question – On which date is the International Day for Midwives celebrated?

(a) 3 May (b) 5 May (c) 2 May (d) 8 May

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- On 5 May 2021, International Day for Midwives (Midwives) was celebrated all over the world.
- Theme – “Follow the Data: Invest in Midwives.”
- The day is celebrated to recognize the work of midwives and raise awareness for need care provided to mothers and their newborns.



- Significantly, the WHO declared the year 2020 as the Year of Nurse and Midwife to commemorate the 200th birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

Link:

<https://www.internationalmidwives.org/icm-events/international-day-of-the-midwife-2021.html>

Private Astronaut Mission to the International Space Station

Question: Where will the spaceflight, designated as Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1), send the private astronauts in 2022?

a) Mars b) Moon c) International Space Station d) None of these

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- NASA and Axiom Space have signed an order for the first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station.
- This first private astronaut mission to the International Space Station is expected to take place early in 2022.
- According to associate administrator for human exploration and operations at NASA, this will be the first private astronaut mission to the space station.
- He said that one of the original goals with the Commercial Crew Program, is that our providers have customers other than NASA to grow a commercial economy in low-Earth orbit
- The spaceflight, designated as Axiom Mission 1 (Ax-1), will launch from NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida and travel to the International Space Station.
- Once docked, the Axiom astronauts are scheduled to spend eight days aboard the orbiting laboratory.
- NASA and Axiom mission planners will coordinate in-orbit activities for the private astronauts to conduct in coordination with space station crew members and flight controllers on the ground.
- Axiom will purchase services for the mission from NASA, such as crew supplies, cargo delivery to space, storage, and other in-orbit resources for daily use.
- NASA will purchase from Axiom the capability to return scientific samples that must be kept cold in transit back to Earth.
- The first private crew to visit the International Space Station is a watershed moment in humanity's expansion off the planet.
- Axiom President and CEO Michael Suffredini said that and we are glad to partner with NASA in making it happen.
- NASA has opened up the space station for commercial activities, including private astronaut missions.
- It has been done by the NASA as part of its plan to develop a robust and competitive economy in low-Earth orbit.
- Enabling Ax-1 is an important step to stimulate demand for commercial human spaceflight services so NASA can be one of many customers in low-Earth orbit.



Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-axiom-agree-to-first-private-astronaut-mission-on-space-station>

International Day of Art of Giving

Question : 'Art of Giving' philosophy which was launched in 2013 by —

- (a) Prof Achyuta Samanta (b) Acharya Rajneesh (c) S Ramachandran
(d) Acharya Fanishwara

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- Every year, the 17th of May is celebrated as the International Day of Art of Giving (AOG).
- 'Art of Giving' philosophy which was launched in 2013 by Prof Achyuta Samanta, a globally-acclaimed philanthropist, social worker, and a widely-admired humanitarian whose roots are in India and in the State of Odisha.
- It stands on the simple premise – 'Live to give and give to live'.
- Achyuta Samanta
- Achyuta Samanta (born 20 January 1965) is an Indian educationist, philanthropist, and a social worker who campaigns for empowerment through quality education.
- He is the founder of Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), both educational institutions of global repute and recognition.



Link:

<https://kalingatv.com/state/international-day-of-art-of-giving-on-may-17-observation-begins-from-tomorrow/>

International money transfer partnerships

Question : With which firms has Google launched international money transfer partnerships ?

- (a) Wise and Western Union Co (b) MoneyGram and WorldRemit
(c) Remitly and Azimo (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- Google has recently(may 2021) launched international money transfer partnerships with Wise and Western Union.
- This partnership has been done for users of its U.S. payments app.
- Google Pay users in the United States can now transfer money to app customers in India and Singapore, with plans to expand to the 80 countries available via Wise, and 200 via Western Union by the end of the year.
- Google's strategy



- Google's foray in the \$470 billion remittance market, marks a further step by the technology company to expand its financial services offering, ramping up competition in the digital payments sector.
- Wise
- London-based Wise was launched in 2011 with the aim of making international money transfers cheaper and easier, while Western Union remains a market leader in remittances, with a sprawling global network of physical locations.
- Their partnership with Google Pay, which has 150 million users in 40 countries, comes as the COVID-19 pandemic has led to a boom in online payments, but an estimated drop in overall remittances flows.
- The money migrant workers sent home is projected to have declined 14% from 2019 due to worsening economic conditions and employment levels in migrant-hosting countries, according to the latest estimates from the World Bank.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/technology/google-pay-launches-international-money-transfers-with-wise-and-western-union/articleshow/82547277.cms>

Enhancing of international tax cooperation

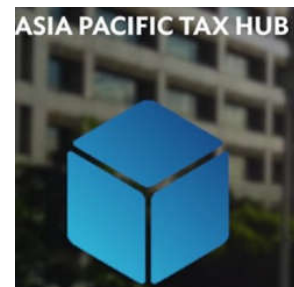
Question : Which international authority launches tax hub to enhance international tax cooperation ?

(a) ADB (b) IMF (c) World Bank (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- ADB has recently(May 2021) launched tax hub to enhance international tax cooperation.
- ITC(international tax cooperation) is actually a hub to create an open and inclusive platform to promote strategic policy dialogue, improve knowledge sharing and strengthen coordination on tax policy and administration among ADB members and development partners.
- It will maximize regional and international resources to strengthen domestic resource mobilisation and international tax cooperation in ADB's developing member countries (DMCs).
- The hub will support DMCs on three main building blocks: preparation of medium-term revenue strategies, roadmaps for automation of tax administration and proactive participation in international tax initiatives.



Link

<https://www.aninews.in/news/business/adb-launches-tax-hub-to-enhance-international-tax-cooperation20210507131702/>

Economics

Zebpay Lending Platform: First of its kind crypto lending model in India

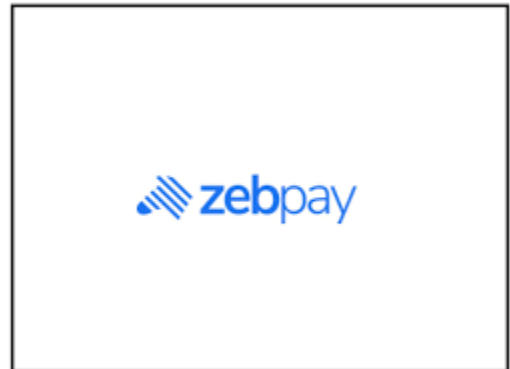
Question: On May 27, 2021, ZebPay announced the launch of ZebPay Lending Platform, the first crypto lending model of its kind in India. Now any investor can invest in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies and like FDs, earn profits on that investment the term for investment would be —

- a. 7-day only
- b. 30-day and 60-day only
- c. 90-days only
- d. All of the above

Ans. d.

Related facts

- On May 27, 2021, ZebPay announced the launch of ZebPay Lending Platform, the first crypto lending model of its kind in India.
- Now any investor can invest in Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies and like FDs, earn profits on that investment .
- The fixed term allows investors to lend their crypto for seven-day, 30-day, 60-day and 90-day periods, with the rate of return varying for each.
- ZebPay is one of the largest cryptocurrency platform in India.
- Now cryptocurrency can also be invested like FD.



Link:

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/news/zebpay-launches-lending-platform-how-investors-can-earn-returns-on-holdings-11622098829186.html>

RBI Annual Report, 2020-21

Question : What is the real gdp growth rate projected by RBI for FY 2020-21?

- (a) (-) 8.0 percent
- (b) (-) 6.0 per cent
- (c) (-) 7.6 per cent
- (d) (-) 5.4 per cent

Answer: (a)

Related facts

- The Reserve Bank of India released its Annual Report on May 27, 2021. Accordingly, India's real gdp growth rate projected at (-) 8.0 percent for FY 2020-21.
- It is estimated at 4.0 percent for FY 2019-20.
- RBI has changed its accounting year to April-March from July-June, and hence the latest report only covers nine months (July 2020-March 2021).
- Other salient features of the report given below —



- Banks and other financial institutions reported frauds worth Rs 1.38 trillion in 2020-21, down 25 per cent compared to the previous year, when the amount involved was Rs 1.85 trillion.
- In terms of number, these entities reported 15 per cent fewer frauds in 2020-21, at 7,363, compared to the previous year's 8,703 cases.
- It is notable that RBI data takes into account frauds of Rs 1 lakh and above only.
- In 2019-20, the total fraud cases involving Rs 1 lakh and above had shot up by 28 per cent by volume and 159 per cent by value.
- The central bank's gain from foreign exchange transactions rose from Rs 29,993 crore to Rs 50,629 crore in 2020-21.

Link:

<https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/AnnualReportPublications.aspx?year=2021>

Bank credit growth

Question : How much bank credit growth decelerates in March 2021 ?

a. 5.6 percent b. 4.9 percent c. 5.1 percent d. 5.9 percent

Ans. a.

- Bank credit growth decelerated to 5.6 per cent in March 2021 from 6.4 per cent a year ago, the Reserve Bank said on May 28, 2021.
- While aggregate deposits growth accelerated to 12.3 per cent in March 2021 from 9.5 per cent in the same month of the previous year.
- Lower growth in credit vis-a-vis deposits led to decline in the all-India credit-deposit (C-D) ratio to 71.5 per cent in March 2021 from 76 per cent a year ago.
- Combined credit by bank branches in top six centres (Greater Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Hyderabad and Kolkata) declined marginally during 2020-21.
- These six centres together accounted for over 46 per cent of total bank credit.
- Bank branches in urban, semi-urban and rural areas, on the other hand, recorded 9.4 per cent, 14.3 per cent and 14.5 per cent credit growth, respectively, during the year.
- Public sector and private sector banks recorded 3.6 per cent and 9.1 per cent credit growth, respectively, whereas lending by foreign banks declined during 2020-21.
- Aggregate deposits growth accelerated to 12.3 per cent in March 2021 from 9.5 per cent a year ago. Metropolitan branches, which account for over half of total deposits, recorded nearly 15 per cent growth during 2020-21.
- The share of current account and savings account (CASA) deposits in total deposits increased to 44.1 per cent in March 2021 from 42.1 per cent a year ago.



Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/bank-credit-growth-decelerates-to-5-6-in-march-from-6-4-last-year-121052801364_1.html

Forex reserves

Question : India's forex reserves(for the week ended May 21) hit lifetime high, rise \$ 2.8 bn to —

a. \$ 592.894 bn b. \$ 492.894 bn c. \$ 692.894 bn d. \$ 392.894 bn

Ans. a.

Related facts

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose by USD 2.865 billion to a record high of USD 592.894 billion for the week ended May 21, boosted by gold and currency assets, RBI data showed on May 28, 2021.
- The previous all-time high for the forex kitty was USD 590.185 billion for the week ended January 29, 2021.
- For the previous week ended May 14, the reserves had increased by USD 563 million to reach USD 590.028 billion.
- Foreign currency assets (FCA), a major component of the overall reserves, swelled by USD 1.649 billion to USD 548.519 billion for the reporting week, the RBI said.
- Expressed in dollar terms, the foreign currency assets include the effect of appreciation or depreciation of non-US units like the euro, pound and yen held in the foreign exchange reserves.
- After remaining unchanged in the previous week, gold reserves rose by USD 1.187 billion to USD 36.841 billion.
- The special drawing rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) increased by USD 7 million to USD 1.513 billion.
- India's reserve position with the IMF too increased by USD 22 million to USD 5.021 billion in the reporting week, as per the data.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/forex/indias-forex-reserves-touch-all-time-high-at-592-billion/articleshow/83037590.cms>

Barclays estimates GDP Growth Rate of India in bear case scenario

Question: What is the GDP growth rate estimated by the British brokerage Barclays for India in 2021-22 fiscal?

(a) 11 per cent (b) 7.7 per cent (c) 13 per cent (d) 12 per cent

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- British brokerage Barclays has projected the GDP growth rate of the Indian economy



to grow at 7.7 per cent in the bear-case scenario if the country is hit by the third wave of the Covid pandemic going ahead.

- The economic cost, it believes, could rise by at least a further \$42.6 billion, assuming another round of similar stringent lockdowns is imposed across the country for eight weeks later this year.
- However, they have further trimmed FY22 GDP projection to 9.2 per cent from 10 per cent earlier.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/barclays-pegs-india-s-fy22-gdp-growth-at-7-7-in-bear-case-scenario-121052500391_1.html

Inclusion of climate, digital tech into economic assessments

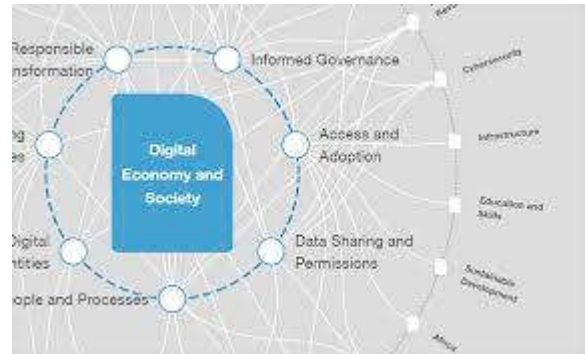
Question : Which international organization has unveiled plans to include climate, digital technology into economic assessments ?

a. IMF b. UNEP c. World Bank d. None of the above

Ans. a.

Related facts

- IMF has recently (May 2021) unveiled plans to include climate, digital technology into economic assessments.
- It aims to revamp the way it conducts economic assessments to better account for risks related to climate change, inequality and demographics, as well as evolving digital technologies.
- It will provide strategic direction for its economic analysis in coming years.



Link:

<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-imf-surveillance-idUSKCN2D12GR>

Highest Ever FDI Inflow

Question : India Records highest ever FDI inflow In FY21. What is that FDI inflow amount ?

a. 81.72 Billion dollar b. 85.88 Billion dollar c. 88.90 Billion dollar
d. 92.00 Billion dollar

Ans. a.

- India has recently (May 2021) attracted highest ever total Foreign Direct Investment or FDI inflow of US\$ 81.72 billion during the financial year 2020-21.
- It is 10% higher as compared to the last financial year 2019-20 (US\$ 74.39 billion).
- FDI equity inflow grew by 19% in the F. Y. 2020-21 (US\$ 59.64 billion) compared to the previous year F. Y. 2019-20 (US\$ 49.98 billion).



- In terms of top investor countries, 'Singapore' is at the apex with 29%, followed by the U. S. A (23%) and Mauritius (9%) for the F. Y. 2020-21.
- 'Computer Software & Hardware' has emerged as the top sector during F. Y. 2020-21 with around 44% share of the total FDI Equity inflow followed by Construction (Infrastructure) Activities (13%) and Services Sector (8%) respectively.

Link:

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/india-recorded-highest-ever-fdi-inflow-of-over-81-billion-in-fy21-101621884171107.html#:~:text=India%20received%20%2481.72%20billion%20foreign,investors%2C%20said%20an%20official%20statement.>

India's WPI Inflation Surges To 10.49% For April 2021

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) The Wholesale Price Index inflation was 10.49% for April 2021

(2) A wholesale price index (WPI) measures and tracks the changes in prices of goods in the stages before the retail level

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 Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade recently released Wholesale Price in India for the month of April 2021. The annual rate of inflation for the month of April 2021 was 10.49%. This is highest in more than a decade.
- The WPI for the month of April 2021 stood at 128.1. The base year in calculating WPI is fixed as 2011-12.
- The inflation rate is high in the month mainly because of the price rise in crude petroleum which in turn increased the prices of petrol and diesel in the country. Also, the price rise is due to an increase in the cost of manufactured foods.
- The annual rate of inflation in April 2021 is high primarily because of rising in prices of crude petroleum, mineral oils viz petrol, diesel, etc, and manufactured products as compared to the corresponding month of the previous year.
- **WPI Food Index**
 - The WPI Food index consists of food products from the manufactured products group and food articles from the primary articles group.
 - The WPI Food Index increased from 153.4 in March 2021 to 158.9 in April 2021. The increase rate in April is 7.58% and that of March is 5.28%.



Links:

<https://www.bloomberquint.com/economy-finance/indias-wpi-inflation-jumps-to-11-year-high-in-april>

National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)

Question: Which organization is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI)?

(a) RBI (b) SBI (c) NABARD (d) IDRBT

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- The Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (IDRBT) is building a next-generation Digital Financial Infrastructure named National Digital Financial Infrastructure (NADI).
- NADI would provide a roadmap and framework for future digital financial services growth in India.
- **About the NADI:**
 - NADI will consist of modern network infrastructure which includes 5G/Edge Cloud with SDNs (software-defined networking) for connecting to the critical data centre infrastructure at the back-end.
 - IDRBT is an arm of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).
 - It will also have the middleware infrastructure for supporting both digital identity verification, digital identity assessment and digital asset management with the support of efficient digital ledger technologies and AI/ML technologies.”



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/national/idrbt-building-next-generation-digital-financial-infrastructure/article34562783.ece>

HDFC Bank cuts FY22 growth projection

Question: What is the GDP Growth rate of India as forecasted by HDFC Bank for the fiscal year 2021-2022?

(a) 9.2 percent (b) 10 percent (c) 8.6 percent
(d) 11.2 percent

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- HDFC Bank has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 10 per cent.
- Earlier, the agency has estimated growth rate to be 11.5 per cent.



- The cut in growth rate is result of increased economic restrictions after the country is hit by second wave of Covid 19.
- In a worst-case scenario of COVID-19, the bank has predicted the GDP rate to be at 8%.

Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/markets/stocks/news/hdfc-bank-cuts-fy22-growth-projection-to-10-from-11-5/articleshow/82360488.cms>

Care Ratings Projects Forecasts India's GDP Growth Rate for FY22

Question: What is the GDP Growth rate of India as forecasted by Care Ratings for the fiscal year 2021-2022?

(a) 9.2 percent (b) 10.2 percent (c) 8.6 percent (d) 11.2 percent

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The domestic rating agency, Care Ratings, has revised India's GDP growth forecast for the current fiscal year 2021-2022 (FY22) to 9.2 per cent.
- Earlier, the agency has estimated growth rate to be 10.2 per cent in April 2021.
- The cut in growth rate is result of increased economic restrictions after the country is hit by second wave of Covid 19.



Links:

<https://www.cmie.com/kommon/bin/sr.php?kall=warticle&dt=2021-05-12%2010:47:45&msec=976>

Global COVAX alliance

Question: In May 2021, which Indian state government announced to join the global 'Covacx' facility in view of shortage of Covid-19 vaccines ?

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Punjab (c) Maharashtra (d) Rajasthan

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- In May 2021, the Punjab government announced to join the global 'Covax' facility in view of the shortage of Covid-19 vaccines.
- Covax was launched in April, 2020 in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the European Commission and France with the aim of tackling the Covid-19 pandemic and ensuring vaccine access to all the people.
- Covacx is co-led by GAVI, WHO and the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI).



- After the development of the vaccine under the Covacx initiative, efforts are being made to ensure its equal access to the countries involved in the initiative.
- It also aims to produce 2 billion doses by the end of the year ,2021.

Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/punjab-to-join-global-covax-alliance-to-procure-anti-covid-vaccines/articleshow/82606084.cms>

Formation of advisory group to support RRA 2.0

Question: In May 2021, RBI constituted an advisory group under whose chairmanship to assist the Second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0)?

(a) Gautam Thakur (b) Subar Saha (c) S. Janakiraman (d) Ravi Duvuru

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- In May 2021, the Reserve Bank of India formed an advisory group to assist the Second Regulatory Review Authority (RRA 2.0).
- Headed by SBI Managing Director S Janakiraman, the advisory group will assist the RRA by identifying regulations, guidelines, and returns that can be rationalised.
- The second regulatory review authority has been set up by the RBI to streamline the regulations and reduce the compliance burden of regulated entities.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/Economy/rbi-sets-up-advisory-group-to-assist-regulatory-review-authority/article34508645.ece>

India's first FPI licence to GIFT AIF

Question : Which bank has recently(May 2021) issued India's first FPI licence to GIFT AIF ?

(a) Kotak Mahindra Bank (b) Axis Bank (c) CSB Bank (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Kotak Mahindra Bank has recently (May 2021) issued India's first FPI licence to GIFT AIF.
- This is the first-ever foreign portfolio investor (FPI) licence to the GIFT IFSC alternative investment fund (AIF) of True Beacon Global.
- This is the first FPI licence issued to an AIF incorporated in GIFT IFSC by any custodian bank or designated depository participant (DDP) in the country.



- Foreign portfolio investments are now a reality through GIFT IFSC.
- Relevant authorities look forward to on-boarding new investors and providing them with a wide range of services catered towards their investments.
- AIF is an important business vertical at GIFT IFSC and offers huge benefits and a competitive edge for setting up fund in IFSC at GIFT City.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/kotak-mahindra-bank-issues-indias-first-fpi-license-to-gift-ifsc-aif/article34605084.ece>

UNCTA's observation : India, China and South Africa fared 'relatively better' than other major economies during Q1 of 2021

Question – UNCTAD's Global trade Update released on May, 2021.

Accordingly, which one of the following statement is correct ?

- (a) India's goods export grew 26% in Q1 of 2021
- (b) India's goods export grew 16% in Q1 of 2021
- (c) India's goods export grew 12% in Q1 of 2021
- (d) India's goods export grew 18% in Q1 of 2021

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- UNCTAD's Global trade Update released on May, 2021. Accordingly, India's goods export grew 26% in Q1 of 2021.
- On the other hand services exports rose 2%.
- India, China and South Africa fared 'relatively better' than other major economies during the first quarter of 2021 even as global trade recovery from Covid-19 impact reached a new high.
- Value of global trade in goods and services grew 4% quarter-over-quarter and by about 10% year-over-year in the three months ended March, but trade in many of the major economies was still below 2019 averages.
- China's exports registered a strong increase not only from 2020 averages but also in relation to pre-pandemic levels.



Link:

<https://m.economictimes.com/news/economy/indicators/india-china-s-africa-fared-relatively-better-than-other-major-economies-in-q1-of-2021-un/articleshow/82760423.cms>

Second largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific

Question : Which country recently (May 2021) became Second largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific ?

- (a) India (b) Malaysia (c) Singapore (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- According to S&P Global Market Intelligence data, India is the second



largest insurance-technology market in Asia-Pacific, accounting for 35% of the US\$ 3.66 billion in insurtech-focused venture investments made in the country.

- In Asia-Pacific, at least 335 private insurtechs are operative, with 122 of them reporting a total of US\$ 3.66 billion in capital raised through private placement transactions.
- According to a survey by S&P Global Market Intelligence, China and India present nearly half of all private insurtech companies in the APAC region, attracting > 78% of all investments.
- Due to their massive and rapidly rising insurance markets, the two markets will continue to attract the largest share of investor interest, according to the report.
- India accounted for 35% of the US\$ 3.66 billion in insurtech-focused venture capital invested in the APAC region. The country has at least 66 insurtech companies.
- In FY20, Insurance premiums in India totalled US\$ 107 billion for the 12 months ended March 31, 2020, up 10% from FY15.
- Tech companies including as Tencent Holdings, Ant Group Co Ltd., Amazon.com Inc, and Grab Holdings Inc will have an impact on the region's insurtech ecosystem.

Link:

<https://www.ibef.org/news/india-second-largest-insurtech-market-in-apac-sp-global#:~:text=According%20to%20S%26P%20Global%20Market,investments%20made%20in%20the%20country.>

INDIA'S FOREIGN TRADE: April 2021

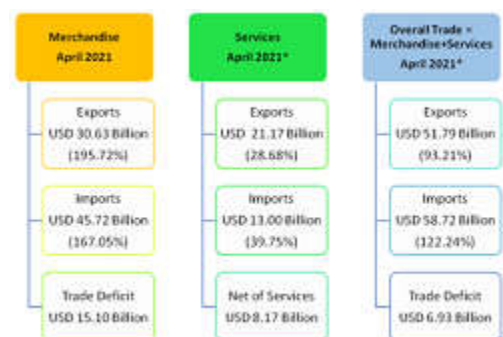
Question : Ministry of Commerce & Industry has recently released India's foreign trade data of April 2021. Accordingly, which of the following fact is correct ?

1. India's exports jump to \$30.63 bn in April
 2. Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in April 2021 were USD 23.62 Billion
 3. Oil imports in April 2021 were USD 10.87 Billion
- (a) Only 1. (b) Only 2. (c) Only 3. (d) All above

Ans.(d)

Related facts

- On 14 May 2021 Ministry of Commerce & Industry released India's foreign trade data of April 2021.
- **Key points**
- **Exports**
- Exports in April 2021 were USD 30.63 Billion, as compared to USD 10.36 Billion in April 2020, exhibiting a positive growth of 195.72 per cent.
- As compared to April 2019, exports in April 2021 exhibited a positive growth of 17.62 per cent in Dollar terms and 26.17 per cent in Rupee terms.



- The commodities/commodity groups which have recorded positive growth during April 2021 vis-à-vis April 2020 are Gems & jewellery (9271.21%), Jute mfg. including floor covering (1684.62%), Carpet (1352.68%), Handicrafts excl. handmade carpet (1275.46%), Leather & leather products (1201.44%), RMG of all textiles (927.08%), Cotton yarn/fabs./made-ups, handloom products etc. (618.26%), Man-made yarn/fabs./made-ups etc. (587.01%), Other cereals (451.39%), Ceramic products & glassware (444.45%), Electronic goods (372.62%), Oil meals (279.49%), Cashew (260.48%), Mica, Coal & other ores, minerals including processed minerals (241.21%), Engineering goods (238.27%), Petroleum products (191.53%), Tobacco (187.4%), Cereal preparations & miscellaneous processed items (174.61%), Iron ore (172.16%), Oil seeds (169.04%), Meat, dairy & poultry products (148.81%), Tea (146.31%), Marine products (107.94%), Spices (97.56%), Coffee (75.02%), Organic & inorganic chemicals (68.54%), Rice (61.64%), Plastic & Linoleum (51.89%), Fruits & vegetables (25.4%) and Drugs & pharmaceuticals (23.43%).
- Non-petroleum and Non-Gems and Jewellery exports in April 2021 were USD 23.62 Billion, as compared to USD 9.08 Billion in April 2020, registering a positive growth of 160.24 per cent.
- **Imports**
- Imports in April 2021 were USD 45.72 Billion (Rs.3,40,505.06 Crore), which is an increase of 167.05 per cent in Dollar terms and 160.87 per cent in Rupee terms over imports of USD 17.12 Billion (Rs 1,30,525.08 Crore) in April 2020.
- Oil imports in April 2021 were USD 10.87 Billion (Rs. 80,968.76 Crore), which was 133.24 percent higher in Dollar terms (127.84 percent higher in Rupee terms), compared to USD 4.66 Billion (Rs. 35,537.22 Crore) in April 2020. As compared to April 2019, oil imports in April 2021 were 5.98 percent lower in Dollar terms and 0.85per cent higher in rupee terms.
- In this connection it is mentioned that the global Brent price (\$/bbl) has increased by 177.51% in April 2021 vis-à-vis April 2020 as per data available from World Bank.
- Non-oil imports in April 2021 were estimated at USD 34.85 Billion (Rs. 2,59,536.30 Crore) which was 179.70 percent higher in Dollar terms (173.23 percent higher in Rupee terms), compared to USD 12.46 Billion (Rs. 94,987.86 Crore) in April 2020.
- Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports were USD 28.61 Billion in April 2021, recording a positive growth of 129.68 per cent, as compared to Non-Oil and Non-Gold imports of USD 12.46Billion in April 2020.

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718644>

Cancellation of licence of United Cooperative Bank

Question : On which date Rbi cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank ?

(a) 13 May 2021 (b) 11 May 2021 (c) 10 May 2021 (d) 9 May 2021

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



Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The Reserve Bank of India has recently cancelled the licence of United Co-operative Bank Ltd of West Bengal as the bank does not have adequate capital and earning prospects.
- Consequently, the bank ceases to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on May 13, 2021. (Which includes acceptance of deposits and repayment of deposits with immediate effect)
- As per the data submitted by the bank, all the depositors will receive full amount of their deposits from Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC).
- On liquidation, every depositor would be entitled to receive deposit insurance claim amount in respect of his/her deposits up to a monetary ceiling of Rs 5 lakh from the DICGC subject to the provisions of the DICGC Act, 1961.
- The RBI has requested the Registrar of Cooperative Societies, West Bengal to issue an order for winding up the bank and appoint a liquidator.

Link:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/rbi-cancels-licence-of-west-bengal-based-united-cooperative-bank-121051301240_1.html

Rural Infrastructure Development Fund

Question: Consider the following facts regarding Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF):

- i) Government of India created the RIDF in NABARD in 1995-96, with an initial corpus of Rs.2,000 crore.
- ii) NABARD has recently announced that it has provided Rs 1,236 crores to Assam in 2020-21 from its Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).

Which of the above are correct:-

- a) I b) ii c) i and ii both d) none

Ans: c

Facts

- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has allocated an all time high amount of Rs 1,236 crores to Assam in 2020-21 from its Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF).
- This fund has been allocated with Rural Connectivity as prime focus area for investment.
- **About Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF)**
- In 1995-96, the Government of India set up RIDF for financing ongoing rural infrastructure projects. The funds released



under RIDF are maintained by the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

- The main objective of the fund is to provide loans to State Governments, State-owned corporations, State Govt. Sponsored / Supported Organisations, Panchayat Raj Institutions/Self Help Groups (SHGs)/ NGOs to enable them to complete ongoing rural infrastructure projects.

Reference: <https://www.nabard.org/content1.aspx?id=573&catid=8&mid=488>

IDBI Bank strategic disinvestment

Question – On 5 May 2021, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved strategic disinvestment in IDBI Bank. Currently the promoter of this bank is –

(a) SBI (b) LIC (c) Axis Bank (d) NTPC Ltd.

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) yesterday(5 May 2021) gave in-principle approval for strategic disinvestment along with transfer of management control in IDBI Bank Limited.
- LIC is currently the promoter of IDBI Bank with Management Control and Government of India is the co-promoter.
- The extent of shareholding to be divested by Government of India and LIC shall be decided at the time of structuring of transaction in consultation with RBI.
- The Government of India and LIC together own more than 94 per cent of equity of IDBI Bank. The Government of India owns 45.48 per cent and LIC 49.24 per cent.
- LIC's Board has passed a resolution to the effect that LIC may reduce its shareholding in IDBI Bank through divesting its stake along with strategic stake sale envisaged by the Government with an intent to relinquish management control and by taking into consideration price, market outlook, statutory stipulation and interest of policy holders.
- This decision of the LICs Board is also consistent with the regulatory mandate to reduce its stake in the Bank.
- It is expected that strategic buyers will infuse funds, new technology and best management practices for optimal development of business potential and growth of IDBI Bank Limited and shall generate more business without any dependence on LIC and Government assistance or funds.
- Resources through strategic disinvestment of Government equity from the transaction will be used to finance developmental programmes of the Government benefiting the citizens.



Link:

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=CCEA-gives-in-principle-approval-for-strategic-disinvestment-%26-transfer-of-management-control-of-IDBI-Bank&id=415959>

RBI directive on pre-Covid dividends

Questions : RBI has recently relaxed the dividend payout norms of commercial banks and allowed them to pay up to XYZ of what they paid before Covid from the profits for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021. What is the value of XYZ ?

(a) 50 percent (b) 55 percent (c) 60 percent (d) 65 percent

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- RBI has recently relaxed the dividend payout norms of commercial banks and allowed them to pay up to 50 percent of what they paid before Covid from the profits for the fiscal ended March 31, 2021.
- For FY20, the RBI had asked banks not to make any dividend payment on equity shares from the profits.
- Background
- This decision has been taken in view of the ongoing stress and heightened uncertainty on account of Covid-19.
- It is notable that HDFC Bank had last week decided not to pay any dividend on the basis of the previous year's RBI directive.
- RBI statement
- "In partial modification of the instructions, banks may pay dividend on equity shares from the profits for the financial year ended March 31, 2021, subject to the quantum of dividend being not more than 50 per cent of the amount determined as per the dividend payout ratio prescribed in paragraph 4 of the May 4, 2005 circular. Whereas Cooperative banks are permitted to pay dividend on equity shares from the profits of the financial year ended March 31, 2021. Other instructions in the circular shall remain unchanged," the RBI said.
- However, all banks must continue to meet the applicable minimum regulatory capital requirements after dividend payment, it added.
- While declaring dividend on equity shares, it shall be the responsibility of the board of directors to inter-alia consider the current and projected capital position of the bank vis-à-vis the applicable capital requirements and the adequacy of provisions.



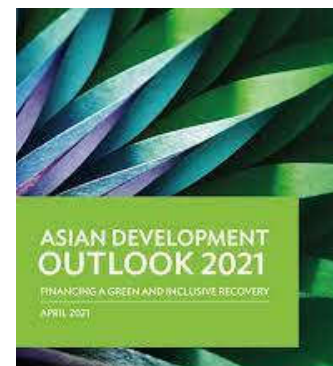
Link:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/business/banking-and-finance/rbi-allows-commercial-banks-to-pay-up-to-50-of-pre-covid-dividends-7285231/>

Latest Asian Development Outlook (ADO) 2021

Question : According to ADB, at what percentage rate will the Indian economy grow in the current fiscal year?

(A) 11 percent (B) 10 percent (C) 9 percent (D) 12 percent



Ans. (A)
Related facts

- Latest Asian Development Outlook released on the end of April 2021.
- According to ADB, the Indian economy will grow at 11 percent in the current fiscal year.
- Accordingly, increasing cases of covid-19 infection in the country may pose risks for economic recovery.
- The Indian economy is expected to grow at a rate of 11 per cent during the financial year ending 31 March 2022 amid a wide-ranging vaccine campaign.
- The report said that India's GDP growth could be 7 percent next year.
- South Asia's gross domestic product (GDP) may grow at a rate of 9.5 percent, compared to a drop of six percent last year.

Link:

https://m.timesofindia.com/business/india-business/adb-projects-indias-growth-to-rebound-11-in-fy22-covid-surge-could-hurt-economic-normalization/amp_articleshow/82284881.cms#referrer=https://www.google.com&csj=0

UN: India's GDP to grow 7.5% in 2021

Question: As per the United Nation's World Economic Situation and Prospects -Mid 2021 report ,

what is the estimated rate of growth of India for year 2021?

a) 7.1% b) 7.5% c) 8% d) None of the above

Ans: b

Context

- UN has released its World Economic Situation and Prospects -Mid 2021 report on 11 May 2021.
- **Facts**
- As per the report , UN has increased India's growth forecast by 0.2% to 7.5% for the year of 2021.
- Because of 2nd Covid wave, UN has termed situation in India quite fluid and termed the growth projection highly fragile.
- For year 2022 UN has projected a growth rate of 10.1% for India.



Reference: <http://www.uniindia.com/un-raises-india-s-growth-projection-to-7-5-percent/world/news/2393161.html>

Moody's cuts India growth forecast

Question: On 11th May 2021, Moody's Investors Service has sharply cut India's



FY22 growth forecast. What is the new growth rate of India instead of the earlier estimated 13.7% as per Moody?

a) 10% b) 9% c) 9.3% d) 8%

Ans: c

Facts

- Moody's Investors Service on 11 May 2021 sharply cut India's FY22 growth forecast to 9.3% from 13.7% estimated earlier.
- Moody has joined other global rating firms in trimming growth expectations for India amid a devastating second wave of Covid-19.
- It has also ruled out any ratings upgrade for India.
- Brickwork Ratings, in April revised its FY22 economic growth projection for India to 9% from 11% estimated earlier. S&P Global Ratings last week said it expects India's GDP to grow 9.8% under its moderate scenario and at 8.2% under the severe scenario based on when the current wave peaks.

Reference: <https://www.hindustantimes.com/business/moodys-cuts-india-growth-forecast-101620765206142.html>

Scientific

Defense/Science Short Notes

SpaceX launches 60 new Starlink satellites

Question: On May 26 2021; a SpaceX launched a new stack of Starlink internet satellites into orbit. Which of the following rocket was used to carry these satellites?

a) Long March b) Ariane c) Saturn V d) Falcon 9

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On May 26 2021; a SpaceX launched a new stack of Starlink internet satellites into orbit.
- These satellites taken into the orbit by the previously-flown Falcon 9 rocket.
- Falcon 9 blasted off from Space Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station here in Florida.
- It was the SpaceX Company's 16th launch of the year. It also marked the second flight for this particular Falcon 9.
- It should be known that Falcon 9 is a 229-foot-tall (70 meters) rocket with reusable first stage boosters built by SpaceX.
- Approximately nine minutes after liftoff, the rocket's first stage returned to Earth, touching down on SpaceX's drone ship.



- Within four many weeks the successful liftoff marked the fourth time SpaceX launched a batch of Starlink satellites.
- The company works to expand its burgeoning broadband constellation.
- SpaceX's rapid pace will continue as it will launch next space station resupply mission, slated to blast off June 3, 2021.
- In 2021 all of it SpaceX missions so far have flown on a reused rocket, with 13 of those missions carrying Starlink satellites.
- This flight, launched on 26 May 2021, called Starlink 28, is a bit unique in that SpaceX is using one of its newest boosters to loft the broadband satellites into orbit.
- SpaceX's Starlink mega constellation was created with one major goal in mind: to provide internet coverage to the world.
- The company is targeting users in remote or rural areas who currently have little to no internet connectivity.
- Users all around the globe will be able to subscribe to the service.

Links:-

<https://www.space.com/spacex-starlink-28-rocket-launch-and-landing-success>

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launches SeHAT OPD Portal

Question: Consider the following statements regarding SeHAT OPD Protal launched by defence minister Shri Rajnath Singh:

- i) It was launched on 27th May 2021.
- ii) App will help in providing tele-medicine services.
- iii) Services will be provided by doctors of AIIMS , Delhi.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- a) i, ii b) ii,iii c) i,iii d) i,ii,iii

Ans: a

Facts

- On 27th May 2021, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched the 'Services e-Health Assistance & Tele-consultation (SeHAT) OPD Portal via video conferencing.
- The Portal will help the Armed Forces in providing tele-medicine services.
- Tele-medicine services will be provided by Armed forces doctors from their regular duties.
- Defence personnel from Army , Navy, Airforce and ex-service personal can take tele consultations from Armed forces specialists doctors .
- It will cater to around four crore people and family members of defence personnel.
- Persons above age 75 can get the consultation on priority basis without any wait period.



Reference: <http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=418077>

Critical Near Isothermal Forging Technology for aeroengines

Question : DRDO has recently(May 2021) developed Critical Near Isothermal Forging Technology for aeroengines. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

1. **DRDO uses its unique 4000 MT Isothermal Forge Press**
2. **A near isothermal forging technique has been developed to produce all five phases of high-pressure compressor discs from difficult-to-deform titanium alloys.**
3. **The technology has been developed by DFRL Mysore**
 - a. Only 2
 - b. Only 1 & 3
 - c. None of the above
 - d. All above

Ans. a.



- DRDO has recently(May 2021) developed Critical Near Isothermal Forging Technology for aeroengines.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has established the near isothermal forging technology to produce all the five stages of high-pressure compressors (HPC) discs out of difficult-to-deform titanium alloy using its unique 2000 MT isothermal forge press.
- The technology has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier metallurgical laboratory of DRDO at Hyderabad.
- This is a crucial technology for establishing self-reliance in aeroengine technology. With this development, India has joined the league of limited global engine developers to have the manufacturing capabilities of such critical aero engine components.
- To meet the bulk production requirements, DMRL technology was transferred to M/s MIDHANI through a licensing agreement for technology transfer (LAToT).
- Using the isothermal forge press facility available at DMRL, Hyderabad, bulk quantity (200 numbers) of HPC disc forgings pertaining to various compressor stages have been jointly (DMRL & MIDHANI) produced and successfully supplied to HAL (E), Bengaluru for fitment in to Adour Engine that powers the Jaguar/Hawk Aircrafts.
- DMRL developed this forging technology by integrating various science and knowledge-based tools. The methodology adopted by DMRL is generic in nature and can be tuned to develop other similar aeroengine components.
- The compressor discs produced using this methodology met all the requirements stipulated by the airworthiness agencies for the desired application.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1722418>

INS Rajput

Question: INS Rajput which has been decommissioned recently is which type of



naval vessel?

(a) Aircraft carrier (b) Frigate (c) Destroyer (d) Submarine

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- The first destroyer of the Indian Navy, INS Rajput, was decommissioned on 21 May 2021 at the Naval Dockyard of Visakhapatnam.
- It was commissioned on 04 May 1980.
- A destroyer is a fast, manoeuvrable, long-distance warship intended to escort larger vessels in a fleet, convoy or battle group and defend them against smaller, short-range attackers.
- **About INS Rajput:**
 - INS Rajput was built by Russia in the 61 Communards Shipyard. Its Original Russian name was 'Nadezhny'.
 - INS Rajput served for both Western and Eastern Fleets and its first commanding officer was Capt Gulab Mohanlal Hiranandani.
 - It is the 1st Indian Naval Ship to be associated with an Indian Army regiment – the Rajput Regiment. It had participated in many operations including Operation Aman, Operation Pawan, Operation Cactus, etc.

Links:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=INS-Rajput-Decommissioned-after-41-years&id=417542>

Supercomputer Simorgh

Question: Consider the following statements:

(1) Iran has developed its most powerful Supercomputer Simorgh.

(2) Simorgh is developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology.

Of the above correct statement/s is/are:

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

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Iran has unveiled a new supercomputer named 'Simorgh', which is 100 times more powerful than the previous supercomputer of the country to date.
- The supercomputer has been developed indigenously by Tehran's Amirkabir University of Technology (AUT). It has been named after a mythical Phoenix-like bird 'Simurgh'.
- Currently, Simorgh has a performance capacity of 0.56 petaflops,
- However, the country claims this capacity to reach one petaflop in two months.



- The supercomputer will be used for artificial intelligence workloads, traffic and weather data, and image processing.

Links:

<https://www.byscoop.com/iran-develops-its-most-powerful-supercomputer-simorgh/>

New Species of Racer Snake

Question: From which of the following state in India, new species of racer snake, named *Platyceps josephi*, discovered?

a) Tamil Nadu b) Karnataka c) Arunachal Pradesh d) Meghalaya

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- An international team of researchers has discovered a new species of racer snake from Tuticorin in Tamil Nadu.
- The new species named *Platyceps josephi* (after late herpetologist Naveen Joseph).
- The new snake has distinct white bands on its body and irregular white spots on its head.
- Size of this snake is Less than a meter in length.
- It is a non-venomous terrestrial snake, so far only known from Tamil Nadu.
- Its diet chiefly consists of geckos, lizards and small rodents.
- This discovery also solved a naming confusion that existed for nearly two centuries.
- Details about this species published in the Journal, 'Vertebrate Zoology'.
- This new species faces a number of threats across its distributional range, including habitat destruction.
- This is because the grasslands in southern Tamil Nadu are being actively converted into plantations, farmlands and urbanization.
- The species' ability to adapt and its reproductive success is not known. .
- The team writes that *Platyceps josephi* should be considered a species in the vulnerable category according to the IUCN criteria.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/a-new-species-of-snake-from-tamil-nadu-and-an-old-naming-confusion-from-london/article34554437.ece>

Internet Explorer to Retire in Near Future

Question: Microsoft has announced to retire its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser on which of the following date?

a) 15 May 2022 b) 15 June 2022 c) 15 July 2022 d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 19 May 2021; Microsoft has announced to retire its iconic Internet Explorer (IE) browser in June 2022.
- It should be known that Internet Explorer was launched in 1995,
- The company said in a statement on 19-5- 2021 With Microsoft Edge capable of assuming this responsibility and more.
- The company now finally declared that the Internet Explorer 11 desktop application will be retired and go out of support on June 15, 2022.
- In the beginning it will ceased for certain versions of Windows 10.
- Internet Explorer was once the most widely used web browser, attaining a peak of about 95 per cent usage share by 2003.
- Its usage share has since declined with the launch of Firefox (2004) and Google Chrome (2008).
- It also lost its utility gradually with the growing popularity of mobile operating systems such as Android and iOS that do not support Internet Explorer.
- Microsoft recommends now to consumers using Internet Explorer at home, that they should transition to Microsoft Edge before June 15, 2022.
- According to the company transition to Microsoft Edge will start the consumers with enjoying a faster, more secure and more modern browsing experience.
- If you're an organisation using Internet Explorer, you may have a large set of legacy Internet Explorer-based websites and apps, built up over many years.
- Microsoft found that enterprises have 1,678 legacy apps on average.
- By moving to Microsoft Edge, you will be able to extend the life of your legacy websites and apps well beyond the Internet Explorer 11 desktop application retirement date using IE mode.
- Internet Explorer mode in Microsoft Edge will be supported through at least 2029, the company informed.

Links:-

https://in.news.yahoo.com/internet-explorer-retired-microsoft-june-090519886.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLnN

Xylophis Deepaki

Question: A new snake species discovered in the beginning of 2021 Xylophis Deepaki first found at which of the following place?

a) Kanyakumari b) Arunachal Pradesh c) Himachal Pradesh d) Rajasthan

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- In the beginning of 2021; a tiny wood snake in the family Pareidae of species Xylophis discovered.
- This small genus of snakes has recently been named as Xylophis Deepaki.
- It was first found on a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari.
- This snake has been named so to honour Indian herpetologist Deepak Veerappan



- Herpetologist Deepak Veerappan made his valuable contribution in erecting a new subfamily Xylophiinae for wood snakes.
- **Details of Xylophis Deepaki:-**
- This new snake species also known as common name 'Deepak's wood snake'.
- It is a tiny snake of just 20 cm length with iridescent scales.
- It was first found on a coconut plantation in Kanyakumari.
- It is now reported to be an endemic species of Tamil Nadu.
- It has also been sighted in some parts of the Southern Western Ghats,
- In Southern Western Ghats it has especially found in the drier regions and in lower altitudes around Agasthyamalai hills.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/herpetologist-deepak-veerappan-has-a-snake-named-after-him/article34459064.ece>

NMMS app and Area officer monitoring App launched

Question: NMMS and Area officer monitoring Apps, which have been launched recently, are related to which of the following?

a) Police b) Bank transections c) Income Tax d) NREGA

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 21 May 2021; Rural Development Minister Narendra Singh Tomar has launched, NMMS app and Area officer monitoring App.
- NMMS app is a National Mobile Monitoring Software which permits taking real time attendance of workers at Mahatma Gandhi NREGA worksites.
- This new NMMS App can take such attendance along with geotagged photograph, which will increase citizen oversight of the programme.
- It will also potentially enable the system in processing payments faster.
- Area Officer Monitoring App facilitates them to record their findings online.
- This app does it along with time stamped and geo-coordinate tagged photograph for all the schemes of Department of Rural Development.
- This will enable not only better record keeping of inspections by field and supervisory officials.
- It also facilitates analysis of the findings for better programme implementation.
- Mr Tomar lauded the efforts, on the occasion, of bringing transparency and accountability to the execution of the Rural Development Programmes.
- He said, these two Apps will be big steps towards bringing in transparency and effective monitoring of schemes.
- The minister also advised the Ministry to make the apps multilingual, provide sufficient training and equipment and allow time for its rollout



Links:-

<http://newsonair.com/Main-News-Details.aspx?id=417572>

What is White Fungus disease?

Question: Which of the following statement regarding White fungus disease, which has been in news recently are true?

i) Cases of white fungus have been reported in the city of Patna, Bihar recently.

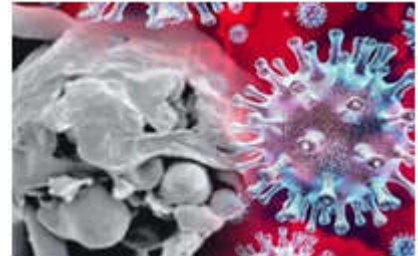
ii) White fungus aka Aspergillosis is an infection caused by Aspergillus, a common mold (a type of fungus).

iii) Like the black fungus (mucormycosis), white fungus also affects drastically those who have poor level of immunity.

a) I b)ii,iii c) all of the above d) none of the above

Ans: c

Context



- Four cases of white fungus disease aka Aspergillosis have been identified in Patna, Bihar recently.

Facts

About White fungus (Aspergillosis)

- Aspergillosis is an infection caused by Aspergillus, a common mold (a type of fungus) that lives indoors and outdoors.
- Most people breathe Aspergillus spores every day without getting sick. Only those people with weak immune response gets affected drastically by the fungus.
- The types of health problems caused by Aspergillus include allergic reactions, lung infections, and infections in other organs. Its symptoms are quite similar to Covid symptoms, making it difficult to differentiate from Covid infection.
- The different types of Aspergillosis can cause different symptoms.
- The symptoms of allergic bronchopulmonary aspergillosis (ABPA) (Mostly affects asthma patients) are similar to asthma symptoms, including:
 - Wheezing
 - Shortness of breath
 - Cough
 - Fever (in rare cases)
- Symptoms of allergic Aspergillus sinusitis include:
 - Stuffiness
 - Runny nose
 - Headache
 - Reduced ability to smell
- Symptoms of an aspergilloma ("fungus ball")(mostly to those people who have tuberculosis) include:
 - Cough
 - Coughing up blood
 - Shortness of breath
- Symptoms of chronic pulmonary aspergillosis (mostly affects people with lung diseases including tuberculosis) include:
 - Weight loss
 - Cough

- Coughing up blood
- Fatigue
- Shortness of breath
- Fever is a common symptom of invasive aspergillosis.
- Invasive aspergillosis usually occurs in people who are already sick from other medical conditions, so it can be difficult to know which symptoms are related to an Aspergillus infection. However, the symptoms of invasive aspergillosis in the lungs include:
 - Fever
 - Chest pain
 - Cough
 - Coughing up blood
 - Shortness of breath
 - Other symptoms can develop if the infection spreads from the lungs to other parts of the body.

Reference: <https://www.cdc.gov/fungal/diseases/aspergillosis/symptoms.html>

Climate Tipping in Antarctica

Question: According to a new study, in which of the following year Antarctica's ice sheet could reach a tipping point?

a) 2030 b) 2060 c) 2050 d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- According to a new study shows that the Antarctica ice sheet could reach a tipping point by about 2060.
- Scientists reported that Antarctica Ice Sheet (AIS) will cross a critical threshold leading to an irreversible global sea-level rise.
- They explained that this would happen only if the global greenhouse emissions continue at the current rate.
- The Tipping Point
- The Antarctica Ice Sheet, known to be Earth's largest ice reservoir, is covered by several protective ice shelves.
- These ice shelves are grounded below sea level on the bedrock that is sloped inward to the center of the continent.
- This inward slope exposes the ice shelves to warm ocean water flowing under them that can lead to thinning of their lower edges, thereby destabilizing and breaking up.
- The breaking up of ice shelves leads to towering ice cliffs that are unstable and when they collapse, they accelerate the rate of ice flow into the oceans.
- A computer model based on the physics of ice sheets has been developed and used in this study.
- According to this model it was found that global warming above 2 degrees Celsius will lead to a steep increase in ice loss in Antarctica.



- The model indicated that this kind of steep increase in ice loss in Antarctica will occur especially through the ginormous Thwaites Glacier.
- The Thwaites Glacier is equivalent to the size of Britain or Florida.
- It is a part of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet (WAIS) and a deep focus of study among scientists in the US and UK.
- Currently, the world is on track to exceed 2 degrees Celsius with the current policies and emissions rate.
- Countries fulfilling the Paris Agreement targets are one way to drastically reduce the rising sea level.
- Scientists fear that reversing ice loss would not be possible then and by 2100, the sea level rise would be 10 times faster than today.

Links:-

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/world/antarctica-is-headed-for-a-climate-tipping-point-by-2060-with-catastrophic-melting-if-carbon-emissions-arent-cut-quickly-255260>

Scientists Revealed Interior Structure of Saturn

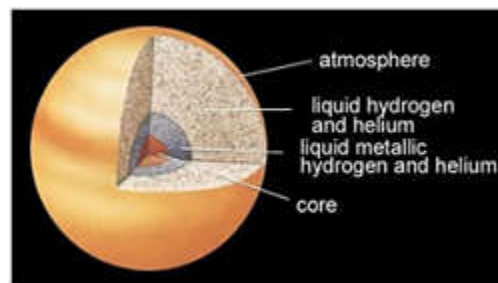
Question: which of the following spacecraft helped scientists to apprehend the deep interior of the planet Saturn?

a) Juno b) Cassini c) Parker d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- The scientists at the John Hopkins University have simulated the indoors of Saturn.
- The simulations say that a thick layer of Helium rain affects the magnetic subject of the planet.
- The models, published this week in AGU Advances.
- These models indicate that Saturn's interior may feature higher temperatures at the equatorial region.
- There are also lower temperatures at the high latitudes at the top of the helium rain layer.
- It is notoriously difficult to study the interior structures of large gaseous planets, and the findings advance the effort to map Saturn's hidden regions.
- Saturn stands out in the solar device as its magnetic discipline is nearly perfectly symmetrical around its rotational axis.
- The Cassini Mission of NASA helped scientists to apprehend the deep interior of the planet where the magnetic field is generated.
- The scientists have created two effective laptop simulations of the magnetic area of NASA based totally on the records from the Cassini mission.
- The simulations will assist the scientists to measure the price at which Saturn rotates.



- This has been one of quite a few issues that vexed (difficult) scientists for decades.
- The centre of Saturn is a dense core of metals such as iron and nickel.
- This dense core is surrounded with the aid of rocky materials. Further, it is enveloped by way of liquid metal hydrogen interior a layer of liquid hydrogen.
- Its core is nearly similar to the core of Jupiter however considerably smaller.

Links:-

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2021/05/210505130531.htm>

New information about the Venus

Question: Which of the following spacecraft recently detected a natural radio signal from the upper atmosphere of planet Venus?

a) Parker b) Juno c) MAVEN d) None of these

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- On 03 May 2021 a study published by NASA revealed that Parker Solar Probe detected a natural radio signal from the upper atmosphere of planet Venus.
- This kind of detection came On July 11, 2020, when Parker Solar Probe swung by Venus in its third flyby.
- It therefore revealed that the spacecraft had flown through the planet's upper atmosphere during a brief swing by Venus.
- This was the first direct measurement of the Venusian atmosphere in nearly 30 years and it looks quite different from Venus past.
- By bouncing radio waves off Venus, scientists were able to gain new information about the planet.
- The new detection of radio waves by Parker Probe confirms that Venus' upper atmosphere undergoes complicated changes over a solar cycle, the Sun's 11-year activity cycle.
- This marks the latest clue to untangling how and why Venus and Earth are so different.
- Born of similar processes, Earth and Venus are twins: both rocky, and of similar size and structure. But their paths diverged from birth.
- Venus lacks a magnetic field, and its surface broils at temperatures hot enough to melt lead.
- At most, spacecraft have only ever survived a couple hours there. Studying Venus, inhospitable as it is, helps scientists understand how these twins have evolved, and what makes Earth-like planets habitable or not.
- Each flyby is designed to leverage the planet's gravity to fly the spacecraft closer and closer to the Sun.
- The mission is being managed by Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Laurel, Maryland.
- The Parker probe made its closest flyby of Venus this time, passing just 517 miles (833 km) above the surface.
- **More information about recent research on Planet Venus:-**

- The researchers used NASA's Goldstone Antenna in the Mojave Desert of California to send radio waves toward Venus.
- They sent these waves towards this hot and rocky planet, 21 times between 2006 and 2020 and studied the radio echo.
- Their study revealed knowledge about the planet's characteristics.

The analysis determined the tilt of Venus's axis as well as the size of the planet's centre.

Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2021/Parker-Discovers-Natural-Radio-Emission-in-Venus-Atmosphere>

Haiyang-2D Satellite

Question: Which of the following country has recently launched Haiyang-2D (HY-2D), a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit?

a) Japan b) North Korea c) China d) South Korea

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 19 May 2021 China successfully launched a new ocean-monitoring satellite into orbit.
- This satellite has been launched as part of China's effort to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system.
- It would be used to provide early warning on marine disasters.
- The satellite named as Haiyang-2D (HY-2D) was launched by a Long March-4B rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China.
- The HY-2D will form a constellation with the HY-2B and HY-2C satellites.
- This constellation of satellite will be used to build an all-weather and round-the-clock dynamic ocean environment monitoring system of high, medium and large scale frequencies.
- The constellation will support the country's early warning and prediction of marine disasters.
- It will promote sustainable development and utilisation of ocean resources, effective response to global climate change as well as ocean research.
- The HY-2D was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology, and the carrier rocket by the Shanghai Academy of Spaceflight Technology.
- China's space programme made significant advancement on 14 May 2021, when it landed a spacecraft on Mars.
- With landing of rover on the surface of Mars China became the second country after the United States to have a rover on the red planet.



Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/china-successfully-launches-new-ocean-observation-satellite/article34593907.ece>

Google Cloud to Provide Internet services

Question: Recently Google Cloud joined hand with which of the following space organization to provide Internet services?

a) NASA b) SpaceX c) ISRO d) None of these

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-



- On 13 may 2021 Google announced that Google Cloud and SpaceX signed an agreement to provide Internet services.
- Under the deal, Elon Musk's space development company will install Starlink ground stations at Google data centres that connect to Starlink satellites.
- **Google will provide Cloud infrastructure for this connection project.**
- On the other hand Space X will install ground terminals in Google's cloud data center to connect to Starlink satellites.
- This will help provide fast Internet services in rural areas.
- This service will be available to customers before the end of the year 2021.
- **The first Starlink terminal will be set up in a Google datacenter in Ohio, United States.**
- Earlier, Microsoft has signed a comparable settlement with SpaceX to connect its Azure cloud to Starlink.
- Starlink is a mission below which SpaceX ambitions to send 12,000 satellites to grant space-based internet.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/technology/google-partners-with-elon-musks-spacex-to-provide-starlink-internet-service/article34556003.ece>

Zhurong Rover

Question: which of the following country recently became the second nation after the USA to land a rover successfully on the mars?

a) Britain b) Japan c) India d) China

Answer: (d)

Related Facts:-

- On 14 May 2021 China successfully landed its rover upon the surface of the planet Mars.
- After several months orbiting Mars, a Chinese rover successfully touched down on the Martian surface.



- With this remarkable achievement China became the second nation, after the United States, to achieve a soft landing on the red planet.
- The rover, named Zhurong after the Chinese god of fire, is part of China's Tianwen-1 mission.
- It should be known that Tianwen-1 mission was launched in July 2020.
- The landing is a major milestone for China's space agency, which has advanced rapidly in just a few decades.
- Few details about the Tianwen-1 mission have been made public.
- Actually the Chinese Mars probe and its accompanying rover are designed to map the Martian surface and search for signs of life on the planet.
- The China National Space Administration said in a statement on 14 May 2021 that the Tianwen-1 spacecraft has functioned normally.
- They said that since its launch last year the spacecraft has collected a huge amount of scientific data.
- The Zhurong rover landed in a region of Mars known as Utopia Planitia.
- Utopia Planitia upon Mars is the vast, icy plain, also where NASA's now-defunct Viking 2 lander touched down in 1976.
- Thomas Zurbuchen, associate administrator for NASA's Science Mission Directorate, congratulated China's space agency shortly after the landing was confirmed.

Links:-

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/space/china-becomes-only-second-nation-history-land-rover-mars-n1267410>

Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine

Question: In which of the following country the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine has been developed?

a) India b) France c) China d) Britain

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 7 May 2021; WHO listed the Sinopharm COVID-19 vaccine for emergency use and has given the green light for this vaccine to be rolled out globally.
- The Sinopharm vaccine is produced by Beijing Bio-Institute of Biological Products Co Ltd, subsidiary of China National Biotec Group (CNBG).
- According to Dr Mariângela Simão, WHO Assistant-Director General for Access to Health Products, the addition of this vaccine has the potential to rapidly accelerate COVID-19 vaccine access for countries seeking to protect health workers and populations at risk.
- The Sinopharm product is an inactivated vaccine called SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine (Vero Cell).
- Its easy storage requirements make it highly suitable for low-resource settings.
- It is the also first vaccine that will carry a vaccine vial monitor, a small sticker on the vaccine vials that change color as the vaccine is exposed to heat, letting health workers know whether the vaccine can be safely used.



Links:-

<https://www.who.int/news/item/07-05-2021-who-lists-additional-covid-19-vaccine-for-emergency-use-and-issues-interim-policy-recommendations>

OSIRIS-REx: NASA's first mission to a near-Earth Asteroid

Question: from of which of the following asteroid NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft recently departed for two-year journey back to Earth?

a) Bennu b) Apophis c) Itokawa d) Europa

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-



- On 10 May 2021 NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft recently departed from the asteroid Bennu and began its two-year journey back to Earth.
- OSIRIS-REx is NASA's first mission to visit, survey, and obtain a sample from a near-Earth asteroid.
- NASA's OSIRIS-Rex in full is known as Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Security, Regolith Explorer (spacecraft)
- OSIRIS-Rex remained in space for nearly five years before departing to the earth on 10 May 2021.
- OSIRIS-Rex exceeded many expectations.
- Most recently, in the midst of a global pandemic, the team flawlessly executed the most mission's critical operation
- OSIRIS-REx mission's critical operation was collecting more than 2 ounces (60 grams) of soil from Bennu's surface.
- It is the US's first asteroid sample return mission, with the aim of collecting the sample from an asteroid and returning back safely to the earth.
- It worked for taking a clean, undamaged sample from an asteroid to Earth for scientific research.
- In 2016, the OSIRIS-REx spacecraft (Origins, Spectral Interpretation, Resource Identification, Protection, and Regolith Explorer) was launched on its journey to Bennu.
- The mission is a seven-year journey that will be completed with samples return to Earth in 2023.
- According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the project would return the most extraterrestrial material to Earth since the Apollo era.
- OSIRIS-REx spacecraft has been equipped with instruments, including cameras, a spectrometer, and a laser altimeter, to explore the asteroid Bennu.
- The spacecraft's robotic arm, the Touch-And-Go Sample Acquisition Mechanism (TAGSAM), attempted to TAG the asteroid at a sample site and obtained a sample recently.

Links:-

<https://www.nasa.gov/press-release/nasa-s-osiris-rex-spacecraft-heads-for-earth-with-asteroid-sample>

Indian and Indonesian Navies PASSEX exercise

Question : On which date Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian sea ?

(a) May 08, 2021 (b) May 05, 2021 (c) May 04, 2021 (d) May 02, 2021

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The Indian and Indonesian Navies conducted Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the southern Arabian sea on May 8, 2021.
- The Indian Navy was represented by INS Sharda, an Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) with a Chetak helicopter embarked onboard.
- The Indonesian Navy was represented by KRI Sultan Hasanudin, a 90m Corvette.
- The exercise, aimed at improving interoperability and understanding between both the friendly navies, are regularly conducted by the Indian Navy with units of friendly foreign countries.
- It is notable that last PASSEX between Indian Navy and Indonesian Navy was conducted on March 13 between INS Kalpeni, IN Dornier and KRI Sultan Iskandar Muda.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-indonesian-navies-conduct-exercise-off-arabian-sea/articleshow/82480447.cms>

Smokeless Cremation System

Question: Researchers from which of the following IIT in India, have recently developed smokeless cremation system?

a) IIT Kanpur b) IIT Ropar c) IIT Kharagpur d) IIT Madras

Answer: (b)

Related Facts:-

- The Indian Institute of Technology, Ropar, has produced a prototype of a moveable electric cremation device.
- Researchers from IIT Ropar claim that their device is world's first smokeless cremation system despite the use of wood.
- It uses half of the wood required for cremation.
- The device uses the combustion air system technology, which is very environmentally friendly.
- Wick furnace technology has been used in this system in which the wick will turn yellow when lighted.
- As the combustion air system mounted over the wicks it helps this to transform into a smokeless blue flame.



- The incinerator or cremation device heats up to 1044 degrees Celsius, ensuring full sterilization.
- In the current pandemic situation when the number of cremations has been raised considerably, this scheme needs quick implementation.
- It might be possible to provide respectable cremation to those who cannot bear the financial burden of arranging wood.

Links:-

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1718264>

Sequencing of Pangolin Scales by Indian Researchers

Question: Pangolin scales are made of with which of the following substance?

a) Keratin b) Calcium c) Glucose d) Potassium

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), have sequenced 624 pangolin scales.
- This kind of effort by the Indian scientists will allow them to differentiate between Indian and Chinese pangolins.
- It is important to note that the Pangolins are still the most trafficked mammal in the world.
- To avoid widespread trafficking of this creature it has been classified in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act of 1972.
- The primary demand for its scales in the production of conventional East Asian medicines has resulted in a \$2.5 billion annual illicit trade.
- It should be known that the Pangolin scales are made of keratin, the same material that makes up fingernails, hair, and horn.
- Pangolin scales, like rhino horn, have no proven medicinal value, yet they are used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- There is a belief among the Chinese people and East Asian natives that medicines made from Pangolin scales can cure the ailments ranging from lactation difficulties to arthritis.
- Researchers from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata, have developed tools to distinguish between the scales of Indian pangolin (*Manis crassicaudata*) and Chinese pangolin (*Manis javanica*).
- This kind of differentiation in the scales of Pangolin can be useful to implement relevant national and international laws and monitor the species' decline.
- Scientists sequenced 624 pangolin scales and compared the sequences to all eight pangolin species.
- It will be helpful to characterise morphological features and explore genetic differences between the two species.
- The team was able to categorise the two species of Indian and Chinese pangolins based on their size, shape, weight, and ridge counts on the scales.



- Though the Chinese pangolin is mainly found in Vietnam, Thailand, and Cambodia, it is also found in the north-eastern part of India.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/science/wildlife-forensics-helps-cause-of-pangolins/article34515874.ece>

Sports

Tennis

10th Italian Open

Question: Who has won Men's singles title at the 2021 Italian open?

(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Dominic Thiem (d) Daniil Medvedev

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Tennis tournament Italian Open 2021 was held in Rome, Italy from 8-16 May 2021.
- In Men's Singles, Rafael Nadal beat world number one Novak Djokovic to win a 10th Italian Open title.
- The victory earned Nadal a 36th ATP Masters 1000 crown, equalling Novak Djokovic's record.
- In the women's category, Poland's Iga Swiatek defeated Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova. Swiatek claimed her third WTA title.



Links:

https://www.internazionalibnlditalia.com/en/scores/?refresh_ce

Italian Open ,2021

Question: Who has won the men's singles title of tennis competition Italian Open 2021 held in Rome ,Italy on May 16, 2021?

(a) Rafael Nadal (b) Novak Djokovic (c) Daniel Medvedev (d) Alexander Zverev

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- Rafael Nadal has won the men's singles title of tennis competition Italian Open 2021 held in Rome ,Italy on May 16, 2021.
- This tennis competition between 9-16 May 2021 concluded at the Rome (Italy).



- The results of this competition are as follows-
- **Men's Singles**
- Winner – Rafael Nadal (Spain)
- Runner-up Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
- **Women's Singles**
- Winner – Iga Swiatek (Poland)
- Runner-up Karolina Pliskova (Czech Republic)
- **Men's Doubles**
- Winner – Nikola Pietrangeli and Matt Pavich (both Croatia)
- Runner-up Rajeevaram (US) and Joey Salisbury (UK)
- **Women's Doubles**
- Winner – Sharon Fichman (Canada) and Giuliana Olmos (Mexico)
- Runner-up -Kristina Mladenovic (France) and Marketa Vondrousova (Czech Republic)
- Nadal has won this competition for the 10th time.
- With this victory, Nadal equaled Novak Djokovic's winning 36 ATP Masters 1000 titles.

Link:

<https://www.atptour.com/en/tournaments/rome/416/overview>

Golf

2021 PGA Championship

Question: Who has won the 2021 PGA Championship, a professional golf tournament?

(a) Phil Mickelson (b) Richard Beem (c) Abraham Ancer (d) Brooks Koepka

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- American professional golfer, Phil Mickelson has created history by winning the 2021 PGA Championship, at the age of 50.
- He became the oldest player to win a major title in the history of the PGA Tour. This is his sixth major title.
- Mickelson broke the record of oldest major championship winner at the age of 50 years, 11 months, and 7 days.
- This record was previously held by American Julius Boros.



Links:

<https://www.theguardian.com/sport/2021/may/24/phil-mickelson-wins-us-pga-championship-in-triumph-for-the-ages>

South African Women's Open

Question- Which female golfer has won the title of South African Women's Open Golf Tournament ,2021 held on May 16, 2021?

(a) Nicole Garcia (b) Lee-Anne Pace (c) Leon Harm (d) Tvesa Malik

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- The 2021 Investec South African Women's Open final leaderboard is headed by winner Lee-Anne Pace, who took home the victory at Westlake Golf Club in Cape Town, South Africa.
- In a week of difficult scoring conditions, the South Africa native held on for a one-shot victory on 2-over 290, defeating Leonie Harm for her national title.
- Karolin Lampert and Nicole Garcia finished on 5-over total and shared third place, also earning spots along with the top two players in US Women's Open.
- Pace won the €30,000 winner's share of the €200,000 purse.



Link:

<https://thegolfnewsnet.com/golfnewsnetteam/2021/05/16/2021-investec-south-african-womens-open-final-results-prize-money-payout-and-leaderboard-122846/>

Formula One

Monaco Grand Prix

Question: Who has won the Monaco Grand Prix 2021?

(a) Max Verstappen (b) Lewis Hamilton (c) Lando Norris
(d) Valtteri Bottas

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Max Verstappen (Red Bull – Netherlands) won the Monaco Grand Prix 2021.
- With this victory, he took the Formula One championship lead from Lewis Hamilton.
- This is his second win of the season and 12th of career.
- Ferrari's Carlos Sainz Jr. finished second, while McLaren's Lando Norris came at third place.



Links:

<https://www.indiatvnews.com/sports/formula-1/max-verstappen-wins-monaco-gp-takes-f1-title-lead-from-lewis-hamilton-706531>

Athletics

Tejaswini Shankar

Question: Which Indian athlete has won Consecutive High Jump Titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA?

(a) Tejaswini Shankar (b) Hari Shankar Roy (c) Sahana Kumari (d) Mariyappan Thangavelu

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Representing Kansas State University, India's Tejaswini Shankar won back-to-back men's high jump titles in the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships in Manhattan, USA.
- He is the third Indian to compete in the highly competitive USA circuit, the breeding ground for many US track and field Olympians.
- Shankar had also won the men's high jump title in the 2019 edition of the Big 12 Outdoor Track and Field Championships while the 2020 edition was cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.



Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/sports/tejaswini-shankar-wins-consecutive-high-jump-titles-while-representing-university-in-usa-3743657.html>

Sports Miscellaneous

Forbes: The World Highest Paid Athletes 2019

Question – On May 12, 2021, Forbes released the list of the 10 highest paid athletes in the world. Which player has topped this list?

(a) Roger Federer (b) Floyd Mayweather (c) Lionel Messi (d) Conor McGregor

Answer – (d)

Related facts

- On May 12, 2021, Forbes released the list of the 10 highest paid athletes in the world.
- Ireland's top MMA boxer Conor McGregor topped the list with an income of \$ 180 million.
- Argentina's famous footballer Lionel Messi finished second with an income of \$ 130 million.
- Portugal's famous footballer Cristiano Ronaldo finished third with \$ 120 million in revenue.
- Other athletes in top ten are — DAK PRESCOTT(American Football)> LEBRON JAMES(Basketball)>NEYMAR(Soccer)> ROGER FEDERER(Tennis)>LEWIS



HAMILTON(FORMULA 1)> TOM BRADY(American Football)> KEVIN DURANT(Basketball).

Link:

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/brettknight/2021/05/12/the-worlds-10-highest-paid-athletes-conor-mcgregor-leads-a-group-of-sports-stars-unfazed-by-the-pandemic/?sh=87ed47a26f4f>

Short Notes

Personalities

Andy Jassy

Question: Who has been newly appointed the Chief Executing Officer of e-commerce giant Amazon?

(a) Andy Jassy (b) Keith B Alexander (c) Indra Nooyi (d) Jon Rubinstein

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Andy Jassy will officially become the Chief Executive Officer of e-commerce giant Amazon on July 5 2021.
- He would replace Jeff Bezos as CEO of the entire company.
- Andy Jassy is the current CEO of Amazon Web Services (AWS).
- Jeff Bezos will transition to a new position as executive chair of the Amazon board.



Links:

<https://www.livemint.com/companies/people/jeff-bezos-says-will-pass-baton-to-new-amazon-ceo-on-july-5-11622074599151.html>

Ratan Singh Sonal

Question : On which date, a total of three members of the Central Armed Police Force led by Commandant Ratan Singh Sonal posted in ITBP successfully hoisted the tricolor in the world's fourth height Lhotse mountain (8516 meters) ?

a. 23 May 2021 b. 20 May 2021 c. 18 May 2021 d. 16 May 2021

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Premchand Agarwal(Uttarakhand LA speaker) has congratulated the Commandant of ITBP Ratan Singh Sonal for scaling the mount Lhotse (8516 meters), the fourth highest peak in the world.



- Sonal led a three member team of Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF) which successfully scaled the Mount Lhotse on May 23.
- Sonal belongs to village Son Dugtu of Darma valley in Pithoragarh district.
- In his message the speaker said that Sonal had successfully scaled Mount Everest, Mt Dhaulagiri, Mt Satopanth and other peaks in the past.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/speaker-agarwal-hails-feat-of-ratan-singh-sonal.html>

B.V.R. Subrahmanyam

Question : What is the name of the person who will take charge as the Commerce Secretary from June 30 ?

a. B.V.R. Subrahmanyam b. Arvinda Kumar c. J.B. Mohapatra d. Anu J. Singh

Ans. a.

Related facts

- Central government on Thursday(27 May 2021) brought in the Chief Secretary of Jammu and Kashmir, B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, as next the Commerce Secretary, Government of India, upon superannuation of Anup Wadhawan on June 30.
- Mr. Subrahmanyam is a 1987 batch IAS officer of the Chhattisgarh cadre, and was sent on deputation to Jammu and Kashmir in June 2018.
- In the Ministry of Commerce, he has been appointed as an Officer on Special Duty for a month, before he takes over as the Secretary when the incumbent Mr. Wadhawan superannuates on June 30.



Link:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/bvr-subrahmanyam-to-be-commerce-secretary/article34659863.ece>

South East Asia Sports Representative

Question : Who has been elected as South East Asia Sports Representative?

(a)Dr Umakant Singh (b)Neeraj Bhanot (c)Sheel Okha (d)Ajoy Lahiri

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Dr Umakant Singh, a resident of Bokaro, Jharkhand, India, has been elected as the representative for South and East Asia in India by the Ambassador of ITK Leipzig University, Germany.
- Dr Umakant was elected as union speaker for South East Asian union countries for a tenure of two years for its proposed joint venture of Global Sports interaction in collaboration with the German Olympic Sports Committee (DOSB).
- This sporting venture would commence soon with its positive reflection in India & Jharkhand.

- Obviously, it is hoped that India's first Global Active Partner City Bokaro, being the head quarter of ITK India Alumni Association will get its due sporting accolades accordingly.
- Presently, around 60 ITK Ambassadors are representing ITK in their countries.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/dr-umakant-elected-as-south-east-asia-sports-representative.html>

Yuan Longping

Question: Yuan Longping known as father of hybrid rice was resident of which country?

(a)South Korea (b)Japan (c)China (d)Vietnam

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- Renowned Chinese agronomist Yuan Longping passed away on May 22, 2021.
- He developed the first hybrid rice varieties in the 1970s.
- For his contributions, Yuan was called the “Father of Hybrid Rice” in China.
- The hybrid rice later grown on a large scale in China vastly improved the grain output in the country.



Links:

<https://news.cgtn.com/news/2021-05-22/Yuan-Longping-father-of-hybrid-rice-dies-hospital-10t9IX5bkZi/index.html#:~:text=Chinese%20agronomist%20Yuan%20Longping%2C%20globally,Changsha%2C%20central%20China's%20Hunan%20Province.>

Sunderlal Bahuguna

Question: Sunderlal Bahuguna who passed away recently had led which movement to protect the ecology?

(a) Chipko Movement (b) Silent Valley Movement (c) Bishnoi Movement
(d) Narmada Bachao Movement

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Renowned environmentalist and Gandhian, Sunderlal Bahuguna passed away on May 21, 2021 due to Covid-19.
- He led the famous Chipko Movement, a non-violent agitation which originated in Uttar Pradesh's Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand) in 1973.
- As the word chipko means 'to embrace', the villagers hugged the trees and encircled them to prevent the forest loss on the Himalayan slopes.



- The movement was campaigned against the Tehri Dam on River Bhagirathi, a mega-project with devastating consequences. He undertook one of India's longest fasts after Independence, over 56 days.
- He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 2009.

Links:

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/with-chipko-sundarlal-bahuguna-shaped-green-movement/articleshow/82845657.cms>

Rajesh Bansal

Question: Who has been appointed the chief executive officer (CEO) of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH)?

(a) Rajesh Bansal (b) Suraj Verma (c) Nilesh Verma (d) Rajeev Kumar

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Board of Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has appointed Rajesh Bansal as the chief executive officer (CEO) of the RBIH with effect from May 17, 2021.
- Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) has been setup to promote innovation across the financial sector by leveraging on technology and creating an environment which would facilitate and foster innovation.
- RBIH is guided and managed by a Governing Council (GC) led by a Chairperson.
- Currently, Senapathy (Kris) Gopalakrishnan, co-founder and former co-Chairman, Infosys, as the first Chairperson of the RBIH.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-bytes/rbi-innovation-hub-appoints-rajesh-bansal-as-ceo/articleshow/82859430.cms>

Padmakumar M Nair

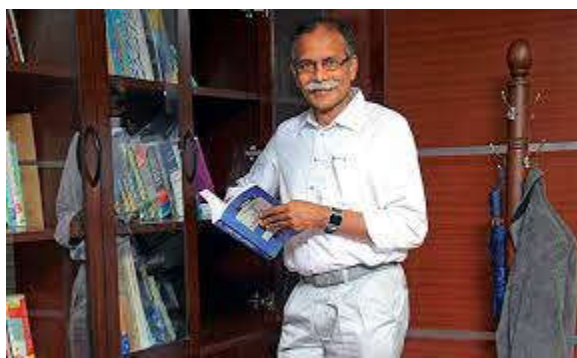
Question: Who has been appointed Chief Executive Officer of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd?

(a) Padmakumar M Nair (b) Nilesh Verma (c) Arun Nair (d) Prashant Ghosh

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Padmakumar M Nair has been appointed as the CEO of the proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd.
- Presently Padmakumar is the Chief General Manager of Stressed Assets Resolution Group at SBI.
- **About proposed National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd:**



- National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd. is a proposed bad bank for taking over stressed assets of lenders and was announced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the budget for 2021-22 to consolidate and take over existing stressed assets of lenders and undertake their resolution.
- Bad bank refers to a financial institution that takes over the bad assets of lenders and undertakes resolution.
- National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (NARCL) will pay up to 15 per cent of the agreed value for the loans in cash and the remaining 85 per cent would be government-guaranteed security receipts.

Links:

https://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/state-bank-of-india-s-padmakumar-m-nair-named-as-ceo-of-proposed-bad-bank-121051200042_1.html#:~:text=Padmakumar%20M%20Nair%20of%20State,be%20operational%20in%20June%202021.

Narinder Batra

Question: Who has been elected the President of International Hockey Federation (FIH)?

(a) Narinder Batra (b) Marc Coudron (c) Thierry Weil (d) Fumio Ogura

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Narinder Batra has been re-elected as the President of the International Hockey Federation (FIH) for the second consecutive term.
- He was elected during the virtual 47th Congress of FIH, where he beat Marc Coudron, Chief of Belgium Hockey Federation, by just two votes.
- He will hold the office until 2024.
- The veteran Indian sports administrator is the only Asian to be appointed to the top post in the world body's 92-year-old history.
- He is also the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) and a Member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/sports/narinder-batra-re-elected-as-fih-president-for-a-second-term/articleshow/82859135.cms>

Martin Griffiths

Question: Who has been appointed the new Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs?

(a) Martin Griffiths (b) Mark Lowcock (c) Izumi Nakamitsu (d) Henrietta H. Fore

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Veteran British diplomat Martin Griffiths has been appointed as the new Chief at the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), for a period of five years.
- Griffiths will replace Mark Lowcock as the new Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator (USG/ERC) of OCHA.
- He is currently serving as the United Nations Special Envoy for Yemen.

About the OCHA

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) aims to strengthen the international response to complex emergencies and natural disasters.
- The headquarters of OCHA is based in two locations which are New York and Geneva.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/antonio-guterres-appoints-martin-griffiths-as-un-humanitarian-chief/article34547167.ece>

Martha Karambu Koome

Question: Martha Karambu Koome became first woman chief justice of which country?

(a) Kenya (b) Niger (c) Namibia (d) Uganda

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Martha Karambu Koome has been appointed Kenya's first woman chief justice.
- Also, she is the first woman to head any of the three branches of government.
- Koome, 61, takes over the judiciary ahead of next year's general elections and would likely play a decisive role in adjudicating any eventual election disputes.



Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/martha-koome-appointed-kenyas-first-woman-chief-justice/article34601461.ece>

Jose J Kattoor

Question: Who has been appointed Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India?

(a) Jose J Kattoor (b) Amitabh Kant (c) Vanita Gupta (d) Anshula Kant



Answer: (a)
Related facts:

- The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Jose J Kattoor as Executive Director (ED).
- Earlier he was heading Bengaluru Regional Office of the Reserve Bank as Regional Director for Karnataka.
- He will look after Human Resource Management Department, Corporate Strategy and Budget Department and Rajbhasha Department.

Links:

<https://www.thehindu.com/business/rbi-appoints-jose-j-kattoor-as-executive-director/article34528595.ece>

Chaman Lal Gupta

Question: Chaman Lal Gupta who passed away recently was-

(a) Writer (b) Politician (c) Scientist (d) Doctor

Answer: (b)

Related facts:

- On 18 May 2021, senior BJP leader and former union minister, Chaman Lal Gupta passed away.
- He had an illustrious political career spanning over five decades, beginning with becoming a member of the J&K Legislative Assembly in 1972.
- He was a member of the 11th, 12th and 13th Lok Sabha from the Udhampur constituency of Jammu.
- Chaman Lal Gupta was Union Minister of State, Ministry of Civil Aviation between October 13, 1999, and September 1, 2001, Union Minister of State (independent charge), Ministry of Food Processing Industries (September 1, 2001, to June 30, 2002) and Union Minister of State for Defence (July 1, 2002 to 2004).



Links:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2021/may/18/ex-union-minister-bjp-leader-chaman-lal-gupta-dies-2304122.html>

Arun Kumar Singh

Question: Who has been appointed the chairman and managing director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL)?

(a) Arun Kumar Singh (b) Rajneesh Kumar (c) Rajeev Kumar (d) Aravind Verma

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB), the government's head-hunter, has picked Arun Kumar Singh as the chairman and managing director Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).
- BPCL is a state-run oil refining and marketing firm.
- Arun Kumar Singh is currently director, marketing at BPCL and holding additional charge of Director, Refineries.



Links:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/pesb-picks-arun-kumar-singh-as-next-cmd-of-bpcl/article34528289.ece>

Subodh Kumar Jaiswal

Question : Who has been appointed as CBI's new director ?

(a) Subodh Kumar Jaiswal (b) Raman Sharma (c) Srikant Jain (d) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Maharashtra cadre IPS officer of 1985-batch, Subodh Kumar Jaiswal, on Wednesday (27 May 2021), took charge as the new CBI director.
- He will have a fixed tenure of twenty four months.
- Jaiswal assumed the office of the CBI chief after handing over charge of Director General, CISF.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/india/jaiswal-takes-up-reins-of-cbi-office.html>

Satoshi Uchida

Question: Who has been appointed the new Company Head of Suzuki Motorcycle India?

(a) Satoshi Uchida (b) Arun Sharma (c) Vinay Swaroop (d) Alka Lamba

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Satoshi Uchida has been appointed the new Company Head of Suzuki Motorcycle India.
- He has replaced Koichiro Hirao as part of Suzuki Motor Corporation's global revamp.
- Suzuki Motorcycle India registered its highest-ever monthly sales in April 2021, dispatching as many as 77,849 units during the month.
- Suzuki Motor Corporation is a Japanese multinational corporation based in Minami-Ku.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/auto/bikes/story/satoshi-uchida-appointed-as-suzuki-motorcycle-india-s-new-company-head-1802315-2021-05-13#:~:text=Suzuki%20Motorcycle%20India%20has%20appointed,of%20experience%20across%20global%20markets.>

Neera Tanden

Question: Which Indian-American has been appointed senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden?

(a) Neera Tanden (b) Vivek Murthy (c) Vanita Gupta (d) Vinay Reddy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Indian-American Neera Tanden has been appointed senior adviser to U.S. President Joe Biden.
- She is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).
- She withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.
- Ms Tanden previously served as a senior adviser for health reforms at the US Department of Health and Human Services.
- She had worked with Congress and stakeholders on particular provisions of former President Barack Obama's signature legislative achievement, the Affordable Care Act.

**Links:**

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/indian-american-neera-tanden-appointed-white-house-senior-adviser/article34562621.ece>

KK Aggarwal

Question: KK Aggarwal who passed away recently was-

(a) Writer (b) Politician (c) Scientist (d) Doctor

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- Renowned cardiologist and former national president of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), Dr KK Aggarwal, has passed away battling with Covid.
- He was an eminent physician and cardiologist, who also has served as the head of the Heart Care Foundation of India.
- He was honoured with the Dr BC Roy Award in 2005 and the Padma Shri in 2010, India's fourth-highest civilian award, for his contributions to the field of medicine.



Links:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/padma-shree-awardee-dr-kk-agarwal-passes-away-after-battling-covid/articleshow/82727863.cms>

Ki. Rajanarayanan

Question: Ki. Rajanarayanan who passed away recently was-

(a) Writer (b) Politician (c) Scientist (d) Industrialist

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Noted Tamil folklorist and acclaimed writer Ki. Rajanarayanan has passed away.
- Famously called by his Tamil initials as KiRa, he was known as the pioneer of 'Karisal Literature'.
- KiRa was honoured with the Sahitya Academy award in 1991 for his novel 'Gopalapurathu Makkal'.
- He was an eminent writer of short stories, novels, folklores and essays and has published over 30 books.

**Links:**

<http://newsonair.com/News?title=Eminent-Tamil-Writer-Ki-Rajanarayanan-passes-away&id=41717>

Arjan Bhullar

Question: Who has become the first Indian-origin fighter to win a mixed martial arts (MMA) title?

(a) Arjan Bhullar (b) Khabib Shah (c) Gaurav Taneja (d) Prateek Rathee

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Arjan Bhullar became the first Indian-origin fighter to win a world title in a top-level mixed martial arts MMA promotion.
- He beat Brandon Vera to become the heavyweight world champion at the Singapore-based One Championship.
- By defeating Vera, Bhullar ended the Filipino-American's five-year championship-winning run.
- Bhullar had won the commonwealth games gold medals in 2010 and 2012. He became the first Indian-origin freestyle wrestler to represent Canada at the Olympics.

**Links:**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/sports/sport-others/arjan-bhullar-first-indian-mma->

[7316447/#:~:text=Arjan%20Bhullar%20became%20the%20first,the%20Singapore%20based%20One%20Championship.&text=By%20defeating%20Vera%2C%20Bhullar%20ended,%2Dyear%20championship%2Dwinning%20run.](#)

Question : Who is the newly appointed director of RBI ?

Ans.(a)

- 
- A portrait of a man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a white button-down shirt. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

https://www.rbi.org.in/scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51554

Question – On 24 April 2021, who was nominated as the new director in the Central Board of RBI by the Central Government?

Answer – (d)

- 

https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=51475#:~:text=The%20Central%20Government%20has%20nominated,2021%20and%20until%20further%20orders.

Arun Kumar Singh

Question : Who is Arun Kumar Singh, limelight in May 2021 ?

- (a) BPCL's newly select CMD (b) IOC's newly select CMD
(c) GAIL's newly select CMD (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The PESB has recently(May 2021) picked Arun Kumar Singh as the chairman and managing director of oil refining and marketing firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd.
- PESB stands for — Public Enterprises Selection Board.
- Arun Kumar Singh is currently director, marketing at BPCL and holding additional charge of Director, Refineries.
- In this post he Will replace K Padmakar.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/companies/pesb-picks-arun-kumar-singh-as-next-cmd-of-bpcl/article34528289.ece>

Zhang Yimin

Question : Zhang Yiming has recently(May 2021) resigned from his post. The world of Chinese fintech has been thoroughly shaken in the past half year. Accordingly, arrange the events given below in chronological order and choose the correct option.

1. Suspension of Ant Group's IPO
 2. The record fine for Alibaba
 3. Resignation of Bytedance founder & CEO
- A. 1,2 & 3
B. 3,2 & 1
C. 2,3 & 1
D. 3,1 & 2

Ans.(A)

Related facts

- Zhang Yiming has recently(May 2021) resigned from his post.
- The world of Chinese fintech has been thoroughly shaken in the past half year, be it the last-minute suspension of Ant Group's IPO, the record fine for Alibaba or investigations into Meituan and Tencent.



- Zhang Yimin, the founder and CEO of Chinese tech unicorn ByteDance Ltd, parent company of tik-tok has become the latest Chinese billionaire to continue the trend of stepping down in an increasingly tough and uncertain regulatory environment for Chinese fintechs.
- ByteDance is one of 13 online companies that Chinese regulators have directed to follow stringent regulations in financial divisions.
- Resignation of Zhang, 38 years, who is one of China's wealthiest entrepreneurs follows a similar pattern of Big Tech CEOs stepping back at the peak of their career.
- He has net worth of USD 35.6 billion as of 2020, according to Forbes.
- In 2019, founder of China's largest e-commerce platform Alibaba Group Holding, Jack Ma resigned from his role as executive chairman at the age of 55 with a net worth at the time of US\$45 billion according to Forbes.

Link:

<http://ddnews.gov.in/international/shake-chinese-fintech-byte-dance-founder-ceo-becomes-latest-chinese-billionaire-step>

Neera Tanden

Question: Who has been appointed White House senior adviser?

(a)Meera Mahajan (b) Neera Tanden (c)NS Raman (d)None of the above

Answer- b

Related facts

- Indian-American policy expert Neera Tanden has recently(May 2021) been appointed as a senior adviser to US President Joe Biden, two months after she withdrew her nomination as Director of the White House Office of Management and Budget due to stiff opposition from Republican senators.
 - Tasks for Neera Tanden
 1. launch a review of the US Digital Service,
 2. Plan contingencies that could result from the Supreme Court's consideration of Republican lawsuits seeking to strike down the Affordable Care Act.
- Currently held post
Fifty years old Tanden, is currently the president and CEO of a progressive think-tank, Center for American Progress (CAP).

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/world/indian-american-policy-expert-neera-tanden-appointed-wh-senior-adviser.html>

15th Chief Minister of Assam

Question – Who was sworn in as the 15th Chief Minister of Assam on 10 May 2021?

(a) Atul Bora (b) Sarbananda Sonowal (c) Himanta Biswa Sarma (d) Bimal Bohra



Answer – (c) Related facts

- Sri Himanta Biswa Sarma is the 15th Chief Minister of Assam. On 10 May 2021, Sarma has sworn in as the Chief Minister of Assam, succeeding his colleague Sarbananda Sonowal.
- Himanta Biswa Sarma was elected to the Assam Legislative Assembly from Jalukbari Assembly Constituency for the first time in 2001 was re-elected from the same constituency in 2006, and 2011 on Congress ticket and in 2016, and 2021 on BJP's ticket.
- About
- Himanta Biswa Sarma was born on 1 February 1969.
- He earned his L.L.B. degree from Government Law College, Guwahati, and obtained a Ph.D. degree from Gauhati University.
- He held several portfolios (both state and cabinet) such as Minister of State for Agriculture, Planning & Development, Finance, Health, Education, and Assam Accord Implementation from 2002 to 2021
- Government of India in its various annual reports had singularly pointed out the achievements of the Health and Education departments of Assam. During his tenure, more than 50,000 teachers were appointed for the first time through TET after he abolished the system of interviews.

Link:

<https://assam.gov.in/honble-dignitaries/211>

Director General of ESIC

Question- Recently, who has become the new Director General of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC)?

(a) Gurpreet Singh (b) Saurabh Garg (c) Mukhmeet S. Bhatia (d) Arvind Singh

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- Recently, Mukh meet S. Bhatia has become the new Director General of Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC).
- He is a 1990 batch IAS officer of Jharkhand cadre.
- Prior to this, he worked as Additional Secretary in the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1708976>

Mallika Srinivasan

Question- Recently, who has been appointed as the new chairman of the



Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB)?

(a) Mallika Srinivasan (b) Saurabh Garg (c) Arudhanti Bhattacharya (d) Rahul Garg

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- Recently, Mallika Srinivasan has been appointed as the new chairman of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB).
- She is the Chairman and Managing Director of Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Ltd.
- This is the first time that a private sector expert has been appointed as the chairman of PESB.
- He has been appointed for 3 years from the day he assumes office or till he attains the age of 65 years.

Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/blink/know/breaking-the-mould/article34271019.ece>

Awards & Honors

V Karthikeyan Pandian

Question: Who has been conferred with President's award by International Hockey Federation in May 2021?

(a) V Karthikeyan Pandian (b) Rajeev Kumar (c) Raneesh Kumar
(d) T S Krishnamurthy

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- V Karthikeyan Pandian, an IAS officer, and private secretary to Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was conferred with President's award by International Hockey Federation through the 47th FIH Congress.
- He was awarded for his contribution in direction of the event and promotion of hockey in Odisha.
- Pandian also works as Secretary of the State government's 5T Initiative (Technology, Transparency, Teamwork and Time Leading to Transformation).



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/sports/hockey/story/odisha-vk-pandian-fir-hockey-award-naveen-patnaik-1805826-2021-05-23>

Whitley Awards 2021

Question: Which Indian environmentalist has won the prestigious Whitley Awards 2021?

(a) Nuku Phom (b) Sunita Narain (c) Vandana Shiva (d) Chandi Prasad Bhatt

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- An environmentalist from Nagaland's remote Longleng district, Nuku Phom has won this 2021 Whitley Awards 2021.
- He has been conferred for his efforts to create a 'Biodiversity Peace Corridor', a network of community-owned forests in the state and protect the rare Amur falcon.
- He is the only Indian to win this prestigious award. Whitley Award is also known as Green Oscar.
- Nuku Phom's name, along with that of five others, was announced recently in a virtual award ceremony organized by the UK-based Whitley Fund for Nature (WFN).
- Each winner receives £40,000 in project funding over one year.



Links:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/north-east-india/nagaland/nagalands-y-nuklu-phom-wins-prestigious-whitley-award-2021-for-his-biodiversity-peace-corridor-7314162/>

Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion award

Question – On 13 May 2021, the National Basketball Association(NBA) announced the introduction of a new award in honor of Karim Abdul Jabbar, the league's all-time leading scorer and noted civil rights activist. Accordingly, which one of the following is incorrect ?

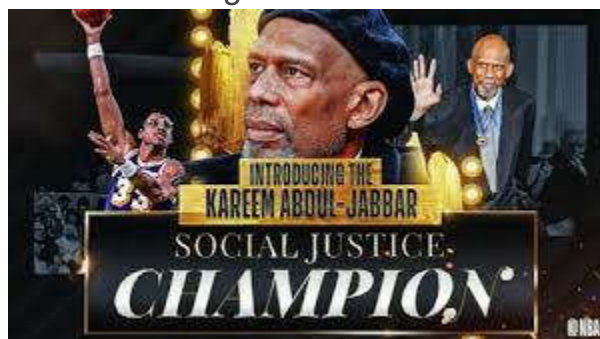
- (a) The award is named Karim Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award.
- (b) The award will be given to the sportsperson who has strived for social justice and racial equality.
- (c) The winner of this award will be announced in May every year.
- (d) All 30 NBA teams will nominate a player for the award and the final list will be selected by a 7-member committee made up of league officials ,activists and former NBA players.

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- On 13 May 2021, the National Basketball Association (NBA) announced the introduction of a new award in honor of Karim Abdul-Jabbar, the league's all-time leading scorer and noted civil rights activist.
- The award is named 'Karim Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion Award'.

- The award will be given to the sportsperson who has strived for social justice and racial equality.
- The winner of the inaugural Kareem Abdul-Jabbar Social Justice Champion award will be announced during the playoffs and will receive \$100,000 from the league to donate to an organization of his choosing. Four additional finalists will receive \$25,000.
- All 30 NBA teams will nominate one player for the award and the finalists will be selected by a 7-member committee made up of league officials, workers and former NBA players.
- Abdul-Jabbar had won three consecutive championships (1967 to 1969) at the University of California at Los Angeles.



Link:

https://www.espn.in/nba/story/_/id/31437539/nba-creates-kareem-abdul-jabbar-social-justice-champion-award

World Food Prize

Question – On 11 May, who was announced to be given the prestigious ‘World Food Award’ for the year 2021?

- (a) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan (b) Dr. Ratan Lal
(c) Dr. Shakuntala Hark Singh Thilsted (d) Dr. Dinesh Lal

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- On May 11, 2021, the World Food Awards Foundation announced the award of the prestigious ‘World Food Prize’ of the year 2021 to Dr. Shakuntala Hark Singh Thilsted, a renowned Indian-origin nutrition scientist.
- Nutrition expert Dr. Shakuntala Haraksingh Thilsted becomes the first woman of Asian heritage to receive the \$250,000 award for unlocking the benefits of fish for diets, health and livelihoods across the Global South.
- Her achievements — pioneered fish-based food systems to improve nutrition, health and livelihoods for millions around the world.
- Dr. Thilsted was the first to establish that many small fish species commonly eaten across Southeast Asia are an important source of essential micronutrients and fatty acids and improve the absorption of nutrients in plant-based foods, reshaping scientific understanding of the benefits of fish in diets.
- This breakthrough has helped prioritize increases in fish consumption and production, transforming the diets and incomes of some of the world’s most vulnerable people.



- The 2021 Laureate Announcement featured pre-recorded remarks from the U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Thomas J. Vilsack and UN Nutrition Chair Naoko Yamamoto, with World Food Prize Foundation President Barbara Stinson announcing the name of the Laureate.
- Dr. Thilsted is the seventh woman to be awarded the World Food Prize and the first woman of Asian heritage.

Link:

https://www.worldfoodprize.org/index.cfm/87428/48369/pioneering_aquatic_foods_researcher_awarded_the_2021_world_food_prize

Planning & Project

YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors

Question : YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors launched on which date ?

a. 29 May 2021 b. 27 May 2021 c. 25 May 2021 d. 23 May 2021

Ans. a.

- The Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education today(29 May 2021) launched YUVA- Prime Minister's Scheme For Mentoring Young Authors, an Author Mentorship programme to train young and budding authors (below 30 years of age) in order to promote reading, writing and book culture in the country, and project India and Indian writings globally.
- **Background**
- The launch of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors) is in tune with PM's vision to encourage young writers to write about India's freedom struggle.
- It was during Mann ki Baat on 31 January 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi called upon the young generation to write about freedom fighters, incidents associated with freedom, the saga of valour during the period of freedom struggle in their respective areas – as the best tribute to the heroes of India's freedom – as we celebrate 75 years of Indian Independence.
- YUVA is a part of India@75 Project (Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav) to bring to the fore the perspectives of the young generation of writers on themes like Unsung Heroes, Freedom Fighters, Unknown and Forgotten Places and their role in National Movement, and other related themes in an innovative and creative manner. This scheme will thus help to develop a stream of writers who can write on a spectrum of subjects to promote Indian heritage, culture and knowledge system.
- **Implementing Agency**



- The National Book Trust, India under the Ministry of Education as the Implementing Agency will ensure phase-wise execution of the Scheme under well-defined stages of mentorship.
- The books prepared under this scheme will be published by National Book Trust, India; and will also be translated into other Indian languages ensuring the exchange of culture and literature, thereby promoting 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'.
- The selected young authors will interact with some of the best authors of the world; participate in literary festivals etc.
- Highlights of YUVA (Young, Upcoming and Versatile Authors):
- A total of 75 authors will be selected through an All India Contest to be conducted through <https://www.mygov.in/> from 1 June – 31 July 2021.
- The winners will be announced on 15 August 2021.
- The young authors will be trained by eminent authors/mentors.
- Under the mentorship, the manuscripts will be readied by 15 Dec. 2021 for publication.
- The published books will be launched on 12 January 2022 on the occasion of National Youth Day (Yuva Diwas).
- A consolidated scholarship of Rs.50,000 per month for a period of six months per author will be paid under the Mentorship Scheme

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1722644>

Monetary Assistance through DBT under MDM Scheme

Question : Government would Provide Monetary Assistance through DBT under MDM Scheme. Accordingly, how many numbers of students to be benefited ?

a. About 11.8 Cr b. About 8 Cr c. About 5.6 Cr d. About 4.3 Cr

Ans.a.

Related facts

- Government would Provide Monetary Assistance through DBT under MDM Scheme. Accordingly, about 11.8 Cr students to be benefited.
- This is a special welfare measure adopted by Ministry of Education on May 28, 2021.
- Additional Funds of about Rs.1200 Cr to be provided for this purpose.
- Objective
- This will give a fillip to the Midday Meal programme.
- This is in addition to the Government of India's announcement of distribution of free-of-cost food grains @ 5 Kg per person per month to nearly 80 Crore beneficiaries under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana (PM-GKAY).



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1722407>

Vineyard Wind project

Question- Which fact given below is incorrect regarding USA's Vineyard Wind Project?

- (a) The project, set off the coast of Massachusetts, will provide electricity to 600,000 homes.
- (b) The project aims to install 84 turbines in the Atlantic Ocean.
- (c) The project is capable of generating around 800 MW of power.
- (d) The project is a joint venture of Energy Firms Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners.

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- On 11 May 2021, the Joe Biden administration in the US granted final approval to the country's first major offshore wind farm.
- The Vineyard Wind project is the first large-scale, offshore wind project in the United States.
- The 800-megawatt Vineyard Wind energy project will contribute to the Biden-Harris administration's goal of generating 30 gigawatts of energy from offshore wind by 2030.
- The project will be located approximately 12 nautical miles offshore Martha's Vineyard and 12 nautical miles offshore Nantucket in the northern portion of Vineyard Wind's lease area.
- It will create 3,600 jobs and provide enough power for 400,000 homes and businesses.
- The project aims to install 84 turbines in the Atlantic Ocean.
- The project is capable of generating around 800 MW of power.
- It is a joint venture of Energy Firms Avangrid Renewables and Copenhagen Infrastructure Partners.



Link:

[https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-approves-first-major-offshore-wind-project-us-waters#:~:text=Today's%20Record%20of%20Decision%20\(ROD,power%20up%20to%20400%2C000%20homes.](https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/biden-harris-administration-approves-first-major-offshore-wind-project-us-waters#:~:text=Today's%20Record%20of%20Decision%20(ROD,power%20up%20to%20400%2C000%20homes.)

Progress of One Stop Center Scheme

Question : One stop centre is a centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), for addressing the



problem of violence against women. It is being implemented across the country since —

(a) 1st April, 2015 (b) 1st April, 2014 (c) 1st April, 2016 (d) 1st April, 2012

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- One stop centre is a centrally sponsored scheme of Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD), for addressing the problem of violence against women. It is being implemented across the country since 1st April, 2015 through State Governments/ Union Territory (UT) Administrations to provide integrated support and assistance to women affected by violence and in distress, both in private and public spaces, under one roof and facilitate immediate, emergency and non-emergency access to a range of services including police, medical, legal aid and counseling, psychological support to fight against any forms of violence against women.
- Till date(22 MAY 2021), 701 OSCs in 35 States/UTs have been operationalised.
- In the prevalent situation created due to Covid pandemic, women who are in distress situation or affected by violence may contact the nearest OSCs for speedy assistance and services.
- The State/UT-wise details of sanctioned and operational OSCs are as under:
- **FUNCTIONAL ONE STOP CENTRES**

Sr. No.	Name of State / UT	Number of OSCs Functional
TOTAL		701
1	Uttar Pradesh	75
2	Madhya Pradesh	52
3	Bihar	38
4	Maharashtra	37
5	Tamil Nadu	34

6	Assam	33
7	Gujrat	33
8	Rajasthan	33
9	Telangana	33

Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1720843>

NTPC Mouda's river rejuvenation project

Question : In which State NTPC Mouda's river rejuvenation project is situated ?

(a) Maharashtra (b) Tamilnadu (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Rajasthan

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- NTPC, Central Public Sector Undertaking under Ministry of Power in Mouda, Maharashtra has helped over 150 villages in and around its operational area to overcome water crisis through ground water rejuvenation project.
- Ministry of Power has recently(May 2021) highlighted the NTPC Mouda's river rejuvenation project.
- As part of its CSR initiative, NTPC Mouda is supporting the Jalyukta Shivar Yojana project which has successfully managed to turn Mouda into a water-surplus tehsil.
- This project was carried out by the Maharashtra wing of Art of Living along with aid from few other organizations and the State government.
- Earlier Mouda, was one of the most water-deficient tehsils in Nagpur. The project which started in 2017 has covered more than 200 km in Mouda, Hingna and Kamptee tehsils.
- In the last four years, over 150 villages have benefited from it. NTPC Mouda had contributed 78 lakhs for the fuel charges of machinery and equipment involved.
- For a similar rejuvenation project of 5 ponds over an area of 1000 acres, an amount of 1 Crore is also being provided by NTPC Mouda.



Link:

<https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1720818>

Six years of Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana

Question – On 8 April 2021, the Prime Minister’s Mudra Yojana (PMMY) did its first six years. As of 19 March 2021, which option is not correct in relation to the achievements of this scheme?

- (a) Since the inauguration of this scheme, till March 19, 2021, more than 28.68 crore loans amounting to Rs. 14.96 lakh crore have been sanctioned.
- (b) About 35 percent of the loans have been given to new entrepreneurs.
- (c) About 68 percent of the loan has been provided to women entrepreneurs.
- (d) About 51 percent of the loans have been provided to the Scheduled Castes / Scheduled Tribes / Other Backward Classes.

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- On 8 April 2021, the Prime Minister’s Mudra Yojana (PMMY) did its first six years.
- Achievements (As of 19 March 2021)
- Since the inauguration of this scheme, till March 19, 2021, more than 28.68 crore loans amounting to Rs.14.96 lakh crore have been sanctioned.
- About 68 percent of the loan has been provided to women entrepreneurs.
- About 51 percent of the loans have been provided to the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes / Other Backward Classes.
- About 24 percent of the loans have been given to new entrepreneurs.
- About the scheme
- Under this scheme, loan of Rs.10 lakhs used to provide by Member Landing Institution (MLI) ie Scheduled Commercial Banks, Regional Rural Banks, Small Finance Banks, Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), Micro Finance Institutions (MFIs) etc.
- These loans are provided for income generating activities and agriculture related activities in the manufacturing, trade and service sectors.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/banks-sanction-rs-15-lakh-crore-under-mudra-yojana-in-last-6-years/articleshow/81949011.cms?from=mdr>

Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme for White Goods (Air Conditioners and LED Lights)

Question: On 7 April 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Production Related Incentive Scheme (PLI) for white goods (air conditioners and LED lights) with budgetary allocation of how much amount?

(a) Rs 5,423 crore (b) Rs 5,670 crore (c) Rs 6,238 crore (d) Rs 6,385 crore

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- On 7 April 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Production Related Incentive Scheme (PLI) for white goods (airconditioners and LED lights) with budget aryal location of Rs 6,238 crore.
- The prime objective of the PLI scheme is to make manufacturing in India globally competitive by removing sectoral disabilities, creating economies of scale and ensuring efficiencies.
- It is designed to create complete component ecosystem in India and make India an integral part of the global supply chains. The scheme is expected to attract global investments, generate large scale employment opportunities and enhance exports substantially.
- The PLI Scheme for White Goods shall extend an incentive of 4% to 6% on incremental sales of goods manufactured in India for a period of five years to companies engaged in manufacturing of Air Conditioners and LED Lights.
- Speculations
- It is estimated that over the period of five years, the PLI Scheme will lead to incremental investment of Rs. 7,920 Crore, incremental Production worth Rs. 1,68,000 Crore, exports worth Rs 64,400 Crore, earn direct and indirect revenues of Rs 49,300 crore and create additional four lakh direct and indirect employment opportunities.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710116>

Treaty & Agreements

Agreement between ICAI-QFCA

Question- On 12 May 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Qatar Financial Center Authority. ICAI has an active unit in Doha(Qatar), which was established in —

(a) Year 1978 (b) Year 1980 (c) year 1981 (d) Year 1984

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- On 12 May 2021, the Union Cabinet approved the Memorandum of



Understanding between the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) and the Qatar Financial Center Authority.

- The MoU would enhance cooperation between the Institutes to work together to strengthen the Accounting profession and entrepreneurship base in Qatar.
- **Impact:**
- ICAI has a strong membership base of over 6000 members in Middle East and Qatar (Doha) Chapter is amongst the most vibrant Chapters of ICAI. ICAI members hold key positions in various private and public companies and are actively involved in support and development of the accounting profession in Qatar.
- The signing of this MoU would provide an additional impetus to prospects of the ICAI Members in the entire Middle Eastern Region to have better recognition, together with working to support Indian businesses desirous of doing business in Qatar and thus supporting the growth of Qatar and India's economies.
- **Benefits:**
- ICAI has an active Chapter in Doha, Qatar which was established in the year 1981 and is the oldest among the 36 overseas Chapters of the ICAI. The membership of the Chapter has grown steadily since its founding days and presently has over 300 members who hold key positions in various private and public companies and are actively involved in support and development of the accounting profession in Qatar.
- This MoU will benefit Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and Qatar Financial Centre Authority.
- **Implementation strategy and Targets:**
- MoU will endeavour to increase opportunities for members of ICAI to provide professional services through setting up practice for providing professional services in the State of Qatar in the areas of assurance and auditing, advisory, taxation, financial services and allied areas.
- ICAI shall also nurture and develop local Qatar professionals, entrepreneurs and students through a specialized training programme, in collaboration with QFCA.
- ICAI and QFCA will work together to explore the opportunities for Indian businesses in Qatar by organizing roundtables, networking events etc., as the case may be mutually agreed.
- ICAI and QFCA shall collaborate on opportunities that may arise in the fields of corporate governance, technical research and advice, quality assurance, forensic accounting, issues for small and medium sized practices (SMPs), Islamic Finance, Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and other subjects of mutual interest.
- **ICAI**
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is a statutory body established by an Act of Parliament of India, The Chartered Accountants Act, 1949', to regulate the profession of Chartered Accountancy in India.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1717947>

Agreement for manufacturing Sputnik V vaccine

Question – Which pharmaceutical company has entered into a three-year binding agreement with Dr. Reddy's Laboratories for the manufacture of Covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V on May 17, 2021?

- (a) Abbot Laboratories
- (b) Shilpa Biologicals Private Limited
- (c) Glenmark Pharma Limited
- (d) Divis Laboratories Limited

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- On May 17, 2021, Shilpa Biologicals Private Limited (SBPL), a wholly owned subsidiary of pharmaceutical company Shilpa Medicare, has entered into a binding agreement with Dr. Reddy Laboratories for the manufacture of covid-19 vaccine Sputnik V.
- The duration of this agreement is 3 years.
- Under this agreement, SBPL will produce and supply Sputnik V vaccine from its integrated Biologics R&D and manufacturing center located in Dharwad, Karnataka.
- The company aims to produce 5 crore dual doses of the Sputnik V vaccine in the first 1 year (50 million components 1 and 50 million components 2).
- Dr. Reddy's will transfer Sputnik V's technology to SBPL.



Link:

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/healthcare/biotech/pharmaceuticals/shilpa-medicare-arm-inks-pact-with-dr-reddys-to-manufacture-sputnik-v-vaccine/articleshow/82700084.cms?from=mdr>

Partnership between OneWeb & SoftBank

Question : For which purpose has Oneweb partnered with SoftBank ?

- (a) to roll out satellite communication services
- (b) to roll out cultural enhancement
- (c) to engage in technical and product development for Australia and asian markets
- (d) None of the above

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- OneWeb has recently(May 2021) partnered with SoftBank to roll out satellite communication services.

- **Result**
- SoftBank and OneWeb will jointly engage in technical and product development for OneWeb's satellite communication services in Japan and global markets.
- This collaboration encompasses obtaining regulatory approvals and the setting up of ground stations in Japan.
- **Advanced communication and Digital Transformation (DX) platform services**
- SoftBank and OneWeb will promote satellite communication services via the combination of OneWeb services and SoftBank's services, including advanced communication and Digital Transformation (DX) platform services.
- **Digitalization and Revolutionization of analog industries**
- For this purpose SoftBank aims to provide advanced seamless connectivity services and DX platform services by using global connectivity solutions that incorporate OneWeb's services.
- **About SoftBank & OneWeb**
- OneWeb owned by Bharti Enterprises (42.2%), SoftBank Group (12.3%), Hughes Communications (2.6%).
- It is a global communications company building a capability to deliver broadband satellite internet services worldwide.
- SoftBank Group Corp. is a Japanese multinational conglomerate holding company headquartered in Minato, Tokyo. SoftBank owns stakes in many technology, energy, and financial companies.
- It also runs Vision Fund, the world's largest technology-focused venture capital fund, with over \$100 billion in capital.



Link:

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/oneweb-partners-softbank-to-roll-out-satellite-communication-services/article34548774.ece>

MoU signed between Tribal Affairs Ministry & Microsoft

Question : On which date MoU between Tribal Affairs Ministry & Microsoft signed ?

- (a) May 18, 2021
- (b) May 14, 2021
- (c) May 12, 2021
- (d) May 10, 2021

Answer : (a)

Related facts



- Tribal Affairs Ministry and Microsoft has recently (18 May 2021) signed an MoU for digital transformation of Tribal Schools such as Eklavya Model Residential Schools and Ashram Schools.
- The collaboration seeks to skill educators and students in next-generation digital technologies including Artificial Intelligence.

- Under the program, 250 Eklavya Model Residential school, EMRS have been adopted by Microsoft out of which 50 EMRS schools will be given intensive training. In the first phase, 500 master trainers will be trained.
- This program will prove beneficial in terms of readiness, preparedness of the students at various international forums.

Link:

<http://www.newsonair.com/News?title=Tribal-Affairs-Ministry-%26-Microsoft-sign-MoU-for-digital-transformation-of-Tribal-Schools&id=417144>

Arpa Uplift and Bank Augmentation

Question: Which state's CM has launched 'Arpa Uplift and Bank Augmentation' work ?

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Jharkhand (d) None of the above

Answer- a

Related facts

- Chhattisgarh state's CM has recently launched 'Arpa Uplift and Bank Augmentation' work.
- CM has laid the foundation stone of 'Arpa Uplift and Bank Augmentation' at Bilaspur virtually on May 16.
- Home Minister and Bilaspur district in-charge Minister Tamradhwaj Sahu will preside while Urban Administration and Development Minister Dr Shiv Kumar Dahariya will be present virtually.
- Bilaspur Smart City Ltd will undertake the work.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/cm-to-launch—arpa-uplift-and-bank-augmentation—work.html>

Signature of mou between Ministry of AYUSH and Department of Animal Husbandry

Question: For which purpose a memorandum of understanding has been signed between the Department of Animal Husbandry and National Medicinal Plants Board ?

- (a) For the funding of Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (b) To apply Ayurveda and its related subjects in Veterinary Science
- (c) To provide Ayurvedic medicines on subsidy to the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying
- (d) For cultivation of medicinal plants on the vacant land of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

Answer – (b)
Related facts

- Memorandum of understanding has recently (7 April 2021) been signed between the Department of Animal Husbandry and National Medicinal Plants Board.
- **Purpose**
- The purpose of MoU is to apply Ayurveda and its related subjects in Veterinary Science.
- The initiative involves capacity building in related areas through training, exploring marketing possibilities for herbal veterinary medicines on a sustainable basis and providing for services including cultivation, preservation and conservation of medicinal plants.
- Curriculum and courses for AYUSH herbal veterinary education programs
- The Ministry of AYUSH will support Department of Animal Husbandry for developing curriculum and courses for AYUSH herbal veterinary education programs, identifying potential medicinal plant species used in veterinary medicine and provide their standards, training and awareness program on Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs) & Good Field Collection Practices (GFCPs) etc., development of Good Manufacturing Practices (GMPs) for manufacturing of AYUSH/herbal veterinary medicines, skill development and capacity building, facilitate and render financial assistance for plantations and nursery development for medicinal plants, facilitate standardizing norms for medicinal plants, assist establishing research and testing centers as per scope of the Scheme.
- Role of Department of Animal Husbandry
- The Department of Animal Husbandry will support Ministry of AYUSH for its expert technical opinion for essentiality, desirability and feasibility with respect to Ayurvedic medicines.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710205>

Year, Day & Week
World Turtle Day

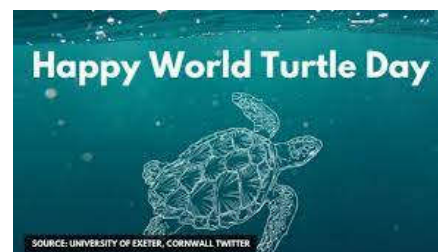
Question: When is the World Turtle Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 25 May

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Turtle Day is observed every year on May 23.
- The day being observed since year 2000



raises awareness among people to protect turtles and tortoises and their disappearing habitats around the world.

- The observation is led by American Tortoise Rescue, a nonprofit organization.
- The theme of 2021 World Turtle Day is “Turtles Rock!”.

Links:

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

World Thyroid Day

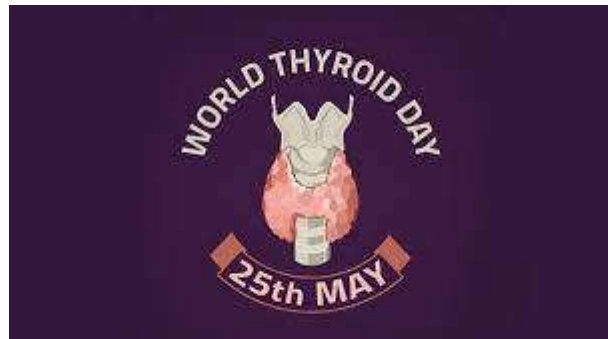
Question: When is the World Thyroid Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 25 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- World Thyroid Day is observed every year on May 25.
- The day awares of Thyroid and the prevention and treatment of thyroid diseases.
- This day is established in 2008 as a part of the campaign led by the European Thyroid Association (ETA) and the American Thyroid Association (ATA) followed by the Latin American Thyroid Society (LATS) and Asia Oceania Thyroid Association (AOTA) to commemorate the patients with Thyroid diseases and doctors and physicians who treat them.
- **About Thyroid:**
 - The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped gland in the throat that produces T3 (Thyroxine) and T4 (Triiodothyronine) and maintained by the Thyroid-stimulating hormone(TSH).
 - It regulates the metabolism of the body and abnormalities in this may cause dysfunctioning body systems.
 - The decrease in thyroid hormone causes hypothyroidism (sudden weight gain) and the increase in thyroid hormone causes hyperthyroidism.
 - Maintaining proper iodine level in the diet and limiting the usage of raw goitrogenic vegetables will help in avoiding thyroid diseases.



Links:

<https://thyroid-fed.org/history-wtd-itaw/>

World Metrology Day

Question: When is the World Metrology Day observed?

(a) 20 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 25 May

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- World Metrology Day is observed every year on May 20.
- The day creates awareness about metrology and its advancement in the respective field.
- The theme for World Metrology Day 2021 is Measurement for Health.
- World Metrology Day is an annual celebration of the signature of the Metre Convention on 20 May 1875 in Paris, France by representatives of seventeen nations.
- The World Metrology Day project is realized jointly by the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) and Bureau International des Poids et Mesures (BIPM).



Links:

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

International Missing Children's Day

Question: When is the International Missing Children's Day observed?

(a) 23 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 25 May

Answer: (d)

Related facts:

- International Missing Children's Day is observed every year on May 25.
- This day is observed for missing children who have found their way home, remember those who are victims of crime, and continue efforts to seek out those that are still missing.
- The day was proclaimed in 1983, by U.S. President Ronald Reagan.
- In 2001, 25 May was the first formally recognized as International Missing Children's Day (IMCD), to a joint effort on the part of the International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children (ICMEC), Missing Children Europe and therefore the European Commission.



Links:

<https://www.icmec.org/global-missing-childrens-center/imcd/>

Indian Commonwealth Day

Question: When is the Indian Commonwealth Day observed?

(a) 24 May (b) 18 May (c) 15 May (d) 25 May

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Commonwealth Day is celebrated on the second Monday in the month of March every year.
- However, in India Commonwealth Day is also observed every year on May 24.
- Commonwealth Day commemorates the formation of the British Empire in India and other colonies of Britain.



- This year the theme for Commonwealth Day is: Delivering a Common Future.
- **Background:**

- It was not until after the death of Queen Victoria, who passed away on January 22, 1901, that Empire Day was first celebrated.
- The first Empire Day was celebrated on May 24, 1902, which was the Queen's birthday.
- Many schools across the British Empire were celebrating it even before it was officially recognised as an annual event.

Links:

<https://www.news18.com/news/lifestyle/how-erstwhile-empire-day-became-commonwealth-day-history-theme-and-significance-3768458.html>

6th UN Global Road Safety Week

Question: When was sixth United Nations Global Road Safety Week observed?

(a) 17-23 May 2021 (b) 18-24 May 2021 (c) 5-11 May 2021 (d) 8-14 May 2021

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- The 6th UN Global Traffic Safety Week is being celebrated from 17-23 May 2021.
- The campaign calls for 30 km/h (20 mph) speed limits to be the norm for cities, towns and villages worldwide.
- UN Global Road Safety Week (UNGRSW) is a biennial global road safety campaign hosted by WHO.
- The theme for the 6th UNGRSW is Streets for Life, under the tagline #Love30.
- It brings together individuals, governments, NGOs, corporations, and other organizations from around the world to raise awareness of road safety and make changes that will reduce the number of road deaths.



Links:

<https://www.unroadsafetyweek.org/en/home>

World Telecommunication and Information Society Day

Question: When is the World Telecommunication and Information Society Day observed?

(a) 10 May (b) 15 May (c) 17 May (d) 20 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- World Telecommunication and Information Society Day is observed every year on May 17.
- The day commemorates the founding of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The theme of 2021 is “Accelerating Digital Transformation in challenging times”.
- The ITU was founded on 17 May 1865, when the first International Telegraph Convention was signed in Paris.
- The main objective of the day is to raise global awareness of the changes brought about by the Internet and new technologies in societies and economies, as well as of ways to bridge the digital divide.



Links:

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/telecommunication-day>

World Hypertension Day

Question: When is the World Hypertension Day observed?

(a) 10 May (b) 15 May (c) 17 May (d) 20 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- World Hypertension Day is observed every year on May 17.
- The day promotes public awareness of increasing high blood pressure (BP) and to encourage citizens of all countries to prevent and control this silent killer.
- The day was observed first in May 2005.
- World Hypertension Day (WHD) is an initiative of the World Hypertension League (WHL), an affiliated section of the International Society of Hypertension.
- The theme for World Hypertension Day 2021 is Measure Your Blood Pressure Accurately, Control It, Live Longer.



Links:

<https://www.paho.org/en/events/world-hypertension-day-17-may-2021>

<https://www.whleague.org/index.php/features/world-hypertension-day>

World AIDS Vaccine Day

Question: When is the World AIDS Vaccine Day observed?

(a) 10 May (b) 15 May (c) 18 May (d) 20 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- World AIDS Vaccine Day, also known as HIV Vaccine Awareness Day, is observed every year on May 18.
- The day promotes the continued urgent need for a vaccine to prevent HIV infection and AIDS.
- National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID) leads this observance.
- The concept of World AIDS Vaccine Day was proposed on May 18, 1997, during a commencement speech at Morgan State University made by then-President Bill Clinton, which underlined the need for a vaccine to curb the spread of HIV.



Links:

<https://www.hiv.gov/events/awareness-days/hiv-vaccine-awareness-day>

International Museum Day

Question: When is the International Museum Day observed?

(a) 10 May (b) 15 May (c) 18 May (d) 20 May

Answer: (c)

Related facts:

- International Museum Day is observed every year on May 18.
- The day raises awareness about Museums as an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures, cooperation and peace among peoples.
- The theme of International Museum Day 2021: "The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine".
- The day being celebrated since 1977 is coordinated by the International Council of Museums (ICOM).



Links:

<https://icom.museum/en/our-actions/events/international-museum-day/>

International Museum Day

Question – International Museum Day falls on __ every year.

(a) 18 May (b) 16 May (c) 14 May (d) 12 May

Answer – (a)

Related facts

- International Museum Day falls on 18 May every year.
- **Objective**
- The objective of International Museum Day, as declared by International Council of Museums (ICOM), is to raise awareness about the fact that, “Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples.”
- The theme for International Museum Day 2021 is ‘The Future of Museums: Recover and Reimagine’.
- On this occasion, Ministry of Culture (MoC), Government of India organised a series of panel discussions to reflect upon the reimagined priorities of the culture sector especially in the context of the worldwide Covid pandemic, and the role of museums therein.



Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1719673>

National Technology Day

Question – On which date is National Technology Day celebrated?

(a) 12 May (b) May 11 (c) 9 May (d) 8 May

Answer – (b)

Related facts

- National Technology Day is celebrated every year on 11 May in India.
- The National Technology Day celebrations highlighted an increase in entrepreneurship spirit to develop cost effective indigenous solutions.
- The day is a significant milestone in the history of India's technological innovations as India successfully tested nuclear bombs in Pokhran on May 11, 1998 and is commemorated every year by honouring the architects of such innovations.
- Awards are given to several innovators and entrepreneurs on this day every year.
- For the year 2021, Technology Development Board (TDB) invited application for National Awards under three categories and total 15 winners were selected after a stringent two-tier evaluation process with panellists being eminent scientists and technologists themselves.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetailm.aspx?PRID=1717635>

International Nurses Day

Question: On what date International Nurses Day is celebrated?

a) 11 May b) 12 May c) 13 May d) none of the above

Ans: b

Facts

- Every year, the International Nurses Day is celebrated on May 12.
- It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale as a day to celebrate the contributions made by the nurses to the society.
- The theme of 2021 International Nurses Day is Nursing the World to Health.
- The International Council of Nurses (ICN) has celebrated May 12 as International Nurses Day since 1965.



Reference: <https://www.icn.ch/what-we-do/campaigns/international-nurses-day>

World Haemophilia Day

Question – Recently, when was ‘World Haemophilia Day’ celebrated all over the world?

(a) 18 April (b) 17 April (c) 20 April (d) 15 April

Answer – (b)

- ‘World Haemophilia Day is celebrated on 20th of April in all over the world.
- World Hemophilia Day is celebrated to raise the awareness and understanding of hemophilia and other bleeding disorders.
- The theme of the event this year is “Adapting to change: sustaining care in a new world”.
- It is noteworthy that hemophilia is a genetic disease affecting the ability of formation of blood clots.
- The person suffering from this has more bleeding due to injury than other normal persons.
- Men are more likely to be affected by this disease than women.



Link:

<https://www.wfh.org/en/events/world-hemophilia-day>

Books

Book-Nehru, Tibet and China

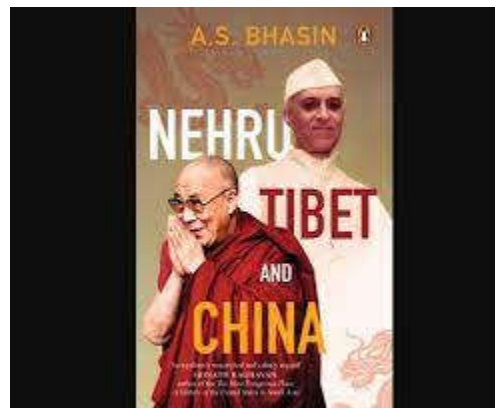
Question: Who is the author of the book Nehru, Tibet and China?

- (a) Avtar Singh Bhasin
- (b) Neeru Bhatia
- (c) R Kaushik
- (d) Shivshankar Menon

Answer – (a)

Related facts:

- Avtar Singh Bhasin has authored a book titled Nehru, Tibet and China.
- The book analyses the events from 1949 to the Indo-China war in 1962 and its aftermath.
- On 1 October 1949, the People's Republic of China came into being and changed forever the course of Asian history.
- Power moved from the hands of the nationalist Kuomintang government to the Communist Party of China headed by Mao Tse Tung.



Links:

<https://penguin.co.in/book/nehru-tibet-and-china/>

Book-India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present

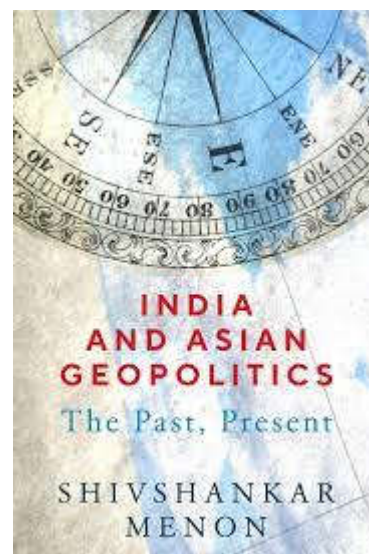
Question: Who is the author of the book India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present?

- (a) Alok Sinha
- (b) Neeru Bhatia
- (c) R Kaushik
- (d) Shivshankar Menon

Answer – (d)

Related facts:

- Shivshankar Menon has authored a book titled 'India and Asian Geopolitics: The Past, Present'.
- The book explores how India weathered the many geopolitical storms of the past.
- Menon underscores the seriousness of China taking Tibet in 1950, which, according to him, was a pivotal moment in India-China relations, but challenges the argument that India failed to stop the Chinese invasion.
- Shivshankar Menon had previously held roles of Prime Minister's National Security Adviser and Foreign Secretary.



Links:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/magazine/up-front/story/20210531-review-shivshankar-menon-s-book-on-india-and-asian-geopolitics-1805683-2021-05-22>

Book -Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance

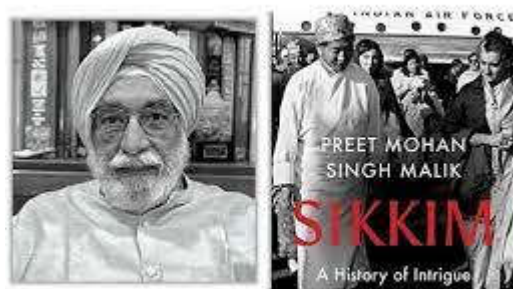
Question: Who is the author of the book titled Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance?

- (a) Preet Mohan Singh Malik (b) Salman Rushdie (c) Salman Khurshid
(d) R K Narayan

Answer: (a)

Related facts:

- Former Indian diplomat Preet Mohan Singh Malik has authored a book titled Sikkim: A History of Intrigue and Alliance.
- The book was published on May 16, 2021, on the Sikkim Day.
- The book has been published by HarperCollins India.
- In the book, Malik has narrated the unique history of the erstwhile kingdom of Sikkim with the intriguing story of how it became India's 22nd state in his new book.



Links:

<https://www.theweek.in/wire-updates/national/2021/05/16/1st2-book-sikkim.html>

Miscellaneous

Samrata Dalpat

Question : What thing has Samrata Dalpat, an Indian origin kid achieved ?

- A. US Presidential Gold Certificate B. A French scholarship
C. Youngest environmentalist award of UK D. None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Samrata Dalpat, an Indian origin kid has recently (May 2021) achieved US Presidential Gold Certificate.
- Though originally from Kunjelpada of Sambalpur, Samrata was born in Brahmapur and did her pre nursery at Bangalore.
- Then she went to the USA with her parents where she has proved herself as a brilliant student and achieved the unique glory.
- Educational achievements apart, she is also equally ardent in extracurricular activities.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/sambalpur-girl-gets-us-prez-certificate.html>

Record 180km/hr high speed oscillation trial

Question : Which railway zone conducts record 180km/hr high speed oscillation trial ?

- a. West Central Railway b. Northern Railway c. Western Railway
d. South Central Railway

Ans. a.

Related facts

- West Central Rail has recently(May 2021) created history by conducting 180 km per hour high speed oscillation trial and proved leaders in High Speed Oscillation Trial in West Central Rail zone.
- High speed oscillation trials are conducted on various sections by the Research Design and Standards Organization (RDSO) of the Indian Railways. In these tests, by increasing the speed of the train the oscillations of the coaches and the track is checked.
- High speed oscillation trials have been conducted at Kota and Bhopal divisions. It is a remarkable achievement that 65 trial runs were successfully conducted at high speed in the 130 to 180 kmph speed band at Bhopal and Kota divisions.
- In the year 2020-21, a total of 8900 km of oscillation trials were conducted at WCR.
- It is worth mentioning that high speed trials have been done at a speed of 180 kilometers per hour for the Three Tier Economy Coach (LWACCNE) which will be very beneficial to start the journey of Indian Railways in the near future.

Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/west-central-rail-conducts-record-180km-hr-high-speed-oscillation-trial.html>

Low-chilling apple variety

Question : A farmer from Himachal Pradesh has developed an innovative self-pollinating apple variety that does not require long chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting. Accordingly, which of the following statement is correct ?

1. Hariman Sharma is the developer of this new variety
 2. HRMN 99 is the name of this variety
 3. This apple is bigger in size as compared to other varieties
- a)Only 1.
b)Only 2.
c)Only 3.
d)All of the above

Ans. d)

Related facts

A farmer from Himachal Pradesh has recently(May 2021) developed an innovative self-pollinating apple variety that does not require long chilling hours for flowering and fruit setting.



Salient features of the new variety

1. Hariman Sharma is the developer of this new variety
2. HRMN 99 is the name of this variety
3. This apple is bigger in size as compared to other varieties
4. This has spread to plain, tropical, and subtropical areas in various parts of India, where the temperature is as high as 40 -45 °C during summer.
5. Commercial cultivation of this apple variety has been initiated in Manipur, Jammu, low lying areas of Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka Chhattisgarh, and Telangana, and fruit setting has been expanded to 23 states & UTs so far.
6. HRMN-99 plants having 3-8 years of age produced 5 to 75 kg fruits per plant per year in four districts of lower Himachal Pradesh, Sirsa (Haryana) and Manipur. It is bigger in size as compared to other varieties, with very soft, sweet, and juicy pulp and striped red over yellow skin colour during maturity.
7. Commercial cultivation of this variety was initiated at twenty-six farmers' fields at eight different locations of Bishnupur, Senapati, Kakching districts of Manipur in the year 2015 by NIF(National Innovation Foundation) along with other Institutions wherein farmers were provided the requisite training on best practices for successful apple cultivation.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseDetail.aspx?PRID=1722642>

Michael Jordan jersey auction

Question : What amount did the Michael Jordan's jersey auction take place?

a. 1.38 million dollar b. 3 million dollar c. 5 million dollar d. 8 million dollar

Ans. a

- The only known Michael Jordan game-worn North Carolina Tar Heels basketball jersey sold for \$1.38 million Saturday (8 May 2021) with Heritage Auctions.
- The jersey was photo-matched to the 1982-83 season, when Jordan won NCAA Player of the Year from The Sporting News, and is the same jersey he wore on the cover of the magazine when he won the award.
- The sale broke the previous record for a Jordan jersey, also set by Heritage in October, when a game-worn Chicago Bulls Jordan jersey from the 1986-87 season sold for \$480,000.
- This isn't the first time the jersey has been up for auction, as it sold for \$63,500 in 1999, which was a record at the time.
- Jordan memorabilia, including his rookie cards, continues to smash previous records. Two Fleer PSA 10 rookie cards sold for \$738,000 each, with more cards coming on the market in recent weeks looking to push past those records as well.



Link:

https://www.espn.in/mens-college-basketball/story/_/id/31410543/michael-jordan-game-worn-north-carolina-tar-heels-jersey-sells-138-million

First unmanned vessel to navigate across the Atlantic

Question – What is the name of the world's first unmanned vessel, ready to cross the Atlantic that was in the limelight in May 2021 ?

(a) Iron sor-400 (b) Skydrive: 500 (c) MarineDrive-400 (d) Mayflower-400

Answer – (d)

Related facts

- The 'Mayflower 400', which made headlines in May ,2021, is the world's first unmanned vessel ready to cross the Atlantic.
- It is an AI (Artificial Intelligence) powered marine research vessel.
- It has been developed by Maritime Research Organization ProMare in collaboration with IBM.



Link:

<https://www.euronews.com/2021/04/30/mayflower-400-is-preparing-to-be-the-first-unmanned-vessel-to-navigate-across-the-atlantic>

Super Compost Manure

Question : Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has recently launched the high-quality 'Super Compost Manure', produced from the cow dung. On which date Godhan Nyay Yojana launched in Chhattisgarh ?

A. 21 July 2020 B. 15 February 2020 C. 1 December 2019
D. None of the above

Ans. A

- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel has recently(May 2021) launched the high-quality 'Super Compost Manure', produced from the cow dung procured under the Godhan Nyay Yojana in gauthans.
- 'Godhan Nyay Yojana' is the scheme launched on 21st July 2020, on the occasion of Hareli, the first festival of the state, by the Chhattisgarh government led by Bhupesh Baghel.
- Farmers can get this super compost fertilizer from cooperative societies at a discounted rate in bags of 2 kg, 5 kg and 30 kg. Its minimum value is Rs 6/ kg.
- Along with vermi compost, the cow dung procured is also utilized to produce super compost manure in the Gauthans, an official communication said. Baghel also transferred a dividend amount of Rs 3.06 crores to gauthan committees and women self-help groups.
- The Godhan Nyaya Yojana was launched on July 20, 2020 to promote livestock conservation and organic farming and to provide additional income sources for villagers, livestock farmers and farmers.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/cm-launches—super-compost-manure—.html>

Corpse Flower

Question: Which of the following statements regarding corpse flower are correct:

i) Its scientific name is *Amorphophallus titanum*.

ii) Its an ultra-rare plant that blooms only once every seven to ten years.

a) only I b) only ii c) both i and ii d) none

Ans: c

Facts

- Corps Flower has recently bloomed in San Francisco, America.
- Its scientific name is *Amorphophallus titanum* and it is a flowering plant, which is native to the rainforests of Sumatra in Indonesia.
- Its an ultra-rare plant that blooms only once every seven to ten years.
- It is called corpse flower because of its pungent rotten smell which is like rotting corpse.
- Flower is one of the largest in the world and blooms only once every seven to ten years.
- It was listed as an endangered plant in 2018 by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).



Reference: <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-are-thousands-lining-up-to-see-the-foul-smelling-corpse-flower-7323138/>

World's largest iceberg breaks off of Antarctica

Question: Recently World's largest iceberg breaks off of Antarctica. What is the name of that is given to this iceberg?

a) A-76 b) A-23A b) A-68a d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Recently a huge iceberg, the world's largest, has broken off from an ice shelf in Antarctica and is floating through the Weddell Sea.
- **Facts**
 - This iceberg has been names as A-76.
 - The iceberg is around 170 kilometers long and 25 kilometers wide, with an area of 4,320 square kilometers.
 - It was spotted by European Space Agency satellite Copernicus Sentinel.
 - The iceberg was originally spotted by the British Antarctic Survey and



confirmed using images from the Copernicus satellite.

- It has now taken the place as the world's largest from the A-23A iceberg – approximately 3,880 sq km in size – which is also in the Weddell Sea.
- Hydrofracturing is considered as the cause of this and some other breakways.
- Hydrofracturing occurs when water –which is heavier than ice – pours through cracks in the surface of ice shelves caused by surface warming, violently forcing the fractures to zip open, causing an iceberg to break off.
- Ice calving and regrowth in Antarctica occur naturally , however due to global warming water is becoming warming and thus speeding up this process.

Reference: <https://www.firstpost.com/tech/science/worlds-largest-iceberg-breaks-off-antarctica-says-european-space-agency-9639111.html>

International Day of Living Together in Peace: May 16

Question: Which organization celebrates International Day of Living Together in Peace every year on May 16?

a) United Nations b) USAID c) World Bank d) None of the above

Ans: a

Context

- Every year, the International Day of Living Together in Peace is celebrated by United Nations and several other organisations in different parts of the world on May 16.
- **Facts**
 - In 1997, the UN's General-Assembly proclaimed the year 2000 as the "International Year for a Culture of Peace".
 - In 1998, UN proclaimed the period 2001-2010 as the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for Children of the World."
 - In 1999, the United Nations adopted a resolution called the "Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace". It serves as the universal mandate to promote culture of peace and non-violence.
- **About International Day of Living Together in Peace**
 - This day is celebrated for regularly mobilizing the efforts of the international community to promote peace, tolerance, inclusion, understanding and solidarity.
 - The Day aims to uphold the desire to live and act together, united in differences and diversity, in order to build a sustainable world of peace, solidarity and harmony.



Reference: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/living-in-peace-day#:~:text=The%20UN%20General%2DAssembly%2C%20in,%2C%20inclusion%2C%20understanding%20and%20solidarity.>

Module Carrier Rocket Crashed into the Indian Ocean

Question: On 09 May 2021; the remains of a module carrier rocket of which of the following country crashed into the Indian Ocean?

a) India b) Japan c) China d) Australia

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 09 May 2021; the remains of a Chinese rocket crashed into the Indian Ocean.
- Much of the debris burned up during the re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.
- It was the last stage of the Long March-5B Y2 carrier rocket which re-entered the atmosphere at 10.24 a.m. (Beijing Time), on 09 May 2021.
- Xinhua news agency reported that the vast majority of the device burned up during the re-entry.
- The rest of the debris fell into a sea area with the centre at 2.65 degrees north latitude and 72.47 degrees east longitude.
- It should be known that the Long March-5B Y2 rocket, carrying the Tianhe module, the first and core module for the construction of China's space station.
- Long March-5B Y2 rocket was launched from the Wenchang Spacecraft Launch Site on the coast of the southern island province of Hainan on 29 April 2021.



Links:-

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/chinese-rocket-debris-falls-into-indian-ocean-101620560773461.html>

World's first QR on Card programme to simplify digital payments

Question : Which authorities have come together to launch world's first QR on Card programme ?

(a) BOB Financial and Mastercard (b) PNB Financial and Visa
(c) SBI capital and PayPal (d) HDFC and American Express

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- Mastercard and BOB Financial Solutions Limited (BFSL) have come together to offer an easy, frictionless payment solution for cardholders with the launch of ConQR – a Mastercard QR on Card solution.
- This solution uses a Mastercard patented technology which enables cardholders/SMEs to accept cashless payments using their cards. By doing so, QR on Card makes payments more flexible and empowers cardholders (mainly small merchants) to spend and earn on the same card.
- The solution does not require cardholders to give out personally identifiable information to receive payments, providing



them with an important layer of security. Furthermore, it helps banks displace cash and strengthen the cardholder relationship. It also reduces the operational costs with fewer chargebacks, resulting in increased revenue from electronic payments, for the banks.

- With the newly launched ConQR card programme, small businesses can use QR (printed onto the card as part of the card personalisation process) to make payments, while also enjoying the ability to receive payments with cost-efficient acceptance enablement costs and a simpler onboarding process.
- The ConQR Credit Card will have a Bharat QR Code on the card face (as part of the card personalisation process) converting the payment instrument into an acceptance point as well, by affixing a QR Code that carries the small businesses' details.
- The card makes it easier for small businesses to receive digital payments in a fast and flexible manner while on the move, such as when making deliveries or serving customers in-store.

Link:

<https://www.mastercard.com/news/ap/en/newsroom/press-releases/en/2021/april/bob-financial-and-mastercard-to-launch-world-s-first-qr-on-card-programme-to-simplify-digital-payments/>

China registered slowest population growth in decades

Question: In how many years population census in China is conducted?

a) 10 b) 15 c) 5 d) 20

Answer: (a)

Related Facts:-

- On 11 May 2021; China's once-in-a-decade population census data was released.
- According to new census data, China has recorded a slowing population growth rate.
- It has been speculated that finally this will see China's population peak and be overtaken by India's – by as early as 2025.
- Experts said that the number of births in China continuously falling for the fourth consecutive year.
- It was the seventh census undertaken in China, and its results were released on 11th May 2021 by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) in Beijing.
- According to this new census data, it has been noted that 12 million babies were born last year, which is the lowest number since 1961.
- 1961 was a year when China was in the midst of a four-year famine unleashed by Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward policy in 1958.
- Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward policy devastated the farm sector and claimed millions of lives.



- China's population was 1.41 billion in 2020, according to the census, increasing by 72 million since the last census in 2010.
- It recorded a 5.38% growth in this period. The average annual growth was 0.53%.
- The slowing growth rate is a consequence of China's stringent family planning rules.
- It is well known that over the decades China followed the population policy known as the one-child policy.
- China's involving in a range of varying restrictions across urban and rural areas – has evoked concerns of a rapidly ageing society and the impact on country's labour force.
- There were fears that China will, as some experts have said, get old before it gets rich.

Links:-

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/international/chinas-population-growth-slows-to-lowest-rate-in-decades/article34531910.ece>

Sale of three NPA accounts to asset restructuring companies (ARCs) or other financial institutions

Question : Which bank will sell their NPA accounts of Rs 235 crore recovery next month ?

(a)SBI (b)PNB (c)Canara Bank (d)IDBI

Ans.(a)

Related facts

- The State Bank of India (SBI) will sell three bad accounts to asset reconstruction companies or other financial institutions next month(May 2021) to recover dues of over 235 crore, according to a sales notice. In terms of the bank's policy on sale of financial assets, in line with regulatory guidelines, SBI said it has placed Heavy Metal and Tubes Ltd, Khare and Tarkunde Infrastructure Pvt Ltd and Elize International Ltd for sale to recover a total of 235.32 crore.
- Heavy Metal has outstanding dues of 116.91 crore to the bank, Khare and Tarkunde owes 99.84 crore and Elize International 18.57 crore. The bank has set the reserve prices for these NPA accounts for sale at 27.50 crore, 15 crore and 8 crore, respectively.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/business/sbi-to-sell-three-npa-accounts-next-month-for-recovery-of-over-235-cr.html>

Cyclone: Tauktae

Question: The cyclone Tauktae, which hit the west coast of India after mid of May 2021, got its name from which of the following country?

a) China b) Thailand c) Myanmar d) Philippines

Answer: (c)

Related Facts:-

- On 16 May, 2021; Tauktae the first cyclone of 2021 emerged on the sky of Arabian Sea. Tauktae
- Tauktae touched to show its furious form in coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa.
- The name Tauktae has been given by the Myanmar, the neighboring country in the east of India.
- In Myanmar Tauktae means 'gecko' a highly vocal lizard of this country.
- The storm Tauktae moved quickly ahead in the coastal areas of Kerala, Karnataka and Goa.
- On 18 May 2021 Cyclone Tauktae is expected to reach in the coastal areas of Gujarat and Maharashtra.
- Port, Shipping and Waterways Minister Mansukh Mandaviya on Sunday reviewed the preparations of the board of ports and maritime zones in all the states in the western coastal areas of the country.
- The Minister instructed them to take all possible steps for the safety of the people with the possibility of keeping the losses to a minimum.
- Ports assured to be ready to face the situation.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) said on 16 May, 2021 that Cyclone Tauktae is intensifying into a very severe cyclonic storm.
- The IMD informed that this cyclone is moving towards the coastal areas of Gujarat.
- The department has issued a warning for the coastal areas of Gujarat and Diu and Daman.
- The IMD has predicted that Tauktae cyclone will intensify into a severe cyclonic storm and then later into a Very Severe Cyclonic storm.
- It is expected to be the strongest in the west coast in two decades.



Links:-

<https://www.financialexpress.com/lifestyle/science/cyclone-tauktae-live-updates-impact-of-cyclone-tauktae-mumbai-gujarat-go-tamil-nadu-kerala/2252708/>

Twenty third district in Punjab

Question : Which one of the following is twenty third district of Punjab state ?

(A) Malerkotla (B) Firozpur (C) Kathua (D) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Punjab's only Muslim-majority town, has become the state's 23rd district.



- It's Malerkotla, announced as 23rd district of Punjab on the occasion of Eid festival.
- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh on Friday(14th May) announced the creation of a new district of Malerkotla, carving the state's only Muslim-majority town from Sangrur district.
- Adjoining Amargarh and Ahmedgarh will also form part of Punjab's 23rd district.
- Amarinder Singh also announced a Rs 500-crore medical college, a women's college, a new bus stand and a women police station in Malerkotla.
- Announcing various development projects, he said a government medical college in the name of Sher Mohammed Khan, who had been a Nawab of Malerkotla, will soon be set up and the state government has already allotted 25 acres on the Raikot road for it.
- To promote the cultural heritage of Malerkotla, the CM said he has written to Aga Khan Foundation to undertake conservation and restoration of the Mubarak Manzil Palace.

Link:

<https://www.indiatoday.in/amp/india/story/punjab-cm-declares-state-s-only-muslim-majority-town-malerkotla-as-district-on-eid-1802664-2021-05-14>

Growth in India's Pharma industry

Question : Covid pushes India's Pharma industry growth to __ in April. Fill in the blank with appropriate option given below

(a)59% (b)49% (c)39% (d)69%

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- According to total sales audit data from world's largest pharmaceutical market research firm IMS Health, the Indian Pharma Market (IPM) grew 59 per cent yoy in April, 2021 vs 16 per cent yoy in March, 2021 due to the low base effect in April, 2020 and sharp surge in Covid-19-related sales.
- On the MAT (moving annual turnover) basis, IPM grew 9.6 per cent, primarily driven by pricing growth of 4.3 per cent and new product launch growth of 4.6 per cent. Volume growth was muted at 0.8 per cent.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/business/covid-pushes-india—s-pharma-industry-growth-to-59—in-april.html>

Digi-locker facility for farmers

Question: Punjab has recently (May 2021) launched a digi-locker facility for its farmers — becoming the __ State in the country to do so. Fill in the blank with appropriate option.

(a) Second (b) Third (c)Fourth (d) none of the above

Answer- (d)

Related facts

- Punjab has recently (May 2021) launched adigi – locker facility for its farmers— becoming the first State in the country to do so.
- Now, the farmers in Punjab have an option to print or download digital copies of their J-Forms in the State, as the Punjab Mandi Board has made the electronic format of J-Forms available, from the current wheat procurement-2021 season onwards.
- **Benefits**
- The step would digitally empower farmers paving the way to ensure real time access to authentic digital sale receipt of their agriculture produce.
- Nearly 10 lakh J-form holder farmers are registered with the Mandi Board during the current rabi marketing season.
- Implementation of this landmark step, if any farmer forgot the registration form at home or the document gets misplaced or the farmer is waiting for the delivery of the printed copy, they just need to download the app DigiLocker and save their virtual J-Form.
- Digital J-Form in Digi Locker could be used for raising finance from financial institutions; can be remotely verified online, IT waivers, subsidy claims, farmer insurance etc.



Link:

<https://www.dailypioneer.com/2021/state-editions/in-a-first-punjab-launches-digi-locker-facility-for-farmers.html>

Cyclone Tauktae

Question: On May 14, a depression formed in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Kerala. The JTWC began monitoring the disturbance, and designated it as —

- (a) Tropical Cyclone 01A (b) Tropical Cyclone 11B (c) Tropical Cyclone 01B
(d) none of the above

Answer- (a)

Related facts

- On May 14, a depression formed in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Kerala. The JTWC began monitoring the disturbance, and designated it as Tropical Cyclone 01 A.
- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm Tauktae (Burmese pronunciation: [tauʔtɛ]) is a currently active and strengthening tropical cyclone threatening the state of Gujarat in India and currently impacting the state of Karnataka and Goa.



Link:

https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/kochi/cyclone-tauktae-live-updates-severe-flood-situation-likely-in-parts-of-kerala-tamil-nadu/amp_liveblog/82649792.cms

Twelfth Ebola outbreak is declared over

Question – On May 3, 2021, which country announced the end of the 12th outbreak of Ebola virus disease.

(a) Ghana (b) Gambia (c) Democratic Republic of Congo (d) Nigeria

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- WHO Director-General Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus congratulated all involved in bringing an end to the 12th Ebola outbreak in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, and stressed the need for continued vigilance to prevent a return of the disease and in containing other health challenges.
- This latest Ebola outbreak started in North Kivu in February, coming nine months after an earlier outbreak in the same province was declared over. It was the country's fourth in under three years.
- In the latest outbreak, now declared over, 11 confirmed cases and one probable case, six deaths and six recoveries were recorded in four health zones since 7 February. Genome sequencing results found that the first case detected was linked to the earlier outbreak, but the infection's source is yet to be determined.
- The response was coordinated by the Provincial Department of Health in collaboration with WHO and partners. WHO had nearly 60 experts on the ground and as soon as the outbreak was declared helped local workers to trace contacts, provide treatment, engage communities and vaccinate nearly 2000 people at high risk, including over 500 frontline workers.



Link:

<https://www.who.int/news/item/03-05-2021-who-director-general-congratulates-the-democratic-republic-of-the-congo-as-12th-ebola-outbreak-is-declared-over-stresses-need-to-maintain-vigilance-to-prevent-virus-s-return>

New chairman of public accounts committee

Question – On 1 May 2021, under whose chairmanship has the Public Accounts Committee been formed for the year 2021-22 ?

(a) Jagdambika Pal (b) Girish Bhalchandra Bapat (c) Meenakshi Lekhi
(d) Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary

Answer – (d)

Related facts

- On 1 May 2021, the Public Accounts Committee of Parliament was constituted for the year 2021-22 under the chairmanship of



Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha and Congress MP Adhir Ranjan Chaudhary.

- It consists of 15 members of the Lok Sabha and 7 members of the Rajya Sabha.
- The 22-member committee is constituted by the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.
- It is formed for 1 year.
- Traditionally, the head of the Public Accounts Committee is made the leader of the opposition party.
- This committee is the committee to audit the expenses of the Government of India.
- This committee is known as the 'twin sister' of the Estimates Committee.

Link:

http://164.100.47.194/Loksabha/Committee/CommitteeInformation.aspx?comm_code=26&tab=0

Prepaid payment business

Question : Which finance company has recently (May 2021) received RBI approval for prepaid payment business?

(A) Bajaj finance (B) HDFC (C) Indiabulls finance (D) None of the above

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- Bajajfinance has recently(May2021)receivedRBIapprovalforprepaidpaymentbusiness.
- The move is part of Bajaj Finance's broader strategy to expand its digital offerings.
- Other major digital offerer in India are Paytm and Amazon.
- Bajaj Pay
- It is a digital wallet.
- The wallet will become a part of Bajaj Pay, which is the company's bid to provide an integrated platform for all payments solutions.



Link:

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/business/2021/may/06/bajaj-finance-gets-rbi-nod-for-prepaidpayment-business-2299025.html>

Vehicle imports into South Africa, 2020

Question :Which country topped 2020 vehicle imports into South Africa despite COVID-19 impact ?

(A) India (B) Germany (C) France (D) UK

Answer : (a)

Related facts

- The latest 2021 auto report(The Automotive Export Manual report) released on May 2021.



- Accordingly, India has topped 2020 vehicle imports into South Africa despite COVID-19 impact.
- India has been established by several global brands as a production hub for entry-level and small vehicles, and most of the vehicles imported from India fell into these categories.
- Volkswagen's Polo Vivo was the only vehicle in these segments that was manufactured locally in South Africa in 2020.
- The 87,953 units imported from India accounted for 43.2 per cent of total passenger cars and light commercial vehicles imported by South Africa.
- Nine of the top 10 selling vehicles in 2020 were South African-built passenger cars and light commercial vehicles.

Link:

https://m.economictimes.com/industry/auto/auto-news/india-topped-2020-vehicle-imports-into-south-africa-despite-covid-19-impact-report/amp_articleshow/82475513.cms#aoh=16208400018521&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&tf=From%20%251%24s

Net-zero green house gas emissions

Question – Which company aims to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 ?

(A) Wipro (B) Infosys (C) TCS (D) None of the above

Answer – (A)

Related facts

- IT major Wipro has recently (April 2021) said it aims to achieve Net-Zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2040 in line with the objective of the Paris Agreement to cap temperature rise to 1.5 C.
- Wipro, while unveiling its pledge on Earth Day, also set an intermediate goal of reducing GHG emissions to 55 percent of absolute emission levels by 2030 compared to their base year of 2016–17 (April – March).
- These goals are based on the globally accepted Science Based Targets initiative (SBTi) and reflect the deep decarbonisation and operational changes Wipro will drive within its value chain to achieve Net-Zero within 2040.
- The primary levers of decarbonisation drive are improving energy efficiency of facilities for a sustained reduction in energy consumption, increasing use of renewable energy in owned facilities in India through private power purchase agreements and captive solar power, and combining behavioural, technological, and collaborative approaches that help reduce the carbon footprint of air travel, commuting and purchased goods and services.
- It is notable that Wipro has steadily reduced its energy, water, waste footprint, and bio-diversity impact over the last two decades, and remains steadfast in its commitment to a more sustainable, just and equitable society.



link:

<https://energy.economictimes.indiatimes.com/amp/news/renewable/wipro-aims-to-reach-net-zero-greenhouse-gas-emissions-by-2040/82200710#aoh=16208385562286&referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com&tf=From%20%251%24s>

light weight Bullet Proof Jacket

Question- Front Hard Arms Panel (FHAP) jacket has been tested at the Terminal Ballistic Research Laboratory(TBRL) of which city?

(a) Bangalore (b) Hyderabad (c) Chandigarh (d) Ahmedabad

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) lab Defence Materials and Stores Research and Development Establishment (DMSRDE), Kanpur has recently developed light weight Bullet Proof Jacket (BPJ) weighing 9.0 kilogrammes, meeting the qualitative requirements of Indian Army.
- The Front Hard Armour Panel (FHAP) jacket was tested at Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL), Chandigarh and met relevant BIS standards.
- The importance of this vital development lies in the fact that each gram of BPJ weight reduction is crucial in enhancing soldier comfort while ensuring the survivability.
- This technology reduces the weight of the medium sized BPJ from 10.4 to 9.0 kilogrammes. Very specific materials and processing technologies have been developed in the laboratories for the purpose.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1709001>

Friendship Car Rally

Question: In relation to the India-Russia Friendship Car Rally, 2021, which fact is not correct ?

- (a) On 8 April 2021, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh flagged off the Indo-Russian Friendship Car Rally.
- (b) The event, organized by the International Friendship Car Rally Association (IFCRA), is being held in Russia from 18-20 April 2021.
- (c) It is the sixth edition of IFCRA.
- (d) This program is sponsored by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region.

Answer – (c)

Related facts

- Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh flagged off India



Russia Friendship Car Rally 2021 on April 8,2021.

- The event organized by International Friendship Car Rally Association, IFCRA, took place in Russia from 18th to 20th April.
- This was the 5th IFCRA edition and there are 14 participants from IFCRA India representing the North East.
- It is notable that Russia has been a reliable partner of India and joint sporting events will further strengthen the bonds of friendship.
- The event was sponsored by Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region and supported by Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and Ministry of External Affairs.

Link:

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1710456>